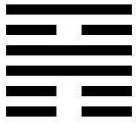


## Hexagram 56 – Journey of Life



*Journey.*

*Caring for the small leads to success.*

*Fulfilling one's purpose most valued.*

### Structure:

- Fire ☲ over mountain ☶.
- The mountain does not move. Fire quickly moves and does not remain stationary. Image of going different ways.
- Knowing within stillness.

We know not from where we came, where we go, nor even where we are. Life remains a mystery. As strangers in a strange land, we pass through constantly changing vivid experiences. Sages know the impermanent and unfathomable nature of life, yet never lose their awe for it.

The ineffable experience of life truly mystifies whoever takes a moment to reflect upon it. Life has a vast complex design within an incredible universe which extends into dimensions far beyond human comprehension. Even though we cannot fathom the majesty of Creation, astonishingly we find it knowable. Generations come and go. We become alive and then eventually grow old and die. Yet new life always becomes, like the seeds of decayed fruit. Life triumphs over the forces that would destroy it.

As strangers within this life of change, we cannot easily find our proper place. Knowing the meaning of life and our creative purpose provides a much needed sense of direction through the ever changing landscape. Sages see life as a journey and themselves as travelers on a spiritual path. The wise fulfill their sacred responsibility to care for the Earth Interbeing, their moral compass.

Life challenges us to pass through it without entangling ourselves in what harms. We have the innate capacity to discern what benefits all and then to act on that understanding. The wise remain aware, calm, and focused on the one important thing: fulfilling their life's journey sacred responsibility.

Those distracted by self-cherishing and hostility for others ignore the spiritual path. We make ourselves dangerous if we believe ourselves of greater value than others and have the willingness to harm others to get what we want. Those who hold that belief fall into the traps of exceptionalism, exploitation, and privileges. They willingly harm others and the Earth for their benefit and remain indifferent to the suffering of others. The wise never forget that their center lies in a distant realm not yet of this world.

The sage preserves clarity both in stillness and action. They honor the sacred and care for all. By not seeking personal gain, they do not disturb the harmony and balance of Earth Interbeing. With knowing based on wisdom, sages yield to the ways of wholeness,<sup>1</sup> acting in ways that fulfill their responsibilities of care for the Earth Interbeing.

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<sup>1</sup> **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

The wise do not hold onto what they have lest they get distracted and forget their destination, making their spiritual journey their home. They go their way without harm by remaining upright and steadfast, cautious and reserved, adapting to external conditions. Those who remain centered on caring for the Earth Interbeing and devoted to their sacred path find success in small ways.

Because of the difficulties in finding one's place in life, the wise discern the meaning of situations and then respond in the ways of wholeness. The wise first deeply understand a challenging situation to discern the path through its dangers. Once they understand what to do, then they act in the ways of wholeness.

Those without the aspiration to achieve the highest good within their lives and who do not cultivate their spiritual path waste their lives on the trivial. In their pursuit of pleasure, they become careless and neglect their duties. They play with life and accomplish nothing. Even injury does not deter their constant disregard for wholeness.

Travelers endanger themselves when they behave arrogantly toward those they consider beneath them, or they try to prove their importance to those they want to impress. Others avoid the overbearing or those who demand attention. Because they have made selfishness their life's project, self-centered people cause trouble for themselves and the world.

Sages remain reserved and humble to avoid dangers within the strange landscapes of life. They stay with the spirit and yield to wisdom for success in small things. As long as we remain grounded in fulfilling our responsibility to care for the Earth Interbeing, we travel well and find companions to share the work of achieving the great purpose. When we stay with the spirit, we will always have a place to rest.

**Line 1:** The weak line at the bottom has no breadth of vision and consumes its life on the trivial. The line represents those worn out by life's journey. They have meaningless lives and accomplish nothing worthwhile.

**Line 2:** The line has established its spiritual path, which creates opportunities to practice the ways of wholeness. Through its diligence, the line deepens its spiritual being, which furthers its spiritual journey and achieves its great purpose.

**Line 3:** An arrogant stranger does not know how to behave properly. It meddles in affairs and controversies that do not concern it, thus losing its resting place. The line does not show devotion to the wise, and so they do not lend their support. It treats those below with aloofness and arrogance, thus losing their loyalty. When a stranger in a strange land has no one left on whom it can rely, it endangers itself.

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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)

**Line 4:** The stranger has managed itself well and has acquired a responsible position. However, the line, conscious of being a stranger in a strange land, does not feel it belongs and feels uneasy in its position. It remains on guard to defend itself. While the line knows how to limit its desires outwardly, inwardly it knows it has not yet reached its place.

**Line 5:** A stranger in a strange land knows how to meet the situation and others appropriately. The line relates well with those below and above and finds a sphere of activity to fulfill its responsibilities through the support it receives. The virtuous line adaptively manages traveling through life by the ways of wholeness.

**Line 6:** The line forgets it is a stranger and loses its resting place and path. The line harms others and itself by its pleasure-seeking, carelessness, and neglect of duty. Even injury does not make it seek wisdom.