

Hexagram 13 – Sameness



People tending toward merging with sameness.

Spiritual influence nourishing all.

Benefit from approaching the sacred realm on Earth

Benefit from the virtues of a sage.

Structure:

- Inner clarity ☰, outward strength ☷. First wisdom, then creative action.
- Creative expressing knowing. Knowing the Creative.

We experience two realms: the parts and the whole. When we deny the spirit and hold ourselves apart from others, we separate from the spirit, and our experience splinters into the ten thousand things. People separated from the spirit interact only with those who share their personal preferences and prejudices, even if they hold deluded views. They differ from the views of those they dislike even if the others hold the truth. We divide the world between Us and Them, self and other. The Them might include beings of other species or other people with different cultures, beliefs, status, world view, wealth, or power. Everyone not an Us is a Them, which opens to inequality, racism, genocide, species extinction, and Earth devastation.

Earth and all life belong within the sacred whole, the Earth Interbeing. With sufficient awareness and freedom from conditioning, those separated from the spirit have moments of experiencing interbeing and glimpses of the spirit, the unknowable yet somehow known. Life has no hierarchy of higher or lower, simpler or more complex, primitive or advanced. Instead we live among equal beings on Earth. We all share the same natural processes. All beings live within a mutually interdependent interbeing, not a collection of isolated, individual parts.

The completeness of Earth Interbeing comes from the inclusion of all being within it, all essential parts of the whole Earth Interbeing. Interbeing emerges out of the harmonious interactions of individual beings, all moving within the ways of the spirit. The love for the spirit, Earth, and life unites all and transforms beings into a devoted gathered community of interbeing that benefits all. Out of this devotion to the sacred creation arises the balance and harmony of the Earth Interbeing.

Integrity means the uncompromising adherence to moral and Earth principals and the embodiment of these within moral character and actions. Beings act with integrity when they fulfill their responsibilities to the sacred whole of the Earth Interbeing. They participate in the wholeness of interbeing, like a cell within our body, which itself belongs to a greater whole yet in itself has a whole and entire condition. The many cells of a body contribute to the greater whole of the body.

To know wholeness requires all beings to firmly adhere to moral behavior and respect for planetary limits. Beings of integrity do not ask another to do what they can do for themselves or expect others to fulfill their responsibilities. They do not wait for the healing of others but seek out their own healing and necessary help.

Whole beings have a high level of self-sufficiency and always remain open to learn more skills. They bear the burdens of their work and life with a glad mind and courageously put themselves forward to live the ways of the spirit, pouring their love and life energy into serving what furthers the Earth Interbeing. Deepening their spiritual and healing path strengthens their resolve to do what needs doing and unfolds needed qualities to restore and renew the ever-changing balance and harmony of their community. When they make mistakes, people of integrity learn from them and return to try again.

We cultivate our wholeness within interbeing by having healthy relationships with others. People of integrity uphold within their lives the values of humbleness, courage, honesty, respect, simplicity, friendliness, and a joy for living. Their virtues of love and moral discipline inform their actions to care for the Earth Interbeing. The path of interbeing depends upon the wisdom of yielding to change, assessing a problems, and considering possible consequences of action. Acting upon such wisdom restores, preserves, and renews the balance and harmony of Earth Interbeing.

Beings of integrity respect the integrity of others. In a society of equals, no one can impose their will on others. Within a community of integrity, beings do not try to change others as everyone has to choose their own ways to live. Nobody has authority over us unless we give them that power. We do not have to obey others or to meet their expectations of us. We always have the power of no.

People of integrity discourage others becoming dependent upon them as that diminishes the integrity of the other. Yet in times of need, they share what they have. While encouraging others to realize the answers to their own questions about the directions of their lives, beings of integrity help others to explore the purpose of their lives. They themselves seek out the wise for guidance and for discernment in difficult and dangerous times.

The principle of non-interference in the lives of others extends to how to help others without telling them what to do. A society of equals requires a proper perception of others. Beings of integrity keep aware of needs of others as well as what the other can do for the group. If the other has to ask something of us, we have diminished the other's worth. If we tell the one asking for help what to do, then we have diminished us both.

Within a helping situation that preserves everyone's integrity, those free of their self-centeredness offer constructive criticism like a teacher encouraging the student to take the next step toward mastering a skill, suggesting options with known consequences. This approach preserves the freedom of choice of the one helped, but then the one helped assumes the responsibility for the consequences of acting upon its choice.

If a being of integrity knew the course of action would likely bring about specific harmful consequences but went ahead anyway with the action, it would feel shame for the consequence. Because of its guilt, the being confronts its responsibility to recover balance and harmony within a harmed relationship. Shame and guilt spur one to action, and completion of reparations absolves shame and guilt. We have the responsibility for the choices we make. Our actions have consequences for ourselves, relationships, and community.

Even though our culture may not attain interbeing within our lifetime, we can and must prepare for it. Relating with others openly in ways that benefit all, without preference and prejudice, brings about a great fellowship of life that leads into interbeing. Knowing Earth Interbeing opens us to the sacred realm of Earth and life. Unheard of things become possible, the unattainable obtainable.

Line 1: Within a harmonious interbeing, relationships have no personal bias, no prejudice, no preferences. Beings relate to others equally without divergent aims or secret agreements. All have equal access to the basic principles of Earth Interbeing and the common purpose to care for it.

Line 2: In this situation, people associate only with those based on the similarity of kind. They claim greater rights and privileges than those they deem less worthy than they, the path of shame and harm. Those on the spiritual path renounce this way of relating with others.

Line 3: Hatred, dishonesty, and violence consumes this unbalanced line. It wants what it does not have the right to have; thus, it resorts to cunning, claiming what it wants by rights of privilege. As long as the line persists in this path, it cuts itself off from enjoying life and the spirit.

Line 4: The reconciliation that follows a conflict approaches. Dividing walls still separate one from another, but the consequences of conflict prove too great, bringing the line to its senses. The line recognizes it can no longer justify its harming others and the Earth for self-benefit, which marks a turn for the better.

Line 5: For people to come together and harmonize requires mutual adherence to the great ways of interbeing and impartiality, both in word and deed. Exceptionalism and denial of the sacred block wholeness of being with the Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: The line does not attain the sought for Earth Interbeing within the world, but the time has not come for that possibility. Nevertheless, the line joins others of like-mind to prepare the needed conditions for the recovery of our wholeness with the Earth Interbeing.