

WU GANG SOLUTION – SELF-LOATHING COMICS

Each left-side clue can have a bigram chopped out (one of the bigrams depicted in the tree graphic at center). The answers to the right-side clues replace these bigrams with a trigram consisting of the letter Y (a "new branch") with a letter to each side of it. These letters, in order of the bigrams presented in the tree, spell the phrase THE ANSWER'S SELF-LOATHING COMICS.

A certain piece of tax paperwork related to firearms	FOR MF OUR	A little on the reticent side	S HYI SH
Affecting all neighboring cities, perhaps	COUNT YW IDE	Bit of spiral-shaped fast food	CUR LYF RY
Australian state capital	PER TH	Idyllic, like the good old days	HAL CYO N
Clear, in a way	A CQ UIT	Innocent	DE WYE YED
Fine Irish surname related to the contraction of a small coin	HAL PI N	<i>Lethal Weapon</i> film star	DAN NYG LOVER
Hawkeye, more formally	IOW AN	Like a typical work week for many	FOR TYH OUR
Herod's realm	JU DEA	"Next one's on me!"	IOW EYA
Like a quick glance	CUR SO RY	"Not _____ of a good time"	MYI DEA
Lowering in quality or humiliating	D EG RADING	Numerical nickname of a smooth-riding Sherman tank	EA SYE IGH T
Magic Johnson, to friends	EAR VI N	Rural region	COUNT RYS IDE
Maintain a healthy diet	EA T R IGH T	Shelley et al.	PER CYS
Major hit	S MA SH	Some short-term financial speculation	D AYT RADING
NYC Ballet patron, for one	DAN CE LOVER	Toward the beginning	EAR LYO N
Stuck in traffic, maybe	DE LA YED	What one might lead a trick with in some card games	A NYS UIT
MF • AN • CQ • LA • YW • TR • SO • VI • EG • MA • CE • PI • JU • TH			
TH • EA • NS • WE • RS • SE • LF • LO • AT • HI • NG • CO • MI • CS			