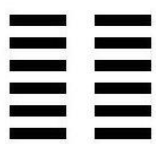


## Hexagram 2 – The Receptive



*Receptive.*

*The qualities of the Receptive belong to the Earth.*

*The sage follows the sacred ways of Earth Interbeing.*

*Acting individually, one loses wholeness. Following the way brings wholeness.*

*The sage leads others to the ways of Earth Interbeing.*

*The sage partners with those receptive to caring for the Earth Interbeing.*

*The sage withdraws from those who obstruct the ways of Earth Interbeing.*

*Gentleness and love prevail.*

**Structure:** The open lines represent the Receptive's primal power of yielding.

**Time:** In the Chinese calendar, the hexagram marks the 10<sup>th</sup> month (November – December), when increasing darkness brings an end to the year.

### Manifestation

The Creative enters the spatial and temporal through the Receptive. Wherever we look, we see the face of the Creative. The Receptive yields to the ways of the Creative, fulfilling and completing the Creative by materializing the Creative. This union of the Creative and Receptive manifests as arising experience.

### Endurance

Like the Earth, the Receptive carries and supports all experience and serves as its enduring ground. Each life form, according to its being, has a fixed law of being and change. The Receptive's holding quality allows all life to realize their potential within the fundamental laws and principles of the Creator.

Freed from self-cherishing, sages selflessly follow the spiritual path, possessing the inner strength, virtue, and breadth of view to hold whatever arises in experience in mindful presence. Staying fully and lovingly present to experience marks the sage's capacity to bear the flux of Creativity.

### Yielding to the Spirit

The Receptive does not act on its own but constantly yields to the influence of the Creative, the unknowable yet known. The Receptive opens to the ways of the Creative and makes them its own, taking away nothing, adding nothing. The Receptive has no need for its own special purpose, yet everything turns out in ways that benefit all.

Within the human realm, people choose between self-benefit or caring for the Earth and all life. This fundamental choice shapes how we respond to arising experience. We learn from the Receptive how to benefit all, achieving the height of wisdom when what we accomplish follows the ways of the Receptive. All life devotedly serves the sacred. The sage lovingly serves the spirit and brings to life the ways of wholeness.<sup>1</sup> We rest within the spirit and yield to its influence.

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<sup>1</sup> **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 lovingly fulfill our own responsibilities to the Earth Interbeing as whole beings, creating opportunities for others to do the same.

We lose the path of Receptivity when we seek to impose our will upon others or upon an unfolding situation. Taking the lead, we go astray. Pursuing I-ness obscures the spirit. When we abandon our devotion to the spirit and hold ourselves equal in power to the sacred, when we seek to rule and serve ourselves or group alone, we conflict with the Creative. When a culture opposes the ways of the spirit, a great struggle ensues, which great harm for life and Earth.

The Receptive has no purpose other than to faithfully materialize the Creative. The sage looks deeply into what arises to know the spirit within experience and discerns how to fulfill life's common duty, to care for all life and the Earth through the ways of wholeness. We let go of the struggle to have our way, and by so doing, free ourselves and others from the harms caused by our self-cherishing and hostility for others.

The virtues of loving interbeing, moral discipline, wisdom, and careful action shape how we manifest the spirit within the world rest within the spirit.

**Line 1:** The line unknowingly advances into what harms. It ignores the warnings of a growing imbalance and persists in wrong-doing. The wise, aware of the dangers of yielding to what harms, make timely precautions by heeding the first signs of an imbalance and immediately checking its harmful behaviors.

**Line 2:** Inwardly and outwardly, the line aligns itself to with the ways of the spirit. By following the spirit, the line, without error or hesitation, fulfills life's great purpose to care for the Earth and all beings.

**Line 3:** The line has no purpose of its own beyond fulfilling the will of the sacred. Although it does not comprehend the sacred, it has the faith and discipline to allow the spirit to work in the world through it, acting when instructed and not acting to let the spirit's work unfold without interference. The line does not draw attention to its service to the spirit.

**Line 4:** The time calls for the strictest reticence and patience. When the wise cannot discern the way forward, they do not act rashly. Any degree of making known one's merit leads either to resistance or to unwanted recognition, removing the focus from an underlying creative process. The wise patiently wait for the work of the spirit to unfold.

**Line 5:** This line embodies and lives the ways of wholeness. It manifests the sacred through all its doings, fulfilling its sacred duties to the Earth Interbeing without drawing attention to itself.

**Line 6:** The line ignores its responsibilities to serve others and Creation and imagines itself greater than the sacred. People cannot dominate Creation but must serve and remain submissive to it. When people disregard natural limits and assume unfettered dominion over the Earth and all life, the power of nature comes forward to assert its power against those who have violated its ways. In this struggle, people and all life and the Earth suffer.