

## Hexagram 51 – Collapse



*Collapse.*  
*Spiritual influence nourishing all.*  
*The collapse comes: frightening, frightening.*  
*Laughing words, shrieking, shrieking.*  
*The collapse terrifies a hundred miles.*  
*The sage not losing the ways of the spirit.*

**Structure:** Two thunders ☳☳ combine, thunder after thunder. One strong line under two weak ones presses upward so violently that it arouses fear.

**Time:** The trigram ☳☳ marks the spring equinox and the beginning of a new cycle of growth.

An unexpected shock, like a clap of thunder or an earthquake, causes fear and trembling. From this action, comes that action. From that action, comes this action – a thousand actions all come from the first action. In the same way, we experience the collapse of our omnicultural culture. Fear breaks through living our ordinary lives, one fear connecting to myriad fears, persisting like resounding thunder.

When the world we know collapses, the sacred again commands us to care for the Earth Interbeing. The wise do not resist, ignore, nor flee from their obligations to the sacred. They calmly explore and shape their responses as an offering. By remaining balanced and mindful of the greater whole, they do not avoid their sacred duty to bring forth into life the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing.<sup>1</sup>

A collapsing world engenders great fear. Fear can weaken our resolve to care for the Earth Interbeing and cause us to sink back into an entangled complicity with what harms. We may fear that we cannot bear the difficulties of bringing the ways of the spirit into the world. We fear the reactions of others to our actions should we act. We fear loss of possessions. When fear overwhelms us into inaction, we cannot do what the spirit calls us to do. Immersing ourselves in fear fully exposes us to the brute forces of cause and effect.

Those dependent imposing their will upon others and situations to get what they want lose their bearings in a rapidly collapsing world and mutely let what harms overwhelm them. The wise, however, know the sacredness of whatever they experience and turn inward toward the sacred for guidance. They remain calm and open to what they cannot see or hear for the sacred creative energy to move them into acting to care for the Earth Interbeing.

When fear overwhelms us, the wise do not let fear stop them from doing their duty. They have the capacity to respond to rapidly changing conditions and adapt to an unfolding, dynamic within the sacred

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<sup>1</sup> **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. (12/23/24)

ways of Earth Interbeing. Facing their fears and moving through them in the ways of the Earth Interbeing, sages ride the fierce and perilous forces of the collapse. While conditions may change, their duty remains the same.

Even when the path leads through great danger, the sage follows its chosen path cheerfully and obediently. Faith in the sacred ways and path gives us the willingness to overcome what harms within ourselves and in the world and the confidence to achieve our purpose to care for the Earth Interbeing. Our resolve to live the ways of the spirit triumphs over our harmful conditioning and complicity, giving us the freedom to creatively manifest the sacred within the world.

The time of collapse calls for action, and we must act. The wise have faith in the path and the skills to move on it. They accept the consequences of their actions, learning from their mistakes so they can act more effectively next time. How we respond to difficult situations tests our spiritual path.

Spiritual growth occurs in the midst of activity. Blessings flow from even the smallest acts to care for the Earth Interbeing as changes first occur in the smallest part, ourselves. Sages experience their care for the Earth Interbeing as a received blessing. They have gratitude for the opportunity to serve the sacred and the willingness to explore where that service carries them.

**Line 1:** The collapse causes us to fear and tremble. The wise use the collapse to shape the situation in ways that bring a beneficial change. They keep the greater whole in mind while managing their fear.

**Line 2:** Just as a near clap of thunder causes a momentary shock, we anxiously worry how the collapse will affect us and what we might lose. The wise line retreats inwardly to heights inaccessible to self-cherishing. The line accepts that it need not chase after imagined loss. When the times change, it will have what it wants as it did not allow its fears to keep it from doing what needed doing.

**Line 3:** Fear of the collapse freezes us into inaction. The line sees how fear stops it from acting when it should act, keeping it entangled in what harms. The line seeks spiritual wisdom to strengthen its resolve to overcome its complicity with what harms and do what it could not do before.

**Line 4:** The strong line, caught fast in the mire of conditioning, does not respond energetically to the moving times. When shaken and frightened, people like this cannot rouse themselves to responsibly act on their own. They remain entangled with what harms and lose the creative opportunity.

**Line 5:** Sages overcome the danger of repeated shocks of collapse by holding fast to the sacred ways of Earth Interbeing. They avoid inner turmoil and acting out of fear. Adapting to changing conditions requires balance, which depends upon an inner discipline of self-control and a firm will to adhere to the ways of the spirit. Fear does not cause the sage's resolve to fade.

**Line 6:** The height of inner shock robs the those of weak will of their clarity, making it impossible to act with presence of mind. Fear overwhelms their being, which causes agitated movement and unsteady observation. The line, yet unaffected by the shock of collapse, observes the fearful reactions of others and takes warning not to let fear overwhelm it. Instead, the line sees the sacred unfolding of experience and feels awe. As long as we have not already lost ourselves in harm, we can move through our fears and fulfill our spiritual duty.