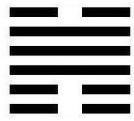


Hexagram 31 – Affinity of Parts and the Whole



Mutual attraction between separated parts and the whole.

Spiritual influence, offering, virtue.

Wisdom of yielding.

Structure: Joy above ☱ and Keeping Still below ☵. Keep still within and experience joy outwardly.

The ideogram of the trigram literally means putting together parts of a previously separated whole. The parts open to the innate influence of the whole and harmoniously relate with it.

We live within the sacred Earth Interbeing, the interrelationship of all life, all places, and the Earth. The sacred pervades Creation, the whole greater than the parts. Within the Earth Interbeing, all beings interrelate, depending upon each other for their well-being. All care for each other and the whole.

Everything we experience interconnects us with the whole. The unnoticed gifts of the Earth Interbeing surround us. By living in harmonious and balanced relationships with Interbeing, the wise gratefully reciprocate for the blessings they receive from others, the give and take of Creation. All fulfill their duties in ways that care for the Earth Interbeing.

The sacred whole of Earth Interbeing has an innate influence upon all beings. When we hold ourselves apart from the sacred whole, we feel incomplete and out of place. Believing in our exceptionalism causes us to lose the feeling of belonging with the Earth Interbeing as our wants take precedence over the needs others and the Earth. If we cannot quickly recover wholeness within interbeing, we fall into the realm of individualism: the self and other. We see ourselves as the center and all the others as inert objects subject to our manipulation.

Our feelings of wanting and not wanting attraction or repulsion move us to grasp or reject something or someone, exposing our willingness to harm others for self-benefit fulfills. The wise turn away from exceptionalism toward what benefits all. They keep still amid harmful feelings and thoughts until they experience love coming through their inner disturbance, a love which decenters them and dissolves the harmful feelings.

Our practice to care for Earth Interbeing begins by acting in loving ways within our daily interactions with those closest to us. Instead of reacting in patterned, self-centered ways, we make the effort to change the dynamics of the interaction by pouring our loving care into it.

Overtime, we can extend these practices of care to ever larger spheres of interactions. Within interbeing, sages live the ways of the spirit: a loving care for all, knowing the sacred within experience, living with Earth and moral limits, and acting in ways that restores and renews the well-being of the Earth Interbeing. When we meet arising experience with such loving care, we have wholeness with all people, life and the Earth for we experience the spirit within all.

We open to the spiritual influence by calm resting within a loving presence. The spirit loves our virtues and devotion to its creation, the Earth Interbeing. We love the spirit. The sage becomes one with Creation, reuniting the parts of a previously separated whole.

The sage moves with the Earth Interbeing, following the spirit. Their actions influence and attract all who resonate with the spirit, responding with mutual joy and reuniting in interbeing. Together they resolve the difficulties of the world for the benefit of all life and the Earth.

Line 1: At the beginning, the line does not influence others because it does not act. We cannot know the intentions of others until they act.

Line 2: The first line agitates this line to act impulsively. However, because of its strength and central character, the second line waits quietly even in disturbing situations until what benefits all impels it to act. It only yields to the wise influence of others.

Line 3: Every feeling stimulates us to move in some way. The line focuses on its feelings of preference and prejudice for others rather than on its spiritual path. Even though the line knows it has lost the path, it cannot stop itself.

Line 4: The wise remain firm in their virtue and follow the spirit's influence. For others, personal desires and aversions pull them first one way then the other, which obscures the spirit.

Line 5: When the sage firmly resolves to follow the spirit and benefit interbeing, worldly concerns do not entangle it. The sage remains open to the influence of the spirit, and with calm and presence brings to the world the ways of the spirit. Because it rests within the spirit's love, the line senses and moves others with complete sincerity.

Line 6: The line tries to move others by words alone. Speech that has nothing real behind it has the least influence to effect change.