

Hexagram 49 – Overthrowing Self-centeredness



Overthrowing self-centeredness.

Before completion and then centering on the sacred ways.

Once we have completely recentered ourselves,

All cause for repenting disappears.

Structure: Lake ☱ above fire ☲. Joyousness above clarity. Joy comes from clarity. Clarity bounds joy.

Image: The Chinese character for this hexagram refers to molting, the shedding of the old to make way for new growth.

Image Tradition

Overthrowing self-centeredness. The inner struggle suspended.

Two ways of living together in the same place.

Their purposes not the same. Both cannot be fulfilled.

Not before the overthrow of self-centeredness can we faithfully follow the sacred ways.

The sacred ways become known through wisdom, beneficial interactions, and joy.

Holding to the sacred ways accomplishes the overthrow of self-centeredness.

Once we have become equal to the challenge of overthrowing self-centeredness,

Repenting thereupon extinguished.

The sacred and Earth Interbeing finally overthrow self-centeredness in sacred time.

Overthrowing self-centeredness transforms fate.

Surrendering to the sacred ways brings living harmoniously with the Earth Interbeing to life.

The time of overthrowing self-centeredness great indeed.

The hexagram describes changing into something different, a process which requires both individual effort and transcendent processes. We prepare for the overthrow of our self-centeredness by reducing our willingness to harm others for self-benefit and ignoring the suffering we cause. At the same time, we deepen our surrender to the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing.¹ As we reduce our self-cherishing, we learn how to interbe.

Once we have prepared the conditions for liberation from self-cherishing, the release occurs naturally within sacred time. For the release from self-centeredness, we must wait. The wise recognizes that change occurs according to the conditions of the time. Thus, we prepare the conditions for the transformation by persistently bringing to life the sacred ways of living harmoniously with the Earth Interbeing.

¹ **The Ways of the Sacred Earth Interbeing:** We worship the sacred through our care for Creation. We interbe with the Wholeness of the Earth Interbeing, interacting with all through 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. (2/23/25)

Freeing ourselves of self-centeredness makes it possible to center on the Earth Interbeing. When we no longer prioritize benefiting ourselves, we can discern how to live in ways that benefit all. Once free of self-cherishing, we have the responsibility to reach gently out into the world to transform the self-centeredness of our culture in the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing. The wise know that compassion must prevail in the beginning and through to the end.

The sacred calls us to fulfill our responsibility to care for others, all life, and the Earth. We respond by living the sacred way of the Earth Interbeing. We change the world by transforming the way we live in world.

Line 1: Self-centeredness binds the line, which has not yet fully prepared itself for the overthrow of its self-cherishing. The line restrains itself from acting until transformed and can clearly discern the way forward.

Line 2: The line prepares itself for the overthrow of its self-centeredness, which must occur before it cooperatively interacts with others to benefit all. Only when free of self-cherishing will it clearly discern how to cooperatively bring to life the ways of the Earth Interbeing within its community.

Line 3: The line, free of self-centeredness, wisely discerns how to bring the sacred ways of Earth Interbeing into community. It persistently responds to what most harms others, life, and community of place regardless of the adversities it experiences. The self-centered act recklessly and cause more harm.

Line 4: The transformed line has the wisdom to act in ways that benefit all. As it adheres to the ways of the Earth Interbeing, it has no cause for regret. Its actions work to overcome the self-centeredness of its community, truly fulfilling its purpose to care for all life and the Earth.

Line 5: The line has no need for divination to know that a great transformation has taken place. Sages powerfully bring to life the Ways of Earth Interbeing into the world, a strong and distinct transformation. Large clear guiding rules become visible and understandable to everyone and have the spontaneous support of all.

Line 6: The wise transform their being, but those willing to harm others for self-benefit change their behaviors, not their hearts. They appear to change because they fear the authority of the changed order. The sage persists in unfolding the many small changes needed to maintain and preserve the recovered balance and harmony within itself and in the community.