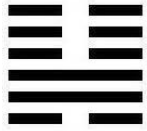


Hexagram 46 – Becoming Step by Step



Becoming step by step.

Growing toward wholeness.

Benefit from knowing the sacred within all.

No doubts.

Wisely step in the direction of wholeness.

Structure:

- Gentleness, devotion below ☷, movement above ☷. Gentle devoted action.
- Wood below the earth. Wood in the earth grows upward.

Image: A tree gradually grows out of the Earth, rising loftier as it matures.

A tree pushes itself up through Earth. This effort begins with its hidden roots, which ground the tree within the Earth and make growth possible. In a similar way, the sage remains rooted within the sacred and grows into living the ways of wholeness¹ within all its interactions.

Wholeness of the Earth Interbeing depends upon each being abiding with the spirit and fulfilling their responsibilities to live in harmony and balance with all. We turn away from our self-centeredness and complicity with what harms by making the daily effort to do even a little to benefit all and ridding ourselves of even a small bit of what keeps us apart from each other, life and the Earth, a joyful way of living that becomes stronger with persistence. Sages follow the example of the gradual growth of trees and take small, gradual steps toward maturing their wholeness.

Trees put out new growth during the spring and early summer, not in the fall or winter. All impediments to the ways of wholeness fall away in this propitious time. When favorable conditions emerge, we must take full advantage of this opportune time and set ourselves to work as our efforts now have the greatest chance of surviving harsh conditions. This time comes not from our own efforts but as a sacred movement. The wise open to the sacred within themselves and others and follow its guidance, free of any doubts about the success of their efforts.

Gentleness balanced with firm adherence to the ways of wholeness support our interbeing. Sages maintain their balance while moving toward the whole and its ways by remaining present within rapidly changing interactions, cooperating with the wise, and persistently acting in ways to benefit all.

¹ **Ways of Wholeness of Earth Interbeing:** We know Creation's embodiment of the sacred and worship the sacred through our care for the Earth Interbeing and how we interact with others, all life and the Earth. We interbe with all our sacred Earth Interbeing relations with affection, equality, and respect, opening to the collective loving path through problems and dangers. We know and respond to the mutual neediness of life, resisting what harms the Earth Interbeing and standing in solidarity with the harmed. We know and care for our being and place as the ground upon which we enact our care for the Earth Interbeing. We gift forward what we have taken and share the blessings we receive to recover, preserve, and renew the harmony and balance of the Earth Interbeing. We live as unique whole beings, overcoming what keeps us apart and disrupts our balance and harmony with the Earth Interbeing, lovingly fulfilling our duties to the Earth Interbeing and encouraging others to do the same. We accept the responsibility for the consequences of our actions. We know the enduring joy that comes from living the ways of wholeness of the Earth Interbeing and enjoy being, interbeing, and creation. (rev. 11-13-24)

Sages creatively bring the ways of wholeness into community by opening to the moment and serving the needs of others rather than forcing their will upon the situation in which they find themselves. Inwardly focused on the sacred and outwardly whole with the Earth Interbeing, external difficulties do not hinder them. Taking one step on the path toward wholeness after the next and overleaping nothing leads us to a profound attainment of the ways of wholeness.

Line 1: The line roots itself in the sacred. As it strengthens its spiritual being, it fulfills its purpose to unite with others, life, and the Earth.

Line 2: Once the line has mastered its self-cherishing and hostility for others, it devotes itself to benefiting all. Great joy comes from following the ways of wholeness.

Line 3: A strong line in a strong place confidently presses forward to take advantage of the time. All hindrances fall away, and the line advances. This easy progress might cause doubts. The wise stay alert but do allow misgivings to erode their resolve to take advantage of this opportune time.

Line 4: The sage reaches the stage in its spiritual development that it no longer determines its own path but subjects itself to the sacred will.

Line 5: The virtuous line moves toward wholeness step by step. The sage completes the spiritual path and fulfills its great purpose of serving the Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: Increasing darkness and lack of clarity make it impossible for the line to clearly distinguish the path forward, yet it persists. Only advanced sages can advance in dark times because of their unceasing rectitude. Even then, this untimely effort has minimal benefit.