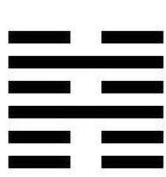


Hexagram 39 – Overcoming What Harms



Overcoming what harms.

Benefit from the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing.

No benefit from self-righteously advancing against what harms.

Benefit from seeing the sacred within.

Seek wisdom.

Structure: Dangerous water ☵ above, and a mountain ☶ below. A dangerous abyss lies ahead, and a steep inaccessible mountain rises from behind.

The hexagram points to overcoming what blocks us from living the ways of the Earth Interbeing.¹ Directly advancing to resist what we oppose leads to obstacles that we cannot manage on our own. By retreating toward what nurtures us, we find refuge and spiritual guidance on how to overcome what keeps us apart.

People living in cultures that deny the sacredness of the living Earth replace the sacred with themselves, valuing materialism and believing in their entitlement to dominate the Earth, other people, and all life for their own benefit. Self-centered and arrogant, they have a deeply embedded willingness to harm others for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering they cause.

If we try to overcome such an oppressive culture to put end to the suffering its causes, we will quickly run into the many obstacles that we put in our own way: fear of disapproval, blaming others, pleasurable distractions, wanting to win, ambitions, wanting to control what we experience, to name a few. We move through these conditioned concerns that block our spiritual growth by losing our self-centeredness and centering our lives on caring for the sacred Earth Interbeing. Rather than trying to change the oppressive culture, we first transform our inner beliefs and life purpose.

Oppressive cultures condition us to filter what we experience through their worldview, one that separates us from the sacred and the Earth Interbeing. The spiritual path uncovers these harmful beliefs and assumptions to bring them into the light of wisdom. No benefit comes from advancing against an oppressive culture until we have inwardly freed ourselves from them our complicity with the culture's willingness to harm for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering it causes.

We stumble into harmful behaviors every day: the sharp word, a negative judgment, over-consuming, arrogance, or ignoring the suffering we cause. But we should not allow such

¹ **The Ways of the Sacred Earth Interbeing:** We worship the sacred through our care for Creation. We interbe with Creation, relating to all with equality, respect, and care so that life continues and thrives on Earth. We know the sacred ways for Creation to continue and thrive and to overcome what keeps us apart. We know and respond to the mutual neediness of life in ways that further the harmony of Earth Interbeing. We know and care for our place as the ground upon which we preserve the balance of Earth Interbeing by reciprocating for what we take through our stewardship of the Earth Interbeing. We live within interbeing's moral boundaries and Earth limits and learn from our life lessons how to overcome what keeps us apart. We live as unique beings in the ways of the Earth Interbeing to preserve Creation's harmony and balance and to overcome what keeps us apart. We respond to whatever we experience in the ways of the Earth Interbeing and hold ourselves accountable for our actions.

entanglements with the omnicidal ways to persist as lasting conditions. When harmful feelings and behaviors obstruct our path, the wise do not ignore them, blame others for them, or indulge them. Instead, the wise bring the ways they harm into their spiritual path to remedy, as opportunities to cultivate their spiritual being and path.

At the same time, we practice living the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing within our daily encounters with close relations, community, other beings, and the Earth. We gradually transform our worldview to align with caring for the sacred Earth Interbeing in ways that benefit all now and for generations to come.

Daily we reduce our harms and complicity with the omnicidal culture and increase our sacred harmony with others, all life, and the Earth. By examining our own complicity with the harmful culture, we come to understand how we encourage the omnicidal culture to persist. By deepening our spiritual being, we come to discern how to live and act in the world.

Making the time and effort to cultivate our spiritual path of wholeness with the sacred and Earth Interbeing may appear to lead away from overcoming the oppressor. However, the wise understand they need to first free themselves of the oppressor within before they can know how to overcome the oppressive culture. We first must cut through our enchantment with the ways of the harmful culture, and then we can overcome it within the world by the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing.

By quietly and perseveringly removing the obstacles that keep us apart from the sacred way of living and moving toward what benefits all, we transform ourselves. Our spiritual path deepens as we become whole.

Line 1: At the beginning, when difficulties first arise, the line recognizes its lack of capacity to move through them. It turns inward to deepen its spiritual being and discern its path through the difficulties.

Line 2: The line faces great difficulties in its work to overcome what harms the Earth Interbeing. Its actions align with the ways of the Earth Interbeing; thus, it remains blameless in its efforts.

Line 3: Advancing directly against those who harm the Earth and life leads to danger and isolation. The line retreats from this dangerous position to deepen its spiritual being and care for the Earth Interbeing.

Line 4: The wise line retreats from the dangers it does not have the capacities to overcome on its own. Instead it brings together those willing to bring to life the ways of Earth Interbeing.

Line 5: The wise line struggles against what harms, the crisis which imperils the whole Earth Interbeing. The line attracts strong partners to come and support its efforts to protect and renew the sacred Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: The sage has overcome the obstructions in ways that have matured its spiritual being. It benefits to see the sacred within all and to follow the ways of the spirit.