

Hexagram 19 – Approach of Blessings



Blessings approach.

True for the whole.

Culminating turns toward the retreat of the light, possesses danger.

Structure:

- Joy within ☱ and outer devotion ☵. Devotion above sinks downward toward rising joy. The two movements approach each other.
- Two strong lines grow into the hexagram from below, the light power expanding with them.

Time: The hexagram marks the 12th month in the Chinese calendar (January – February), the approach of the Chinese new year and spring. The power of the strong light ascends again, a joyful time of certain growth. Now, no obstruction blocks the ways of the spirit, which makes possible an easy, gentle advance.

Natural law, not human effort, causes this propitious time. Light returns while the darkness declines, reflecting the cyclical nature of change. The universal law of alternating increase and decrease requires that a descent follows every rise and a rise follows every descent. The natural and inevitable return of powerful beneficial influences accords with the time. Just as spring heralds the return of growth within nature, the time opens to fulfilling our purpose to care for the Earth and all life.

Following upon the previous Hexagram 18, the time demands us to correct the deeply entrenched human abuses within the world. The wise heed this call and adhere to the ways of the spirit to restore harmony and balance within the world. To do this, they care for all life and the Earth. The age of suffering ends, and the ways of the wholeness¹ come to life in the world.

Sages feel the responsibility of their influence and set to work to fully benefit from the ascending force of light, protecting and excluding no part of Creation. They support and bear all unconditionally and have no limits in their willingness to nourish the potential of others by caring for them, working with them, and bringing to life the ways of wholeness. By setting to work on what has decayed through the abuse of human freedom, we fulfill our responsibilities to care for the Earth and all life.

Yet spring does not last forever. The times reverse in autumn (September to October, the eighth month in the Chinese calendar), and the power of light will then retreat. Whatever grows must wane. Once the decline sets in, the season of growth ends as it cannot go beyond its time.

¹ **Ways of Wholeness:** We interbe with all our sacred Earth Interbeing relations with love, respect, and care. We know the sacred within all our interactions and open to the loving path through problems and dangers. We live within Earth limits and moral bounds to sustain the sacred balance and harmony of the Earth Interbeing. We share and reciprocate the gifts we receive from the Earth Interbeing. We become whole beings and lovingly fulfill our own responsibilities to the wholeness of Earth Interbeing, creating opportunities for others to do the same.

The wise remain wary so that even in the midst of the flourishing season, they know a decline approaches. They understand the meaning of change and do not let this opportunity slip by, putting into motion their wise plans and applying the resources they prepared during the time of darkness.

However, the wise also know how to extend the time of growth by disbursing its blessings to those who have not yet benefited. They prepare for the coming decline and warn others of its approach so they may prepare as well. If we meet darkness before it becomes reality – even before it begins to stir – the ways of wholeness endure. Knowing that all changes, the wise grow the capacities within their community and world to get through the coming darkness.

Within the ascending light, sages joyfully devote themselves to the sacred Earth Interbeing. They do not let the reality of inevitable decline limit them, but rather they creatively bring to the world the ways of wholeness. Instead of futilely resisting decline, the wise persist in moving toward wholeness. If we can act in this way, we will never fail.

Line 1: Coming together with the whole approaches. The virtuous line keeps to the path of wholeness to serve and becomes one with Earth Interbeing.

Line 2: Coming together with the whole approaches. This stimulus to approach comes from the spirit. The line has the inner strength and devotion to the path, allowing it to overcome what separates it from wholeness with the sacred Earth Interbeing.

Line 3: Life goes well for the line, but it begins to neglect the responsibilities of the sacred path. If it relaxes and lets things take their course, the line will have remorse. It has already shown its carelessness in how it interacts with others and its growing complicity with what harms within world. If the line regrets its mistaken attitudes, then it can free itself of faults by living the ways of wholeness.

Line 4: The coming together with the whole has arrived. The line closely adheres to the spirit and the ways of wholeness.

Line 5: The line defers to wisdom in discerning how to act in the world. The partnership of wisdom and action furthers caring for the Earth and all life in harmony with others. The ignorant act out their own self-centered opinions and views.

Line 6: Exalted sages, who have put the concerns of the world behind them and withdrawn from it, may decide to return to the world and support the strong and wise, a great blessing for those advised and strengthened.