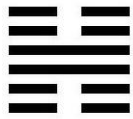


Hexagram 62 Small Exceeding



Small exceeding.

Growing. Harvesting. Trial.

Permitted the small in affairs.

Not permitted the great in affairs.

To the flying bird abandoning its nest belongs a sound.

Not proper above, proper below.

Leads to the great purpose.

Structure:

- Thunder ☳ above Mountain ☶. Action above stillness. Acting with restraint.
- Stillness stable below, action above. One acts in the world while remaining still within.
- Weak lines on the outside, strong lines within.

The structure of the hexagram suggests a flying bird. With hunters nearby, the wise bird protectively stays near its nestlings to avoid capture. The foolish bird abandons its nest, calling out as it flies higher and bringing to it the attention of hunters.

The hexagram describes a transitional state with a multitude of dangers, a situation which obscures their underlying connections. Small exceeding means acting in small ways that go beyond what others consider normal to care for the Earth and life. In exceptional times, we need exceptional measures to reestablish the ways that benefit all. Making a small excess in the right direction hits the transformational mark.

In the time of small exceeding, the soaring bird provides the lesson. The unwise soar high beyond their capacities and neglect their duties to those who depend upon them. When faced with great injustice, those with a strong will but without influence in the world may self-righteously act to put an end to all the wrongs. They consider it petty to hold themselves on guard and go proudly into a struggle. Yet this self-confidence deludes them as they have not prepared themselves; their arrogance blinds them to dangers.

The path of small exceeding begins with identifying how our beliefs and behaviors have caused the disruption of balance and harmony and then change ourselves in small ways that exceed what the world considers normal to both make amends and to move closer to the ways of wholeness.¹ To achieve the wanted correction, the sage does not greatly exceed the cultural norm so not to draw attention to itself. The wise do not strive after lofty things but hold to the lowly, staying close to what they can accomplish within their sphere of influence. By exceeding the cultural norm, we move closer to the true ways of living within interbeing.

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 reciprocate what we have taken and share the gifts we receive. We lovingly fulfill our own responsibilities to the Earth Interbeing as whole beings, encouraging others to do the same. (Rev. 7-16-24)

We recover the wholeness with the Earth Interbeing by gradually and persistently acting in small ways toward our own wholeness and interbeing. The wise understand the disharmony and imbalances of the time and escape its danger by paying careful attention to small and insignificant things. They transform conditions without going too far in this time of small exceeding.

The time requires a restraint in acting that may appear excessive to others. Sages focus more closely on duty than do others even when what they do seems unimportant to others. The sage sides with the oppressed and by so doing transforms the conditions of injustice in small ways, which transforms our experience of the world. In exceptional times, we need exceptional measures to reset our balance and harmony with the Earth and Interbeing.

Line 1: The weak line should keep still, yet it stubbornly wants to advance. It seeks to soar above all obstacles, but in so doing experiences misfortune. When haste and self-righteousness predominate, a small excess goes too far beyond what the time requires.

Line 2: The line fulfills the time of small exceeding by caring for the Earth and life. It serves rather than leads.

Line 3: The wise understand that the time demands extraordinary caution and closely attend to small and insignificant things. Strong, self-righteous people consider it petty to hold themselves on guard and willingly take risks. They go their way proud and unconcerned, but this self-confidence deludes them. Dangers lurk for the unwary.

Line 4: The line tempers its hardness of character by yielding to wisdom and resisting compulsions to act excessively and dangerously. The line adapts to the changing conditions beyond what the culture considers normal.

Line 5: The dense clouds give no rain. In exceptional times, the strong line realizes that it does not know how to transform what needs to change in the world. It seeks out the wise, those who have already withdrawn from the world. Their genuine achievements, not fame, qualifies them to discern the path through the difficulties. The line seizes the opportunity to learn from the wise and to work with them to complete the transformation despite all difficulties.

Line 6: Bold movement at the extreme of the time of small exceeding does not accord with reason. The line's excessive actions go too far beyond the norm, causing harm to itself and others.

The bird abandons its nest and gets caught by the hunters. The reckless line's arrogance makes it unwilling to come back to the middle way. It loses its path, abandons those in its care, and draws down disaster on itself.