

Hexagram 43 – Parting



Parting.

Let it be known.

Blaming others possesses adversity.

Accuse the inner source.

Not Harvesting: approaching weapons.

Harvesting: possessing directed going.

Structure:

- Joy above ☰, strength of the creative below ☳. Joy made strong and enduring.
- Five strong lines that rise below the top weak one.

Image: A breakthrough releases long accumulated tensions.

Time: In the ancient Chinese calendar, this hexagram marks the third month (April-May), the time when the dominance of darkness rapidly retreats from the advance of the strengthening light.

The hexagram depicts the time when the deepening strength of our spiritual being causes the hold our cultural conditioning has on us to weaken. Just as when a powerful surge of water breaks through barriers holding it back from its path, the time has come when the wise resolutely and joyfully part from what separates them from the spirit and the sacred wholeness of Earth Interbeing.

Those willing to harm others and the Earth for self benefit deny the sacredness of Earth Interbeing and their wholeness with it. They justify their actions by claiming superiority and power over others they perceive of lower status and less value than they within a cultural hierarchy. When these beliefs have rooted themselves deeply within a culture and link with sanctioned violence, life and Earth suffers. People subjugated by such oppression become enculturated to its ways, which locks them into living the ways of the oppressor. Wanting, not wanting, and fear driven impulses spring forth in a confused tangle all at once. Eventually, the willingness to harm others for self-benefit feels normal, merely the way of the world.

Because of our deluded beliefs that deny our wholeness with the sacred Earth Interbeing, we feel incomplete and out of place. What we want takes priority over meeting the needs of other people and beings, even the Earth itself. We see ourselves as the center and all the others as inert objects subject to our will. To fill the hole left within us from denying the sacred, we dedicate our lives to accumulating wealth and status.

Those on the spiritual path know the Earth and all life as sacred. They also know that even a single unguarded impulse of negativity and willingness to harm within the heart obscures the spirit and its guidance. Sages master parting decisively from the cultural conditioning that separates them from the sacred. When confronted with deep-seated feelings of self-cherishing and hostility for others, the wise hold these harmful feelings within a loving presence until they dissolve into wholeness.

The wise have no doubt in the outcome of this effort. A strong resolve and faith in the spiritual path allow us to move through the dangers of harmful, beliefs, thoughts and feelings in ways that move us toward what benefits all, clearly the best way to accomplish the unseating of our hierarchic cultural conditioning. We approach our tendencies for self-cherishing and aversion for others gently so not to entangle ourselves in what we seek to master.

Until they fully part from their complicity in what harms, the wise persistently turn away from the harmful aspects of their cultural conditioning and toward caring for the Earth Interbeing, a practice that weakens the conditioning. We open to whatever seems to block our way to learn about our conditioning and to the love coming through our faults.

The conditioned belief in our I-ness, which places us apart from the whole and above it, holds on to the very last. We come to the same choice that we make throughout the path: the choice between the willingness to harm others for self-benefit or caring for the sacred wholeness of the Earth Interbeing. When we fully embrace the path of love, we free ourselves from harmful cultural conditioning and can fully live the ways of the spirit¹. With this freedom, we clearly discern what we must do.

We cannot reasonably expect to quickly part once and for all from deeply rooted beliefs. Like weeds, our self-cherishing and hostility for others will spring forth again and again, always depending upon an unguarded moment to advance. Yet we now have the means to dissolve them as they appear by following the ways of the spirit and knowing the sacred wholeness of the Earth Interbeing.

Line 1: The line advances rashly against what it wants to overcome, but it does not perceive the dangers involved nor strength and capacity to achieve its purpose. It has only itself to blame for the great harm its actions cause.

Line 2: Those who remain careful and aware do not become excited or alarmed when danger approaches. They do not fear danger because they have prepared for it. In this way they live in the midst of difficulties as if they did not exist.

Line 3: The line experience an inner turmoil caused by a disturbing insight or an unwanted duty. It inwardly strengthens its resolve and acts, even if it has to do so without the support of others. The line has no fault in its self-righteousness as it energized the line to accomplish what needed doing.

¹ **Ways of the Spirit:** A loving care for all, knowing the sacred within experience, living within Earth and moral limits, and acting in ways that resist in small ways what harms and that restores and renews the well-being of the Earth Interbeing, the Great Purpose.

Line 4: The line pushes ahead regardless of the situation. It encounters great obstacles beyond its capacities, yet it persists in enforcing its will. The line creates hardship for itself through its stubborn arrogance and failure to listen to wisdom. To correct our faults and apply wise guidance requires strength and humility.

Line 5: As clearly as knowing the difference between a marshland and a desert highland, the line distinguishes the difference between the willingness to harm for self-benefit and caring for the sacred Earth and all life. As It has attained the stable point from which it can face inner and outer changes, it now has the wisdom to benefit all through living the ways of the spirit.

Line 6: Mastering our cultural conditioning does not mean we have banished it once and for all. Like weeds, our willingness to harm others always spring forth again, depending upon an unguarded moment to advance. The wise remain vigilant in dissolving its harmful feelings and beliefs as they arise.