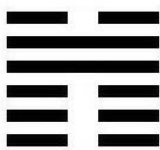


Hexagram 45 Gathering



Gathering

Spiritual influence pervading and nourishing all things.

The gathering imagines the sacred temple.

Harvesting: viewing the great within.

Growing, harvesting, trial.

Applying the spiritual gathering as an offering, significant.

Harvesting: possessing directed going.

Image: People come together and form compact clusters like dense bunch grass.

Structure:

- Joyful above ☰ and devotion within ☷.
- Lake over Earth. Water collects in a lake.

The harmony of the cosmos, the sacred universe, arises out of the interbeing, in which the parts move in the ways of the spirit, the whole. A collected moral force unites people. The world cannot become whole unless gathered people act together to make visible the spirit within the world. A gathered moral power acting together amplifies individual strengths.

Before we can gather with others to benefit all, we must nurture within ourselves what keeps us moving in the direction of the spirit. Devotion and joyousness are the basis of gathering. If we do not live the ways of the spirit, we will have no joy and others will hesitate to gather with us.

A sage has an inner sacred temple in which it sacrifices its self-cherishing and hostility for others to the spirit and aligns its life to the ways of wholeness.¹ It offers itself to the Earth Interbeing to live the ways of whole and to bring these ways into the world. The greatest joys of life flow out of devotion to the spirit. The coming together of people with interbeing restores the balance of the Earth Interbeing, the highest spiritual calling. We obey the sole spiritual command of the spirit to care for the Earth and all life.

Where one finds a spiritual awareness, a gathering needs no great preparations or formalities for people to understand one another. Invisible spiritual forces draw those who belong together, and the wise yield to this attraction of the gathering sacred whole. All life follows the ways of the sacred universe and Earth. The love for the spirit, Earth, and all life unites all and transforms the gathering into a devoted community of interbeing.

When people gather within the spirit and form community, individuals resist imposing their will. A collective vision emerges to respond to the demands of the time. The highest values unite people, which manifest in ways that benefit all.

Joy makes gathering possible. When people gather, they accord with others in harmonizing with the sacred, fundamental to a communal spiritual life. Joy provides the energy needed to restore and preserve

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.

our balance and harmony with Creation and spirit. The gathered gladly relate with others generously and impartially so that the whole community benefits. We collectively become the sacred temple through love and caring for Creation. In such times of coming together, it furthers to see the great in people, and it furthers people to make great offerings to bring forth the ways of the spirit.

Only people acting together can solve the problems created by people, the great sacrifice. The time of gathering harnesses the wisdom, resolve, and action of many in a common undertaking to address a dangerous imbalance. The gathered clarify their vision by constantly reflecting on their own path and deepening their virtue so that all want to cooperate. They find it practical and possible to actualize their highest intentions by cooperating to restore harmony and balance in the world.

When values and aspirations align, people can move powerfully in the same direction. The offering of reverent and devoted action to the sacred becomes the group's shrine and refuge. When the gathered remain steadfast, always holding to the sacred Earth Interbeing, a communion with the invisible arises. Within the cosmos, all turn to the sacred.

Line 1: The line cannot resolve its confusion and indecisiveness. If it makes the effort to remove what separates it from the spirit and Earth Interbeing, it will know its path.

Within the world, people want to gather around a vision of restoring harmony and balance. Yet, because they are in a disordered group, they allow others to influence them and waver in their resolve. They lack a firm vision around which to gather. If the people come to a common goal and understanding of how to move forward, the group will succeed.

Line 2: It takes time for the line to sacrifice its will to power and yield to the direction of the spirit. Once it has given up its futile efforts to impose its will on situations and others, it offers itself for the good of the whole.

Within the world, the gathered give themselves time to heal their inner imbalance and harmonize with the ways of the spirit before they act in the world.

Line 3: The line gathers with those who believe they have attained illumination, but they have not. Their ignorant actions end in remorse and without benefit. If the line should first turn to seek its inner wisdom and learn from it how to overcome its faults, it will find its union with the spirit.

Line 4: The line brings about the gathering on behalf of the spirit. Even though the line's lack of authority hinders its efforts, it succeeds in gathering those below to unite with the spirit above. The gathering occurs in the right way as it reaches everywhere.

Line 5: The line has overcome its self-cherishing and hostility while learning how to benefit all. It avoids complacency and arrogance by paying attention to details and living the ways of the spirit. The way to gather everyone together depends upon a strong foundation of manifesting the good.

Line 6: The gathering of people to perform great deeds has degraded into paying others to fulfill their responsibilities. The consequences cause the people much grief, but they can only blame themselves for the situation.