

Hexagram 25 – Preserving Balance and Harmony



Without complicity.

What is true for the part is true for the whole.

To try to further correct oneself would be in mistake.

No benefit from moving in that direction.

Structure:

- Creative above ☰. Action below ☷. Being active, firm and strong. Vigorous advancement of strength.
- Action under the influence of the Creative.

The sage does not strive to perfect itself but to rather live a life of harmony¹ and balance with the Earth and all life. Harmony and balance set the physical and moral bounds of this way of living, a range within which we have flexibility and choices and can freely move. Only when we approach the bounds do we experience warnings that we near the limits of living within the ways of the spirit. When individuals and cultures exceed these limits, the imbalance and disharmony we cause harm to ourselves, Earth, and all life.

Harmony and balance preserve the integrity of the natural creative process of living on Earth. When human actions disturb this integrity, we can restore harmony and balance only with balanced and harmonious ways. We first restore these ways within our being before we act to heal the imbalances within the world. Restoring our own harmony and balance with the Earth and life goes far in restoring our experience of a balanced and harmonious in the world.

Any attempt to improve the balance and harmony of nature brings error. Those who have aligned their lives with the ways of the spirit do not go beyond overcoming their self-cherishing and ill-will for others as that would lead back to reactivating their selfish tendencies. The wise know when enough is enough. Beyond mastery, continuous self-improvement become a fault.

Hiding behind the quest for perfection keeps us complicit in the ongoing harm of the Earth and life. Our release from complicity depends upon how we interact with the Earth and all life. The ways of the spirit include a wide range of possible choices to achieve the same ends. No one way within the sphere of harmony and balance has greater merit than another. We each can choose our way and appreciate the ways of others in healing the harmony and balance of our relationships with the Earth and Interbeing.

Sages move in harmony with the ways of the spirit within the moment, our true and natural way. Once the sage frees itself from self-cherishing and hostility for others, it firmly preserves this state of interbeing. The sage does not value using its strength to get its way but remains open to the loving and gentle ways of the spirit. When the spirit rules within, the sage acts with instinctive sureness and without any ulterior thoughts of reward or personal advantage.

¹ For the words balance, complicity, harmony, interbeing, virtue, world, and worldly concerns, please visit the [Glossary](#), which provides a brief definition of the meanings.

Unbidden thoughts and feelings will always emerge, yet the sage discerns whether its feelings accord with the ways of the spirit or self-cherishing. If harmful thoughts and feelings arise, the sage simply lets them pass without following them. The sage chooses to abide within the love and joy of the spirit and to follow its direction. Any harm that the selfless sage experiences has an external origin and will pass on its own.

Sages focus their total attention on experience to know the sacred within the moment. Only by fully accepting the now and opening to the mystery within the moment, free of the entanglements of self-cherishing, can we know how to respond to arising experience in ways that benefit all.

Once their spiritual being reaches wholeness, sages then extend their blessing to the world. Those aligned with the spirit can achieve whatever they intend. No external thing can thwart them. Sages consider the spiritual path the one matter of importance in their lives.

Line 1: The line has freed itself from complicity with what harms. It focuses its life upon the great purpose of caring for the Earth and all life.

Line 2: The line diligently completes each step toward a greater purpose for its own sake and not in anticipation of the outcome. The sage adheres to the path in all it does to benefit all.

Line 3: The line gains from the loss and misfortune of others.

Line 4: The sage remains true to the spirit and free from the complicity of harming others and the Earth. It firmly possesses the ways of the spirit.

Line 5: Unexpected external circumstances may bring harm to the sage, yet it has no need to correct itself as it is not to blame for the external harm. The sage would err if it acted to reduce an imagined fault. The line simply rests and lets nature take its course.

Line 6: The line, free of self-cherishing and hostility for others, represents the culmination of no error. Sages in such a state do not seek to further reduce their faults and increase their virtues as that would exceed reason and reactivate self-cherishing and hostility and loss. Those who know how to advance but not to withdraw, persistently applying their strength, will fail. They do not know when enough is enough.