

Hexagram 63 Completion



Completion.

The unimportant important.

Benefit from perseverance.

Initially favorable.

Coming to the end: disorder.

Image Tradition

Completion.

Success.

The unimportant important.

Benefit from perseverance.

Firm and yielding correct and-also position appropriate.

Initially favorable.

The yielding acquires the center indeed.

Coming to the end: stopping leads to disorder.

One's path comes to an end.

Structure: Water ☵ above. Fire ☲ below. Water above fire. The only hexagram in which all the firm and yielding lines stand in their proper place.

This hexagram depicts the improbable state of complete order. No tension remains within the completely balanced situation. However, the slightest external influence or inner movement will disrupt this balance and push it into disorder and another cycle of change.

Because of the inevitability of change, we cannot assume a permanent state of what we have achieved. Nor can we believe that the spiritual path has an end. We do not control change. Whatever we feel we have completed continues to change. Reality has no end-points. Instead, we experience reality as an ever fluctuating dance about a center of balance and harmony.

When we free ourselves of an instance of deep conditioning, one with which we have struggled for a long time, we may believe we have finally freed ourselves from all obstructions. We ourselves. Like weeds, other deeper obstructions come forth to challenge us. Thus, a cycle of overcoming another obstruction begins. Or our path itself may transform in unimagined ways. Our path continues.

The wise knows that one thing leads to another. Like flowing water, life always changes. We may accomplish what we set ourselves to do. Yet, even at the moment of completion, everything changes, including us. Out of what we have accomplished emerges the next step, and another cycle of unfolding the ways of the Earth Interbeing begins.

Our path toward wholeness does not end in nirvana, nor do we transcend the struggles of life. Yet each cycle of growth on the path and each step toward wholeness deepens and expands our wisdom about the sacred Earth Interbeing. We learn the dance of balance and harmony. Our suffering melts into compassion and joy. Every time we cross over an obstruction or complete a step toward wholeness, we

discover new ways to lovingly further wholeness within ourselves and within interbeing. In these ways, the spiritual path has no end.

Line 1: In a time of great transition, everything presses forward and overshoots completion, leading back into certain loss and collapse. The sage checks its advance in time to avoid unsettling at the moment of completion.

Line 2: Upon completion, a new cycle begins. During the period of completion, do nothing. Once we integrate the completed cycle, another cycle toward wholeness emerges.

Line 3: The line makes every effort to overcome self-centeredness and hostility for others within itself and in the world, a long and arduous process. It does not delegate this responsibility to others less capable; otherwise, the effort would surely fail.

Line 4: In a time of completion, an unexpected change causes a disturbance. The foolish ignore the warning and do not address it. The line remains alert to the reemergence of self-cherishing and hostility for others and immediately and effectively responds to them.

Line 5: Elaborate rituals and outer displays replace a sincere offering to the sacred. True devotion does not depend on form but on how we serve to further the wholeness of the Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: Completion has little stability. The line ruins completion by deluding itself that it has extinguished its willingness to harm for self-benefit. In an unguarded moment, self-centeredness and hostility for others reemerge and unfold their harmful aspects.