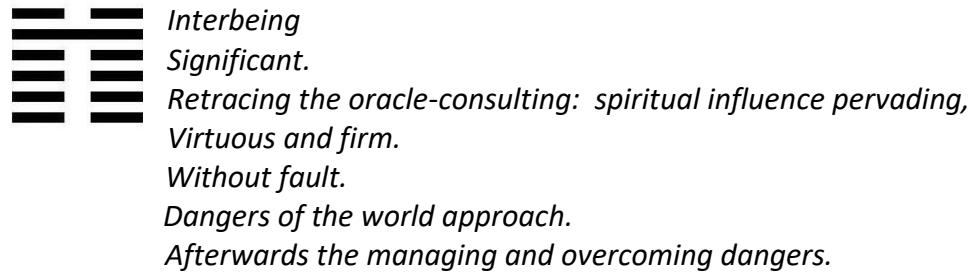


## Hexagram 8 Interbeing



**Structure:** All the yielding lines mutually hold together and follow the strong line.

**Ideogram:** Two people following each other.

All life flows toward the spirit. The laws of Tao regulate life as the laws of Tao regulate the way water flowing over land comes together into rivers and then pours back into the ocean. In this hexagram, the yielding lines hold together with the Earth Interbeing, the center of union. Sages joyfully follow the ways of wholeness and bring these ways into the world.<sup>1</sup>

As social beings, people have deeply felt needs to belong with others. The coming together of people to care for the Earth and all life fulfills that need through interbeing with Earth and all life. We transform our view of life from the perspective of a part to a participant in the Earth Interbeing, from self-centeredness to wholeness.

In dangerous times, the wise mutually seek each other out. The spirit requires sages to act within the world with others to recover the balance and harmony of Earth Interbeing. The wise diligently find closeness with other wise partners as we can only resolve the dangers of the world together.

The wise come together to benefit from their complementary talents and resources. They share a mutual understanding of the true purpose of life, accepting their common responsibilities to stop what harms and to bring to life the ways of wholeness. Within interbeing, we focus on duty and moral behavior within all our interactions. The wise have a natural affection for others which makes interbeing easy and trusting.

Closeness within interbeing develops over time through friendly mutual support in cultivating harmonious relationships. Each avoids imposing their will upon others but together discern the way through challenges to recover the harmony and balance of Earth Interbeing. They have the confidence that comes from mutually shared principles and a strong resolve to care for the world and all life, the basis of interbeing's common understanding and practice. Interbeing forges the views of its parts into that of wholeness.

Associations based only on worldly concerns hold up to a certain point, beyond which the closest group can change into opposition. Selfish alliances may act as a force, but they cannot endure. Only

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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 share and reciprocate the gifts we receive from the Earth Interbeing. We lovingly fulfill our own responsibilities to the wholeness of Earth Interbeing as whole beings, creating opportunities for others to do the same.

when the bond to care for Earth Interbeing remains firm can we overcome what keeps us apart from wholeness with the spirit.

When we ally with individuals who give little and withhold much, we cannot as a group focus on the ways of wholeness. If we find that our association with others does not support our spiritual path, then we waste our time. We always have the freedom to go our own way. Within a group that focuses on recovering the balance and harmony of Earth Interbeing, the receptive come and the unwilling go.

The wise manage their own inevitable doubts and fear, despair and anger rather than entangling others in them. Everyone treats others gently and with respect. Together we learn how to strengthen interbeing and act upon what we know. It will take time for people conditioned by cultures that harm Earth Interbeing, but we can persistently heal and recover what we have lost through our mutual respect, caring, and support for all.

Interbeing depends upon the greatness of spirit, kindness, and strength. We must consider whether we have the will and capacities to bring together others into interbeing. The I Ching encourages us to ask again whether we have a true calling and competence to do so. Until we have freed ourselves from our own harmful conditioning and behaviors, we would add little to interbeing and compromise much.

The wise come together on their own accord and bring ever more partners, harnessing the power of ever larger number of people to cooperate and achieve the shared purpose of interbeing. They discern how to recover our wholeness with the Earth Interbeing.

**Line 1:** The line follows the ways of wholeness, which overfills its being with blessings.

**Line 2:** The line's alignment with the ways of wholeness attracts those whose open hearts also resonate with the sacred Earth Interbeing.

**Line 3:** The weak line allies with harmful forces and abandons the path.

**Line 4:** The line allies with those closer to the center. Together they bring to life the ways of wholeness.

**Line 5:** The line attracts those who want to support each other in caring for the Earth and all life. The line does not chase after those who distance themselves. Thus a voluntary dependence develops among those holding together.

**Line 6:** The group does not hold with the spirit nor follow its ways. It acts arbitrarily, not knowing how to accord with the path or others. The group, without a direction or purpose, has nothing to steady it, which leads to accomplishing nothing.