

Hexagram 22 Form



Form.

Spiritual influence nourishing all.

Materialization petty.

Benefit from having and moving toward a worthy purpose.

Structure:

- Above mountain ☶. Below ☲ fire.
- Brightness under massive stillness.

Ideogram: cowry shells (money) and flowers, linking value with ornament.

Image: Fire breaks out from secret depths. The blazing fire illuminates and beautifies the mountain, but the light does not shine far.

Creation has two aspects, the sacred and the material. As material beings, we remain subject to the forces that act upon material. We have a beginning and end as material patterns arise and then dissipate, like a wave in the ocean. As spiritual beings, we seek oneness with the unbounded sacred.

All beings live within a material and sacred balance. We meet our material needs to survive in the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing for it to thrive. As material beings, we know our mortality. As spiritual beings, we go beyond our mortality by ensuring that life on Earth will continue. By this spiritual work, we move toward unity with the sacred all.

Sages live a balanced life between material and sacred ways of being, a path that brings joy to all life and the Earth. Within daily life, sages prefer simplicity and humility. They avoid going beyond meeting their basic needs as excessive consumption harms the Earth Interbeing. Sages model how to live in ways that benefit all.

Those who choose a life focused on materialism have an unbalanced life. They take what we want from the Earth to convert into moneyed wealth, leaving a trail of irreparable harm and waste. They abusively exploit life for its labor and usefulness to produce more wealth for themselves, leaving a trail of great misery and extinction. Whatever they touch turns to ashes.

Those who seek to escape from material existence seek their own spiritual salvation and ignore the suffering of others. They convert the sacred ways of Earth Interbeing into mere forms and rituals, devoid of life and practice. Without the capacities to bear the burdens of life, they become irrelevant.

At first, we may struggle with renouncing materialism or individual salvation. Yet others have successfully balanced these two necessary ways of living by understanding that we live within Creation, the materialization of the sacred. Exploring the meaning and implications of that reality has no end. Choosing to follow the sacred call to care for the Earth Interbeing so that it may continue provides us a shared eternity. A wave persists until the energy pattern of the

pattern dissipates. The wise know that they are the ocean yet in their brief lives they dance like wave. They live in the world but are not of it.

The selfish do not value the self-discipline and values of the wise. Thus, the I Ching encourages withdrawal from contact with those who value materialism or personal salvation. Turning away from what harms, we will find the wisdom taught by our ancestors and contemporaries, teachings that will support our own sacred path of interbeing with Earth. The wisdom of accomplished sages transcends all limits of space-time.

Those who value a balanced mortal and moral life do not lose the way. The wise adorn arising experience with their compassion, calm, and gratitude. They devote themselves to the sacred within the moment by caring for all life and the Earth, the temple in which we live.

Line 1: This line represents the feet, the beginning of movement. The line relies upon the simple ways of the Earth Interbeing rather than on the ways of the harmful culture. It does its own work rather than depend upon others to do its work.

Line 2: It takes time for beings to mature into sages. The wise deepen their spiritual being and seek the wisdom of others. Ultimately, they become sages who transparently live the ways of the spirit.

Line 3: Excessive concern for its material form diminishes the line's clarity of wisdom and leads to its loss of the spiritual path. This warning applies to both ostentatious displays of wealth and to extreme asceticism. The wise know that any practice can turn into a rigid form that no longer connects them with the spirit. They know the importance of living a balanced and harmonious life.

Line 4: The line chooses between living a balanced life and living for wealth or personal salvation. Sages have the spiritual strength to bear the burdens of a material life to become one with the sacred Earth Interbeing and bring forth the sacred ways into the world.

Line 5: The line seeks wisdom and has distanced itself from the self-centered. Devotion to the balanced path of the sacred Earth Interbeing has greater value than material possessions or spiritual aggrandizement. The line finds wisdom in the top line, the one who foregoes all cultural forms to enjoy wholeness with the sacred Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: The line represents a mountain's peak. Those at the highest stages of unity with the sacred Earth Interbeing have transcended harmful ways of living and transparently reveal their care for the Earth Interbeing so that life on Earth may continue and thrive.