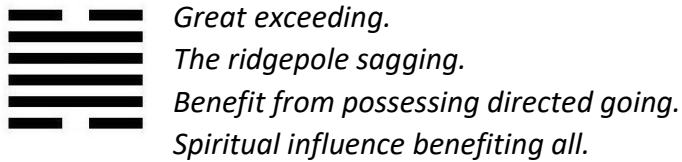


Hexagram 28 – Great Exceeding



Structure:

- Lake above, joyful, delighting in outward experiences. Wind below, ☴, gentle penetration.
- The hexagram has four strong lines in the center and weak lines at its beginning and end.

Image: The sagging beam sags to the breaking point because its weak supporting ends cannot bear the heavy load, representing the great responsibility for accumulated spiritual wisdom. Through the creative spiritual process, the sage has accumulated wisdom from following the spiritual path. By penetrating with understanding the dynamics needs of the time, the sage has gained a clear vision of how to apply its accumulated wisdom and acts to care for Earth Interbeing, avoiding the imbalance an uncontrolled release of its great potential would cause.

This momentous time demands extraordinary measures to rebalance the forces in play. We must find a way to transition as quickly as possible and transform our accumulated spiritual wisdom into action. Then the change to the new conditions will succeed.

Nourishing and shaping accumulated spiritual wisdom without putting it to use creates an imbalance, a constrained tension that seeks release through movement. Acting on what we know completes our knowing. If, however, we continue to deepen our understanding without acting within the world to benefit all, our understanding may collapse and only increase the situation's danger. Through wise action, the sage rebalances conditions. Gentleness and a glad mind, attributes of the hexagram's trigrams, indicate the way for successful action.

Sages collectively respond to the urgency of the time by pushing a guiding idea beyond ordinary limits and accepting the results of acting upon it. To be in accord with the time, the wise greatly exceed. We must act to transform the trajectory of our time because of the grave consequences if we do not. We must resist the great temptation to stay within the apparent safety of simply knowing. Only movement will get us out of the imbalanced conditions. By succumbing to the temptation of doing nothing or not enough, we lose all the fruits of past efforts.

Even though the hexagram depicts an over-weighted condition, the situation contains within it the possibility for renewal by freeing ourselves of our cultural conditioning in exceptionalism and following the leadership of the oppressed in caring for the Earth Interbeing. In uncertain times, if we give up alliance with the less powerful and keep up only the relationships with people of higher social rank for personal benefit, we perpetuate our complicity in what harms, which only deepens the crisis.

Though great, the wise have the capability of smallness and flexibly fulfill their responsibilities to care for the Earth Interbeing. The image of standing tall has the sense of not yielding to temptations or self-cherishing and hostility for others. In the time of surpassing greatness, nothing but firm inner strength will do. Those who persist in inflicting harm on the Earth Interbeing do not understand the time. Sages move forward by harmoniously adapting to changes, balancing firmness and gentleness.

Whenever the tension of an over-weighted situation drives great creativity and accomplishment, we find at its root the hidden influences of Creative. We need to courageously show the world what we have learned. The wise bring to the world the ways of the spirit and do not worry about the reactions of those who have not yet freed themselves from their conditioning. If blocked by our inner fears and weaknesses, we will regret missing the opportunity to achieve our goals. We must have faith in the transformative power of love to transform ourselves and the world. Just do it!

Line 1: The line exercises great deference and respect for the Earth Interbeing in its efforts to care for it.

Line 2: When a willow withers yet then resprouts at its root, the life process has not reached its end but renews the path of growth. An extraordinary reanimation of the growth process occurs in exceptional times when care and love for others and Earth Interbeing replace excessive strength.

Line 3: Plunging willfully ahead in times of overweighting only hastens catastrophe. The unyielding line accepts no spiritual guidance from others, who in turn become unwilling to lend their support. The burden of responsibility grows until the line can no longer bear it on its own. Nobody can stand alone even in ordinary affairs and especially in efforts of surpassing greatness.

Line 4: When the great have humility, a calm mind, and harmonize with others, their actions benefit all. The line has reached the point of greatness capable of smallness. The line stands tall and undisturbed by the self and worldly concerns.

Line 5: The line has responsibilities, but in times of adversity it turns away from caring for the community and seeks only to relate with those of higher rank for self-benefit. This shameful situation opens to dangerous outcomes.

Line 6: The unusual time has reached its climax. The line represents the weak going excessively beyond the ordinary, beyond reason, represented by getting too far into the water. The weak bring disaster upon themselves by their desperation. They do not understand their limits nor the situation.