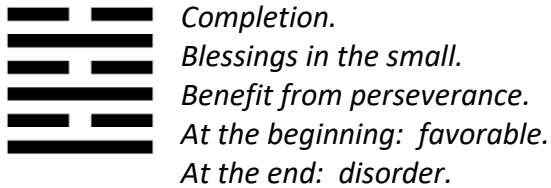


## Hexagram 63 Completion



### Structure:

- Above water ☵, danger. Below fire ☲, clarity in awareness of the spirit.
- Using danger to nourish clarity. Using clarity to guard against danger. Danger and clarity balance each other.

**Image:** When brought into a proper relationship, water and fire produce benefits, but they naturally conflict. Heating water over fire produces steam, but if water boils over, it extinguishes the fire. Too much heat causes water to evaporate and burn the contents. The wise exercise caution when using fire and water.

This hexagram's structure, the only one in which all the lines stand in their proper place, depicts an extraordinary state: strong lines in strong positions and yielding lines in yielding positions. Because the hexagram has this completely settled balance, no tension remains. Yet the slightest external influence or inner movement will disrupt this balance and push the situation back into disorder and into another cycle.

The hexagram describes a time when we have overcome an obstruction that has blocked our spiritual path, freeing the life energies within the obstruction which transform into wisdom. In the time of settlement, we enjoy our new freedom from what had oppressed us and expand our understanding of how to live the ways of wholeness.<sup>1</sup> However, this settlement within wholeness does not mislead the wise into the delusion of the permanency of this state because they know that everything changes.

Upon settlement, life at first proceeds seemingly on its own, tempting us to relax and let things take their course without troubling with small disturbances. Our deluded belief that we have finally freed ourselves from all obstructions leads to the unsettling of the settled. We may have freed ourselves from one obstruction that had compelled us to act in harmful ways, but, like weeds, other obstructions come forth. The harmful feelings and thoughts of obstructions depend upon an unguarded moment to advance and gain power over us. Thus, another cycle of overcoming another obstruction begins.

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<sup>1</sup> **Ways of Wholeness:** Sages relate to all their sacred Earth Interbeing relations with love and care, serving the well-being of all. Sages know the sacred within all their interactions and situations and open to the loving path through problems and dangers. Sages live within Earth and moral limits to sustain the sacred balance and harmony, reciprocate for the gifts they receive from the Earth Interbeing, and hold themselves accountable for their actions. Sages take responsibility for their own wholeness and fulfill their responsibilities to the wholeness of Earth Interbeing, creating opportunities for others to do the same.

Yet even then, we have expanded our wisdom and understanding of how to restore the wholeness of Earth Interbeing within ourselves and in the world. Every time we free ourselves from another obstruction, we find new ways to creatively unfold new ways of wholeness. Further, with each settlement of a cycle, our responsibility grows to encourage others to learn from the moment how to respond in ways that care for the Earth Interbeing. In this way, the spiritual path has no end.

**Line 1:** In a time of great transition, everything presses forward, overshooting settlement and leading back into certain loss and collapse. The sage checks its advance in time to avoid unsettling at the moment of settling.

**Line 2:** Upon completion, a new cycle begins. Remain devoted to the Ways of Wholeness. During the period of completion, do nothing. What truly belongs to you will come once the completed cycle synthesizes and the next one emerges.

**Line 3:** The line makes every effort to overcome its self-cherishing and hostility for others, a long and arduous process. It takes upon itself the responsibility to overcome dangers itself rather than delegate that to those who do not have the line's capacities; otherwise, the effort would fail.

**Line 4:** In a time of settlement, an unexpected change causes a disturbance. The foolish ignore the threat to settlement and do not address it. The line remains alert to the reemergence of self-cherishing and hostility for others and responds effectively to them.

**Line 5:** In times after completion, elaborate outer displays replace the simplicity of the original forms of devotion. Over time, self-cherishing takes the place of devotion to the sacred. True devotion does not depend on form but on how we live in harmony with the ways of wholeness.

**Line 6:** The culmination of settlement has many dangers and little stability. The line ruins the settlement by deluding itself that it has extinguished its willingness to harm for self-benefit. In an unguarded moment, self-cherishing and hostility for others reemerge and unfold their harmful aspects.