

## Hexagram 17 – Following



*Following the sacred.*

*Wholeness.*

*Without harm.*

### Image Tradition

*Following. The solid comes and-also below the supple.*

*Influencing and persuading. Following.*

*Following the purpose to further life on Earth transforms us and manifests the sacred.*

*As the sun compels the seasons to change,*

*The sacred time of following the purpose of life most devoted and beneficial.*

**Ideogram:** Go and fall, unavoidable movement.

**Structure:** Movement below ☵, joy above ☱. Joyful action.

This hexagram describes the wholeness of the sacred Earth Interbeing drawing us to fulfill the great purpose to further life on Earth, just as the changing seasons compel life to change. We feel impelled to align our direction and beliefs with caring for life on Earth. Manifesting this force to further life on Earth transforms us into interbeings and makes us whole.

People adhere to the standards and rules of their culture. The wholeness of the Earth Interbeing moves us to follow the ways of the Earth Interbeing<sup>1</sup>, a higher calling that draws us into interbeing with life on Earth. We follow these sacred ways to fulfill the purpose of our lives and bring to life equality, compassion, harmony, and reciprocity. Those who obey the sacred command and further life on Earth have a joyful heart as they know they do sacred work. They experience a life of harmony and contentment.

When others perceive such wisdom in action, they will want to follow as well. The wise avoid others following them personally, but they follow others, esteeming the well-being of others more than personal advantage. The great ocean lies below all other waters for the water to naturally flow toward it. Life flows toward the joy of furthering life through benefiting others.

Those who follow the sacred ways enjoy rest and an inner calm. They no longer need worry about what they should do. We may not always know how to fulfill the sacred purpose, but those on the path have the guidance and the support of the sacred. Opening to the loving sacred within all we experience harmonizes us with the Earth and life.

**Line 1:** The line recognizes that because it lacks understanding of a difficult situation, it does not know the way forward. Instead of acting out of its ignorance, the wise line seeks the wisdom of other

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<sup>1</sup> **The Ways of the Wholeness of Earth Interbeing:** We center our lives on the sacred, our refuge, support and teacher. We yield to the sacred command to care for each other and the Earth by furthering life on Earth. We have the compassionate wisdom to know how to further life on Earth as a being and an interbeing. We know the equality of all life on Earth and compassionately care for all. We give back to the Earth Interbeing for what we take. We self-discipline to overcome what keeps us apart and to embody the sacred Earth Interbeing ways of wholeness. We act responsibly to prove our wisdom by compassionately responding to suffering and by transforming the conditions that cause suffering. We hold ourselves accountable to living the sacred ways of furthering life on Earth. (Rev. 6/8/25)

views. In this way, it discerns the inclusive ways of wholeness and successfully moves through the challenging situation.

**Line 2:** The line follows the ignorant and incompetent in a time when it should follow the guidance of the experienced and wise. We cannot at the same time follow ignorance and wisdom; we have to choose. This holds true for our relationships with others and within our own life.

**Line 3:** The line parts with its deluded beliefs and behaviors and moves toward wholeness. A certain loss ensues, but the line feels content within its heart because it deepens living the ways of wholeness. The line remains firm in knowing what it truly wants and resists indulging in harmful impulses.

**Line 4:** The line has gained some influence and obtains a personal following. If the line grows to depend upon such followers and cannot do without them, misfortune comes. Only the wise can see through the dangers of conforming to the expectations of others. The wise follow the sacred ways rather than the ways of those it wants to influence. When all its actions accord with the ways of wholeness, the sage serves as a bright example for those who follow the ways of caring for the Earth and all life.

**Line 5:** The line joyfully fulfills its responsibility through the ways of wholeness to care for the Earth and all life. It centers on the sacred, the stable point that enables it to face all change.

**Line 6:** The line devotedly follows the sacred and becomes whole.