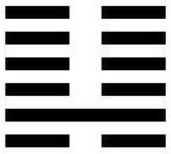


Hexagram 7 – Resolve



Interbeing.

Seek spiritual wisdom.

The virtuous have meaning.

Without fault.

Ideogram: A pile and a whole, turn confusion into a functional whole.

Image: Scattered elements brought together into a functional unit around a worthy center.

Structure:

- Earth above ☷, receptive, yielding. Water below ☵, dangerous. Danger inside and devotion outside. Devoted amid danger.
- Mass of yielding lines with one central strong line, which remains devoted to the spirit, the 5th line.
- Dangers inside hinders devotion.

When we make a decision, many aspects of our being want to have their way. Our feelings want to lead us toward what attracts us and away from what makes us uncomfortable. Our anger wants us to fight, and fears tell us to flee. Our beliefs and values tell us what to do even when the direction they want to take us may not serve our well-being. Our habits want us to do whatever we have done before. Then we have all the relationships with our families, work, friends, and community that we do not want to disrupt. The spiritual aspect of our being also has a voice in deciding.

We also have the decider, that aspect of our being that decides, plans, sets goals, and pushes the button to make it so. This decider has the power of will, of resolve. It listens to the other aspects of our being, but at the end of the day, the decider decides, and we act.

Our feelings have the loudest voice in wanting to have their way. When we feel angry, we want to hurt whom we blame. When afraid, we want to run away. When strongly attracted to another person or object, we want what attract us. Yet the decider has another power it can use to disempower our feelings: the power of no. After considering the situation, the decider can firmly override what our feelings want us to do if the decider sees what our feelings want does not reflect the best interest of our being.

Our cultural beliefs and values have the most subtle yet powerful influence upon the decider. They inform us how to live within the culture into which we are born. The decider follows the rules derived from cultural beliefs. If the culture promotes belief in exceptionalism, denies the sacred, and encourages harming others for self-benefit, then the decider will align itself to the rules of our culture. If the culture believes in the sacredness and equality of life, the decider will align itself to the rules of this belief fulfill its duty to care for Earth Interbeing.

Cultural attitudes, beliefs, and feelings serve as the glue that keep people together, from families to large complex communities, and get handed down from one generation to the next. These beliefs, rules, and values, remain so invisible within our daily lives that we experience them as truths, as normal. We only become aware of them with great effort. Those on a spiritual path discover them when they investigate what blocks them from deepening their spiritual being and find that their long-held cultural beliefs and values conflict with their

spiritual beliefs and values. At that point, the spiritual seeker must choose between adhering to its conventional beliefs and values or to cultivate those beliefs and values that nourish spiritual being.

We routinely make decisions based upon our belief and values, our habits and addictions. The decider adheres to rules and patterns shaped by accumulated experience, primarily shaped by external conditioning. The spiritual aspect of our being has a strong inner influence on our decisions. At the beginning, however, the inner spirit competes with all the other voices that want to have their way. As we strengthen our spiritual being, its influence over our decisions grows and transforms our beliefs and values.

If we choose to follow the spirit, we have much to unlearn and to learn. Gradually, our spiritual being takes on an ever greater role in working with the decider in making decisions as the decider relies less on conforming with the external culture and moves toward aligning itself with the ways of the spirit.

As our spiritual being deepens, we continue to find even more deeply embedded beliefs and values that we must eventually let go, allowing us to find ever greater ways to care for the Earth Interbeing. Yet this process of uprooting internalized harms becomes easier. We form new habits and our confidence grows in living the ways of the spirit: loving and caring for all; knowing the sacred within experience; living within Earth and moral limits with reciprocity and accountability; and acting to restore and renew the harmony and balance of creation.

When people feel powerless, they do not have the will to change what harms. Some people may give up their spiritual path and fall back into the ways of what harms because they cannot bear the burdens and difficulties of the spiritual path. It takes a strong will to say no to our cultural conditioning or to move through our fears to uncover harmful beliefs. Yet the spiritual path strengthens our resolve and courage to overcome our complicity with what harms and to fulfill our purpose to care for the Earth Interbeing.

We can strengthen our will by taking small steps, making small changes, efforts that we feel doable within our capacities and sphere of influence. As our confidence in changing ourselves and our community increases, our will strengthens. A meditation practice has long proven its power to strengthen our will, especially the practice to stay with the breath despite whatever distractions arise. As our resolve to stay with the spiritual path deepens, our capacities grow to take on ever greater challenges to care for the Earth Interbeing.

Only the spiritual path can heal of us this spiritual disease and restore our balance and harmony with the Earth and Interbeing. Once we center on the loving spirit, our love for the spirit draws all our being, views, and experiences into a loving whole. By taking stock of our own attachments and behaviors, we become aware of our complicity with the oppressive system and transform them.

The spiritual path heals our complicity with what harms through our devotion to the Great Spirit, love for Interbeing, and living within Earth and moral limits. By deepening our spiritual being to wisely discern what to do, we act in ways that benefit all. A virtuous life brings the spirit to life within the world.

Line 1: The line intends to act virtuously, but in the confusion of acting upon what it knows, it loses its moral discipline and reverts to hostile ways, obstructing its virtues. Actions not aligned with the ways of the spirit cause harm.

Line 2: This strong line alone has the allegiance of the group of weak lines and has the sole responsibility for the effectiveness of the collective action and its results. The wise do not do anything on their own authority but devotedly follow the spirit; thus, their virtues and actions in the world support each other. The line receives spiritual blessings and support for its cherishing of the Earth and all life. Sages act in ways that command the respect and trust of others.

Line 3: Those not aligned with the ways of the spirit cause harm from acting out their exceptionalism and hostility for others. Those called to transform dangerous imbalances need to have the wisdom and capacity to manifest the spirit within the world in ways that care for the Earth Interbeing.

Line 4: In the face of a stronger force against which it could not prevail, the line correctly retreats to avoid defeat and disarray. This blameless retreat does not reflect the qualities of the line but the situation. The retreat protects the greater effort.

Line 5: The unbalanced situation thoroughly justifies an energetic response to stop and uproot the source of the danger. To master our exceptionalism within our being and in the world requires firmness, flexibility, and devotion to the ways of the spirit. Excessive yielding or force leads to harm. Acting in the world needs the direction of wisdom and experience to avoid the harms caused by acting ignorantly without a moral discipline.

Line 6: The struggle against what harms has ended successfully. The community lives by the ways of the spirit, exalting what benefits all and abandoning what harms. The community honors the worthy with responsibilities but wisely does not give authority to those who have demonstrated their willingness to harm others for self-benefit.