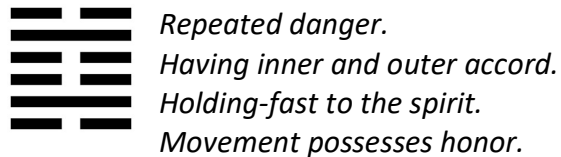


## Hexagram 29 – Moving through Dangers



**Ideogram:** Earth and an abyss.

### Structure:

- Doubling of the trigram ☵☵: repetition of danger. Going from one danger to another.
- Water above danger. Danger below water. Weak lines enclose strong lines.

**Action:** venture and fall.

The trigram ☵☵ depicts water flowing through a dangerous abyss. A strong line flows between two weak ones, like water in a ravine, representing the spirit enclosed within being. Our lives resemble water cascading through a steep gorge filled with dangers, which we can get through if we behave like water, always finding a way to flow through whatever dangers we experience. The wise overcome danger by holding firmly to the spirit and acting in ways that benefit all.

**Being:** Throughout history and within all cultures, people seek to know the spirit. Even though the spirit lies beyond our understanding, we can still somehow know it. The spiritual path leads to our wholeness and responsibility to care for Earth Interbeing.

Just as water flowing through a ravine faces many dangers in its journey to the ocean, we move through the many dangers in life that threaten our spiritual path. The arrogant deny the sacredness of Earth Being and the spirit. When we project our harmful feelings onto others, we willingly harm others for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering we cause. Healthy beings have the capacity to warmly and gently open to whatever arises in experiences and respond in the ways of the spirit.

To bring forth the world we want depends upon our overcoming self-cherishing and hostility. When these feelings arise, we hold them within presence until their energies release, and the path forward appears. We learn the painful consequences of trespassing natural and moral limits and do not make the same mistakes again. The wise aspire to live a virtuous<sup>1</sup> life and continually practice pouring their love and life energy into caring for the Earth Interbeing.

Clinging to self-cherishing and hostility for others blocks us from the spirit and blinds us to seeing the way through challenging situations. The path to the spirit and Earth Interbeing depends upon a great resolve and effort. It takes courage to live the ways of the spirit within the world with

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<sup>1</sup> For the words balance, complicity, cosmos, exceptionalism, harmony, interbeing, virtue, ways of the spirit, world, and worldly concerns, please visit [www.wayofhumanity.net](http://www.wayofhumanity.net) for the Glossary, provides a brief definition of their meaning as used in this commentary.

integrity and to voluntarily live within natural and moral limits. It takes courage to manifest the ways of the spirit within the world in ways that care for the Earth Interbeing.

The sage devotedly obeys the sacred mandate to stop what harms and to care for Earth Interbeing, the true purpose and meaning of life. The great treasure of bringing the ways of the spirit into the world exceeds all material possessions. Without this direction, our lives feel empty. When we try to fill this emptiness with anything other than our spiritual calling, we create suffering for ourselves and others.

**Know the danger:** Dangers signal the approach of a natural and moral limit. The wise know that the self-cherishing and hostility for others harms them and all life. Knowing these dangers truly motivate us to find a way through them. The wise dare not complacently gloss over prejudiced beliefs and privileges, nor do they ignore how they harm others. These dangers have their complete and total attention.

Blindly practicing harmful behaviors reinforces them and makes them feel normal. If we focus on the symptoms of a problem without understanding their root, we live in increasing peril.

**Act like water:** Water flows through dangerous places, never avoiding them nor losing its true path. That people abuse Earth Interbeing and ignore limits has brought us to the brink of a dangerous abyss, which we can only overcome by risking, venturing, and falling until we reach the bottom. Once we understand the dangers both within and in the world and have developed our spiritual capacities, the path forward emerges. We must do what must be done and go forward so not to perish by tarrying in the danger.

Water reaches its goal by flowing continuously, never losing its nature. It fills every depression before it flows on and never avoids the next challenge. We get through danger by moving in harmony with what arises, partnering and interacting with others in a gentle and friendly manner. The wise remain firm but gentle, always moving toward what benefits others and away from what harms. Even in perilous places the wise do not lose their virtue.

The wise align their actions with the ways of the spirit. The entire outcome of the challenges we face depends upon how firmly we keep this resolve. We hold fast to the good despite all the fear and temptations that surround us and remain vigilant for the sly ways of self-cherishing and ill-will so that they do not weaken our resolve.

When in great danger, the wise do not let the danger overwhelm them. They calmly weigh the conditions of the time and feel satisfied with the small gains that they can make within the situation, knowing that they cannot attain great success when the level of danger exceeds their capacities. A spring flows sparingly at first and carries for a while before it makes its way out into the open. We adapt to circumstances without losing sight of our great purpose to care for the Earth Interbeing.

If we do not act, negative energies will carry us into even deeper danger. By practicing what benefits all, one gets out of the danger. Knowing the danger and what must be done yet not acting is like not believing in the danger.

Acting to benefit all strengthen our capacities to resist the dangers of self-cherishing and ill-will and opens us to further virtuous actions. The process reinforces itself. In this way, we can manage ever greater dangers as we approach ever closer to uprooting the source of harm within ourselves and in the world.

**Line 1:** The weak line enters a dangerous situation but lacks the inner strength to face the challenges. The line does not hold to the spiritual path and experiences misfortune.

**Line 2:** The strong and balanced line faces severe difficulties. Although the situation makes it impossible to overcome the dangers surrounding it, it firmly stays with the spiritual path and its resolve to care for Earth Interbeing. Even within this challenging situation, the line discerns small ways to bring to life the ways of the spirit. A spring flows only sparingly at first and carries for some time before it makes its way into the open.

**Line 3:** Every step forward or backward leads into more danger. The line cannot escape. Action would only move the line into deeper danger.

**Line 4:** Those who choose the spiritual path have faith in its transformative power. They defer to the wisdom of those who have completed the path to overcome their ignorance, practicing openness, simplicity, and sincerity to complete their spiritual path.

**Line 5:** Within an abyss, the water has risen to the top. The sage cares for the Earth Interbeing without drawing attention to itself

**Line 6:** Those who turn away from the path lose themselves irremediably in their faults and have no prospect of escape. They bind themselves to what harms and ruin themselves, shunning the great purpose to care for Earth Interbeing.