

## Hexagram 5 Waiting



*Waiting.*

*Adhering to the spiritual path.*

*Shining. Spiritual influence nourishing all.*

*What benefits all, significant.*

*Benefit from entering the stream of life with a great purpose.*

**Ideogram:** Rain and stopped, compelled to wait. Rain and origin, provide what is needed.

### Structure:

- Strength within, ☵. Danger above, ☳. Strength in the face of danger.
- Firm strength comes to a dangerous pass and waits before going ahead.

All beings need spiritual nourishment. Yet, spiritual insights come in their own time, and for this we must wait. The clouds give rain to refresh all life, but we cannot make it rain: we have to wait for it. In the same way we cannot have creative spiritual insights when we want them, but we can prepare ourselves by deepening our spiritual being.

The hexagram addresses the need to wait to for spiritual direction but also how to ripen the conditions for learning how to wisely move through difficulties and dangers. Whenever sages see that they have reached their limits to respond well within a relationship, they resolutely and confidently take a step back from what challenges them and refrain from acting impetuously. They calmly wait to discern how to respond to challenging situations in the loving ways of the spirit.

Most people do not like to wait. When circumstances force the weak to wait, they become anxious or resentful and meet everything critically and irritably. A burdened patience does not reflect the waiting of the wise. Those who rashly use force against a challenge will miss the goal. We fail when we do not consider the time's conditions and chase after what we want, desperately pressing forward.

While waiting means not advancing, it does not imply abandoning an effort nor surrendering to despair. The wise accomplish their work in time by waiting for conditions to naturally unfold. Sages remain engaged even when not advancing. They deepen their wisdom and spiritual being to nourish the conditions and increase the potential for the ways of the spirit to manifest in the world.

Waiting does not rely upon mere empty hoping but rather upon our inner certainty that we will receive creative insights into the way forward. Such certainty supports perseverance and strengthens patience. Only when we have the courage to face challenges, without delusion or complicity with what harms, will we clearly understand the difficult situation and see the path through the dangers in ways that benefit all.

Because the wise know their great purpose will succeed, they do not lose the serenity born of a glad mind. Such joy does not reflect a shallow optimism nor depend upon supportive external conditions. This joy naturally comes from within, an enduring joy that will get us through dangerous times.

Once we discern the path through the danger and the opportunity to act has come, we must act resolutely. Only those who go to meet life fully prepared have the capacity to adequately deal with the dangers of self-cherishing and hostility within themselves and in the world. The sage confidently and resolutely moves against its delusions and effectively manifests the spirit within the world in the fellowship of others.

**Line 1:** Even though in an undisturbed situation, the line recognizes an imminent danger. It continues with its regular life and does not go out to meet the danger, allowing the situation to unfold on its own.

**Line 2:** As the danger comes closer, anxious feelings and blaming others increase. The wise stay calm and avoid action until the situation ripens for it to act.

**Line 3:** The strong but unbalanced line faces danger and plunges into it, eager for achievement; thus, it invites enemies and brings on its own defeat. By not waiting for the proper time, the line falls behind, like being enmired anxiety. Only caution and knowing the seriousness of a dangerous situation keeps us from creating more dangers for ourselves by blindly advancing into it

**Line 4:** The line moves toward the inner source of what harms. Once it has recognized the source of what harms within, it starves the harm by bringing to life the ways of the spirit within itself and in the world. Directly opposing what harms causes polarity within which what harm thrives.

**Line 5:** The line has done all it needed to do. Now it confidently waits, knowing that it will surely attain for which it has prepared. The line enjoys itself while the ways of the spirit unfold.

**Line 6:** The waiting ends, and danger arrives. The line submits to the inevitable. All seems to have been in vain. But just in this extremity, things take an unforeseen turn. Without a move on one's part, an outside intervention arrives. The line keeps alert and does not withdraw into a sulky gesture of refusal but greets the new turn with respect and escapes the danger. Even a beneficial turn of fortune often comes in a form that seems strange to us.

The line has perfected waiting. At the end of danger comes a change. Creativity, never meant to have a low position, has waited to proceed. Once the waiting ends, creativity comes, and the line welcomes it with respect. All turns out well.