Song Dong
Song Dong
Doing Nothing

100 Notes – 100 Thoughts / 100 Notizen – 100 Gedanken | №084

dOCUMENTA (13)
Doing-nothing
why not doing

Do-it
as Doing-nothing

Doing-nothing
but do do

By Song Dong

That which goes undone goes undone in vain,
That which is done is done still in vain,
That done in vain must still be done.
By Song Dong

Translate by Philip Tinari
Doing nothing means nothing gets done
Doing something may mean nothing
Meaningless things still need doing
Song Dong

In vain, in vain, and still, in vain
Song Dong

Translate by Enoch Cheng

Translate by Li Qi
Do not do while do allow to waste, to waste there to do.

Bong Dong

Translation by Jaime Hsu
不做白不做
做了也白做
白做也做

You waste the opportunity if you don't do it, though you can practically get nothing from it despite all the efforts; but even so, you'll have to do it anyway.

Jin, 8/38/38
11.3/2011

Translation by Lv Jingjing
不做白不做，做了也白做，白做也得做。

This has to be done with the situation where not doing of it is not good, although it is done for naught.
不做白不做，做了也白做，白做也得做

Not to do is to waste, to do is to waste; even it is waste we have to do.

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We are available for everything, so there is no harm to do something of no value to get nothing and we always have to do such things with no choice.

It is improvident to undo it. But to do it is free. Even if free, it should be done.
Giving up might lose chances. Carrying out might gain unrewarding result.

But the unrewarding is also necessary.
不做白不做得了也白做得了也白得做
Why not give it a try? You will achieve nothing anyway. But you have no choice.

Not doing it is no good, though doing it is in vain, yet it is imperative.
Do it preferably.

Do it in vain.

Have to do it even in vain.

"不做白不做，做了也白做，白做也得做。"

Non-action doesn’t hurt and action is a waste yet a must.
Song
Dong
Doing
Nothing