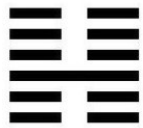


Hexagram 15 – Humility



Humility.

Spiritual influence nourishing all.

The sage completes its life purpose.

Structure: Mountain ☶ inside; the Receptive ☷ outside. Inwardly firm while outwardly yielding.

When clouds and rain gather at its summit, the mountain dispenses the blessings of water to all that find refuge on it. Afterwards, the sun shines radiantly forth. The Mountain exalts the humble qualities of the Earth by placing it above itself. Just as the Mountain lies within the Earth, the spirit dwells within life.

The humble devotedly follow the spirit and live its ways. They interact properly with others with great kindness, sharing, and care to preserve the harmony of their relationships with the spirit, family, community, place, and Earth Interbeing.

The humble have gratitude for what they receive from others and restore the balance of Earth Interbeing by giving back in some way for what they took, the great law of reciprocity. They share their life in ways that benefit all relations. The humble respect and value all beings.

Without prejudice or bias, humble people view themselves and others with greater clarity than those who believe in their exceptionalism. Humble people see themselves as beings with strengths, shortcomings, and limitations along with blind spots, just like all others. They know dangerous influences and take care to surround themselves only with what nurtures their wholeness.

Humble people, because they do not consider themselves the center of all, see life as a dynamic interrelated whole, a flux of a constantly changing flow of processes. The humble have the flexibility to adapt to change while still remaining firm in their resolves to remain centered on the spirit and the well-being of the whole. They know the sacredness of the place in which they live.

Humility allows us to deeply understand and appreciate our interdependence with others. So many others have shaped our lives in meaningful ways, and continue to do so. Whatever we touch in the world interconnects us with all beings, the Earth Interbeing. We know that our well-being depends utterly upon the well-being of all and celebrate the gifts that others bring to care and share.

The humble want what they have. They prefer a simple life, finding pleasure in gently interacting with the sacred place in which they live and with all their relations. Enjoying life and its sacred ways, they keep a glad mind.

They serve others without subservience. They never lose their freedom to determine for themselves the direction of their lives. They follow the spirit, not others.

The humble create opportunities for themselves and others to grow stronger in their wholeness. The humble have patience and can wait until for a situation to ripen to avoids acting rashly. They can bear what life brings them and fulfill their responsibilities without complaint.

The humble seek out other points of views of others when faced with a challenging situation or one that affects others. They rely on the wisdom of others they have found trustworthy to help find the collective path through dangers. In the light of new insights and information, they willingly question their own perceptions and assumptions, knowing they need the points of view of others to understand the whole situation. The humble reject imposing their will on others but seek to solve relationship problems in ways that strengthen their interbeing.

We all make mistakes. Those with humility admit they made a wrong decision that led to regrettable consequences. They make amends to restore the balance and harmony, which they had disturbed. Further, they learn from their mistakes so not to repeat their mistakes.

The humble know when the time has come to defend their community from those who would exploit them and destroy their place. Through their wise leadership, they can restore the harmony and balance of their community.

The strong and wise understand that they no special importance, that they are but a fragment of the great tapestry of the Earth Interbeing, their relations. They know their dependence upon the Earth Interbeing for their survival. From that understanding of interrelation and equality among all beings flows the beliefs and behaviors that allow the humble to bring the spirit to life in the world.

Line 1: The humble sage fulfills its purpose to care for the sacred Earth Interbeing. Caring for others flows from humility.

Line 2: Others of like spirit and virtue recognize the sage through its humility. The humble center their being upon the sacred.

Line 3: The humble sage works tirelessly for the benefit of all and gains everyone's respect.

Line 4: Everyone benefits from the efforts of the humble sage.

Line 5: The line shares the wealth of Earth Interbeing. It takes a stand against those who steal and dominate others.

Line 6: The humble attract each other to recover the harmony and balance of their community. Sages act to bring the ways of the spirit into the world, moving others to follow their example.