

Hexagram 3 – The Beginning



The beginning of a cycle of change.

No benefit from initiating movement.

Benefit from finding wise supports and partners.

Structure: Danger above ☰. Movement below ☵. Movement within danger.

Images:

- Growth of a tender grass sprout piercing through hard soil.
- Darkening clouds and thunder that precede the rain.

This hexagram describes the beginning of a creative process. The spirit perpetually creates, an unformed chaos of enormous energy. Life has the power to shape the creative chaos into meaning and purpose. We experience this proliferation of possibilities at the beginning of any creative endeavor when we attempt to bring forth our vision into the world.

The wise do not act prematurely. At the beginning, when everything remains unformed, the wise hold back from imposing their will upon the accumulating creative potential. A wrong step in the beginning can malform the entire effort

Instead, the wise calmly endure the growing tension inherent in accumulating a creative potential, accepting and bearing the discomfort of uncertainty and the urgency to act. As we deepen our spiritual practice and wisdom, we increase our capacities to hold these unformed creative energies within presence to discern the way forward.

By carefully shaping our beliefs and behaviors, we prepare to bring forth our creative vision into the world through the ways of wholeness¹. The wise patiently sort through the multitude of possibilities according to how they align with wholeness and their own capacities of what they could achieve.

The wise know that whatever actions they choose will have consequences. They prepare for acting without acting by discerning how to best move forward to benefit all and making the preparations to do so. The universe moves from within.

When life faces great dangers, the wise know they need to collectively discern with others the ways of wholeness with others and to work as a team to overcome obstacles that challenge them. They connect with those with whom they can achieve a shared goal by approaching them with respect and humility

Together, the wise prepare for the difficult work ahead with inspiration and guidance, managing difficulties firmly and faithfully. In this way, they act intentionally and at the right

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 lovingly fulfill our own responsibilities to the Earth Interbeing as whole beings, creating opportunities for others to do the same.

time. We need to consider the consequence of our actions before we act with others so not to pursue what will distort or diminish living the ways of wholeness.

Sages use power to bring to life the ways of wholeness within themselves and into the world. The ways of self-cherishing, hostility for others, and worldly concerns pervade our culture. Overcoming harmful beliefs and behavior patterns challenges spiritual practitioners from the beginning to the end. Whenever we give selfishness full rein to shape our reaction to experience, we go astray and do not find what we seek. Impetuous action in uncertain times without guidance leads to disaster and remorse for losing the way.

When we choose to recover wholeness and resist what harms, we knowingly place ourselves in the path of strong and dangerous forces. If the difficulties become too great, some seek rescue, but no leader appears. Within such a situation, others might give up in despair, one of the saddest of all things. The wise do not give up nor wait for others to rescue them. Instead, they overcome self-cherishing and divisiveness by deepening their spiritual being to more wisely serve the moment. Sages place themselves below the powerless and oppressed, knowing that success depends upon overcoming oppression and meeting the needs of all.

The time calls us to harvest the fruits of the spiritual path and to live harmoniously on Earth with others. This rebalancing of the Earth Interbeing proves difficult at the beginning as we have to sacrifice our self-centered ways. Yet, only we can heal ourselves and recover harmony within our interbeing relationships, knowing that ultimately all life and Earth depend upon our doing so.

Every day invites us to begin anew. By overcoming our inertia to actualize our potential and face what separates us from the spirit and creation, we free ourselves of the conditions that bind us to what harms.

At the heart of chaos and confusion of the beginning dwells the creative potential waiting for us to bring it to life. Sages penetrate that raw, chaotic energy to restore the culture of interbeing. Eventually, the chaos clears and uncertainties pass, releasing all from tensions, just as a thunderstorm comes with much fury, fills the air with rain, and then subsides. The ten thousand things take shape and unfold in the ways of wholeness.

Line 1: At the beginning, the line perceives the formidable obstacles it must overcome. The line opens to the situation to perceive its needs and how it can serve to bring it into balance. It refrains from acting prematurely to impose its will upon a confused situation. It waits for the situation to unfold while seeking the wisdom of others to discern the path through the difficulties.

Line 2: The line finds itself surrounded by obstacles and difficulties. Unexpectedly, a way out presents itself, but the sage carefully avoids taking upon itself any obligation that might compromise its purpose or erode its resolve. The sage remains true to what it values and waits until it can discern the path of wholeness through difficulties.

Line 3: The chaotic situation proves beyond the line's abilities to rely on its own sense of direction to discern the way forward. When confused and uncertain, the wise seek guidance and refrain from forcing a solution. They bear the burden of uncertainty and wait for clarity.

Line 4: Life seeks the direction of spiritual wisdom. The spirit seeks its manifestation through life. wisdom. When life comes together with the spirit, life has the wisdom to fulfill its sacred responsibilities.

Line 5: Conditions prevent the sage from fulfilling its great purpose to overcome oppression. The self-righteous try but fail. The sage limits itself to small efforts and succeeds. Only through faithful and conscientious work, unobtrusively carried out step by step, can hindrances to solving problems disappear.

Line 6: At the end of difficulties, the line gets stuck and does not find its way out, folding its hands and giving up the struggle, not knowing that the situation changes. Such resignation is the saddest of all things. The wise move through the end of difficulties.