

Hexagram 9 – The Self-centered Accumulating



The self-centered accumulating

Sacred blessings.

Obscured

Caused by centering on the self.

Structure: The Sacred ☷ below, the image of great strength. Wind ☴ above.

Image Tradition

The self-centered accumulating.

*The yielding moves through obstacles,
and above and below harmonize with it.*

Constant devotion to the sacred ways and grounded within the Earth Interbeing.

Firm and strong within and outwardly fulfilling the duty to care for all.

Thereupon sacred blessings.

Obscured wisdom, no blessings.

Honor leaving.

Obscured by adhering to self.

Ways of the sacred not-yet motivating.

The hexagram describes the situation of the self-centered whose ignoble behaviors cut them off from sacred blessings. Such people even go so far as to disparage the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing.¹ Instead, they react to experience according to what they want or do not want and willingly harm others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering they cause. They have no honor.

Self-centered people take from the Earth Interbeing and ignore the suffering they cause by not giving back in some way for what they have taken. They refuse to share what they have stolen, which they use to take even more wealth from life and the Earth. When a culture of thieves act in this way, it greatly disturbs the balance and harmony of the Earth Interbeing.

People who adhere to the sacred ways of Earth Interbeing take what they need from the Earth Interbeing and restore its balance and harmony by giving back to life and the Earth through sharing

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)

what they have and the gifts they have received. They accumulate sacred wisdom to become whole with the Earth Interbeing and the joy of caring for all.

Those who work to fulfill their duty to care for the Earth Interbeing have the great face difficult challenges. No sphere of activity proves too small. We accept the place where life has planted us, embracing it as the ground of our work. We prepare for the great transformation by accumulating wisdom and by practicing the ways to restore the balance and harmony within ourselves and our community of place.

By concentrating on what the sacred has called us to uniquely do, we fulfill the purpose of our being. Eventually the times change, and blessings come like rain.

Line 1: The line turns away from what harms and compassionately returns to the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing.

Line 2: The line resolutely toils to overcome its self-cherishing to return to the sacred ways of living.

Line 3: Those who accumulate and hoard what they have stolen from the Earth Interbeing cannot maintain what they have. Anger defines their relationships. Yet the self-centered line does not have the will to change its ways.

Line 4: The line turns away from material wealth. An awe for the sacred emerges. The line conforms with the sacred ways and now lives in wholeness with the Earth Interbeing.

Line 5: The line's life conforms with the sacred ways. It lives interdependently with all life in mutual care and aid, which bind all together. In this way, all have what they need.

Line 6: The line has overcome its self-centeredness and has restored its wholeness of balance and harmony with the Earth Interbeing. The sacred blessings have come, and now the line rests to allow the unfolding of the new way. The line restrains its ambitions to become more whole as that would lead the line into an imbalance and disharmony.