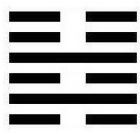


Hexagram 40 – Deliverance



Deliverance

Benefit from harvesting ripened conditions.

Without a place to go: one's coming return, significant.

Possessing directed going: careful attention significant.

Structure:

- Above thunder ☳, below danger ☳.
- Upper trigram moves up and away from the lower trigram, the sphere of danger.

A thunderstorm breaks and releases built-up tensions. Afterwards, nature again breathes freely, an image of moving out of danger. In the same way, deliverance from a burdensome pressure liberates and stimulates life. Sudden releases of tension have great significance.

Our harmful cultural conditioning has separated us from the sacred and trained us to willingly harm others for self benefit and then ignore the suffering we caused. It. The hexagram depicts the time when we have finally learned how to free ourselves from our harmful conditioning and fulfill our purpose to care for Earth Interbeing. We become whole with the sacred.

People who deny the sacred believe they have the right to impose their will upon the Earth Interbeing for their self-benefit because of their exceptionalism. They grab what they want, use force against others when frustrated, and ignore the harm they cause. When groups of people act in this way, they act in ways that destroy the Earth Interbeing.

Those on a spiritual path seek to free themselves of this harmful conditioning. We begin by understanding how our conditioned beliefs and values have led us to cause pain and suffering, and practice moral and Earth limits. We resolve to deepen our spiritual path to learn how to live in ways of the spirit, the path of wholeness that fulfills our purpose of caring for Earth Interbeing.

At different points on the path, at first briefly, we begin to perceive the beauty and meaningfulness behind our problems and difficult relationships. With practice, our capacities for tenderness for ourselves and others grow as we become less judgmental and more creative in how to respond to what we considered problems, letting love flow through us and for them. At first, we experience only a momentary respite before the patterned behavior regains control. These tastes of freedom motivate us to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the task of deliverance, developing so much inner resolve that it acts as a shield against our cultural conditioning.

The spirit encompasses all dimensions – the cosmos, Earth and life – and all follow the sacred ways of being. Thus, we learn that community deliverance from cultural conditioning follows the same path as how we delivered ourselves our cultural conditioning: we find the beauty and meaningfulness behind the difficulties and pour our love through problems. The wise cultivate

their capacity to extend their blessings to others and the world and realize the ways of Earth Interbeing: love, respect for natural and moral limits, wisdom, and caring for Earth Interbeing.

Deliverance from what separates us from the Earth Interbeing and the spirit comes when we free ourselves from the conditioned self. This release does not mean we have eliminated our tendencies for selfishness and hostility, only that we have learned how to see through them within a loving presence. Having learned this powerful practice, we can apply it to every instance we experience our conditioning.

Upon deliverance, the wise rest and enjoy the release from what harms. We need some time to heal and for the situation in which we had entangled ourselves to settle and unfold naturally. The release from a burdensome pressure has a stimulating effect on life and inspires our gratitude for the healing ways of the spirit, just as when the sun comes out after a fierce storm. When settled within, we can start again to move toward the great purpose of caring for all life and the Earth.

The wise remain alert to reactivating their conditioning in an unguarded moment. Such instances will arise, but we can remain present to the negative feelings without following them and see through them with the loving spirit. The wise know that these harmful feelings and beliefs ride upon our life energies, which have within them the regulative laws upon which the healing of life depends.

Through our flaws, we come to the spirit. The gradual path of restoring our wholeness requires a concerted effort on our part to withstand the authority of our conditioned self to what harms life and the Earth. Yet once we learn how our conditioning distorts our view of ourselves and others, we can use our conditioned reactions as opportunities to unfold our sacred love into what we experience and to discover how to serve the Earth Interbeing.

This healing path, at first a practice, becomes a way of life, a path that leads us to the full realization of the sacredness of every being, every experience. We reach beyond the limits of how we thought things were to discover ourselves part of the whole, and yet know our uniqueness within the whole. Such is the way of deliverance.

Line 1: Between yielding and firmness runs the border separating the conditioned from the spiritual. The virtuous line has no fault.

Line 2: The line has balanced strength and the capacity to act effectively at the right time. It remains firm and flexible, precise and single-minded, keeping to the center. To free itself of its conditioning, the line devotes itself wholeheartedly to the task of deliverance and derives so much inner strength from its virtues that they act as the line's shield against what harms.

Line 3: The line has great responsibility and power, yet it causes much harm from its deeply entrenched willingness to harm others for self-benefit and then ignoring the harm it inflicts. It comes to regret how it has disgraced itself, but it has nobody to blame but itself.

Line 4: Although on the spiritual path, the line cannot free of itself from its harmful cultural conditioning. Until we free ourselves from harmful conditioning and dispel its enchantment upon us by resting within the spirit, we remain in peril and only faintly apprehend the spirit. Complicity in what harms degrades resolve, which prevents deliverance from harm.

Line 5: The sage holds fast to the ways of the spirit; thus its harmful culturally conditioning and selfishness withdraw.

Line 6: The deeply culturally conditioned sense of I-ness hinders deliverance to the very last. We proudly hold ourselves apart from Creation and the belief that we have the powers of the Creator, finding the sacred irrelevant. This line has dislodged these delusions yet still clings to its I-ness, separating it from the sacred and wholeness with the Earth Interbeing. The line cuts through the delusion of I and Thou and finally frees it from what hinders its efforts to care for the sacred Earth Interbeing through the ways of the spirit.