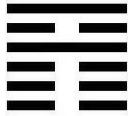


Hexagram 35 – Flourishing



Flourishing.

The spirit bestows blessings upon the sage to benefit all.

Blessings received and shared.

Structure: Fire ☲ above. Earth ☷ below. Devotion and support below, great clarity above.

Image: The sun rises above the Earth with ever widening clarity and expansion. The higher the sun rises, the brighter it becomes, rising over that which darkens.

Entanglement with self-cherishing, hostility for others, and complicity with what harms obscures the spirit. The wise free themselves from these obstructions. To further develop their devotion, they expand and extend their openness to the spirit. The sacred presence rises ever higher over their lives, and the sage passes on to others the many spiritual blessings it receives to benefit all.

At the beginning of the path toward wholeness with the Earth Interbeing, we may have sufficient wisdom and self-discipline to stop ourselves from behaving in ways that cause harm to ourselves and others, but we may still feel deprived and resentful about such restrictions. We must learn how to live in the ways of wholeness with the Earth Interbeing. For people living in cultures that deny the sacredness of the Earth Interbeing and who willingly harm it for self-benefit, our transformation depends upon renouncing the harmful ways of such a worldview. That transformation depends upon us disciplining ourselves to stop acting in those ways. As we move toward wholeness, we find joy in transforming ourselves in ever deeper ways.

When we follow the spirit and align our lives with the ways of the spirit, our wisdom grows. Devoted beings with an unobscured connection with the spirit shape the conditions in which the great Earth Interbeing flourishes, like the rapid and easy rising of the sun with ever greater warmth and illumination. We feel fulfilled when we bring to life the ways of the spirit.

The wise never forget their dependence upon the spirit and all life for the wisdom they bring to life, knowing that they but reflect the spirit's blessings. They do not take credit for the work nor feel they deserve to indulge the self. Such beings do not abuse their influence for self-benefit but persist in their efforts to serve Creation.

The wise yield to the spirit in the midst of difficulties. They persistently hold to the transformative power of love as they have faith in it and know the path as gradual yet certain. Over time, the unreceptive becomes receptive and learn how to care for the Earth Interbeing.

This hexagram points to times of rapid and easy advance with an ever widening expansion and clarity on all sides. Conditions make it easy to bring to life the ways of the spirit within the world. We must exert ourselves in such propitious times as these moments of opportunity do not last. Inevitably, the light will fade. When we can, we must shine.

At the beginning of the path toward wholeness with the Earth Interbeing, we may have sufficient wisdom and self-discipline to stop ourselves from behaving in ways that cause harm to ourselves and others, but we may still feel deprived and resentful about such restrictions. We must learn how to live in the ways of wholeness with the Earth Interbeing. For people living in cultures that deny the sacredness of the Earth Interbeing and who willingly harm it for self-benefit, our transformation depends upon renouncing the harmful ways of such a worldview. That transformation depends upon us disciplining ourselves to stop acting in those ways. As we move toward wholeness, we find joy in transforming ourselves in ever deeper ways.

Line 1: The line does not try to win the confidence of others regardless of the situation. It remains calm and cheerful, resisting its urge to advance. The line goes its solitary way to deepen its spiritual being and awaits the time that will surely come to advance.

Line 2: Conditions make it difficult for the line to spiritually flourish. However, the line seeks refuge within the wisdom and love of the spiritual path, preserving its virtues and calm. When conditions change, the line receives great blessings and achieves its heart desire.

Line 3: The line strives confidently onward with the support of many and fulfills their common purpose to care for Earth Interbeing.

Line 4: The line represents those who personally benefit from having a responsible position, not a secure position. The line fears and hates the lines below as they are certain to advance because of their devotion to the spiritual path. Its fear and hate expose the line to much danger.

The line advances like a rodent that hides by day and acts unseen at night. Fear, jealousy, and hate always fill the line. It greedily occupies the wrong place. In this time, the line's selfishness comes to light, and others clearly see its selfish actions, placing the line in danger.

Line 5: The line lets-go its self-cherishing and hostility for others and has a calm heart free of fear and filled with compassion. The line moves away from individualism and toward the blessings of caring for Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: The strong top line represents the peak of advancing with firm strength. Such behavior inevitably leads to impulsive haste and a severe loss of balance. While using such ferocity to conquer out inner defilements will master our inner willingness to harm others, it does not do so in the balanced ways of the spirit.