

Hexagram 54 Adapting to Situation



Compromising advance.

Mastery of self avoids danger.

Benefit from not imposing a direction on circumstances.

Structure: Action ☵☵ over water, change ☵☵. Acting to change one's position.

At some point in our lives we may feel frustrated that our circumstances limit us and look enviously upon others who have what we want for ourselves. We may try to impose our will upon the direction of events to change our status or seek from others their recognition of our greatness. Such self-serving efforts to achieve power, wealth, and admiration diminish our dignity and spiritual path.

Often, the wise find themselves in situations in which others ignore or dismiss what they have to offer. Instead of forcing themselves upon others, they accept the limits and conditions of wherever they find themselves planted. They do not depend upon the approval of others for caring for the Earth Interbeing.

Sages remain whole and find a field of activity whatever their circumstances. They understand that impulses which ignore the ways of wholeness¹ cause harms for themselves and others. Arrogance and impatience compromise our service to the Earth Interbeing. When we renounce imposing our will upon others, wholeness with the Earth Interbeing opens.

Line 1: The line does not have a recognized position within the community, but it fulfills its responsibilities to the Earth Interbeing by advising others who do, fulfilling its purpose. It accepts its low position willingly and does not challenge others, keeping tactfully in the backgrounds. This hampers its efforts, yet it can indirectly accomplish something through its devotion to the spirit.

Line 2: Conditions do not support the wise line. Through its own creative and solitary efforts, it carries out its purpose without compromising its dignity or path.

Line 3: The wise wait patiently for conditions to change so they can accomplish their goal. The impatient yield to their self-cherishing and rashly act to improve their circumstances but fails, further compromising its position.

Line 4: The line waits for the situation to improve. While waiting, the line deepens its spiritual path and gains a larger view of its purpose. Wise partners come to cooperate in fulfilling their shared purpose.

¹ **Ways of Wholeness:** Sages relate to all their sacred Earth Interbeing relations with love and care, serving the well-being of all. Sages know the sacred within all their interactions and situations and open to the loving path through problems and dangers. Sages live within Earth and moral limits to sustain the sacred balance and harmony, reciprocate for the gifts they receive from the Earth Interbeing, and hold themselves accountable for their actions. Sages take responsibility for their own wholeness and fulfill their responsibilities to the wholeness of Earth Interbeing, creating opportunities for others to do the same.

Line 5: The line ignores its recognized position and subordinates itself to others, following their lead. By mastering its arrogance and beliefs in its exceptionalism, the line achieves its great purpose to serve the Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: Actions that only enact ritual forms of caring for the Earth Interbeing have no value and dishonor the sacred.