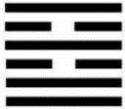


Hexagram 38 – Overcoming What Keeps Us Apart



Overcoming what keeps us apart.

Wisely move in harmony with the difficulties of life.

Image Tradition

Overcoming what keeps us apart.

Fire interacting above.

Water interacting below.

Two women harmonizing: stay together.

Their purposes disharmonious: moving.

Beneficial interactions and also interdependence reaches wisdom.

Yielding furthers wisdom.

Overcoming what keeps us apart from the sacred center

And reaching wholeness by harmoniously responding to the difficulties of life.

Just as the heavens and the Earth are different, but they harmonize.

Just as men and women are different, but their purposes flow together

Just as the myriad being are different, but they interbe.

The time belongs to overcoming what keeps us apart from furthering life on Earth.

Patterns of Wisdom

Fire above, water below.

Overcoming what keeps us apart.

A jun zi uses harmonizing and also parting from inequality.

Structure:

- Wisdom above ☲; interaction within ☵. Wise interaction.
- Flame burns upward, water seeps downward. The two trigrams draw farther apart.

Life celebrates differences as they open to new relationships and ways of interacting, furthering life on Earth. Diversity measures the well-being of the whole. Life on Earth universally interacts to meet the mutual needs of all life. Furthering life on Earth means that we mutually assist and care for each other for life on Earth to continue for generations to come. Firmly centering on the sacred and persistently yielding to the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing furthers life.

Yet, within hierarchical cultures, differences turn into Us against Them. Prejudice and preference arise from our judgments of right/wrong or good/bad that we attach to differences. Because of our claimed superiority, we have the willingness to harm others for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering we cause. We blame the less powerful for the problems we have caused. Anger and force destroy beneficial relationships.

Claiming superiority over others based on differences strengthens separation and discord. Differences do not entail inequality, but rather they further life on Earth. Those on the path of wholeness have the responsibility to change our wrong views of inequality and superiority if we want to overcome our separation from each other and recover harmonious interbeing

relationships. To do so requires us to stop harming others and the Earth and then to make amends for the harms we caused. We experience the enormity of this challenge when we stand face to face with someone we have harmed, and we both know how we harmed them for our self-benefit. If sincere about wanting wholeness, we no longer can behind our imagined superiority, which we have used in the past to justify our crimes against others and Earth.

Neither can we blame those more powerful than we for the harms we inflicted upon others. We have responsibility for our complicity in advancing the great harms. If we deny responsibility for our behavior and blame others for what we did and do, we fail to live up to the duty of caring for all beings and increase our separation from the sacred. Condemning others destroys unity.

When we know our responsibility for our separation from others, the need for a bridge arises. At first, we pursue this path on our own and overcome within us our willingness to harm others for self benefit. Yet, if we persist in our responsibility to live the ways of wholeness, we will discern how to interbe. Supporting each other with compassionate understanding brings us together. The wise smooth over the differences that divide and actively heal broken connections. The parts reconcile within the whole, and a new situation emerges.

If another person oppresses us, we may react with anger, which will only increase separation. We first need to overcome our anger. Compassion for those who oppress us help us understand the suffering of the oppressor and subdue our anger. We may need to distance ourselves from those who oppress us but in ways that do not end our relationship. Deepening our spiritual being and seeking guidance from the I Ching gives us the wisdom to know how to act in ways that benefits all. We cannot change another but only ourselves.

We must persist in taking responsibility for overcoming what keeps us apart regardless of the discomfort it may cause us and not withdraw from it. Others close to us who do not share our path will serve as our greatest challenge as they may persistently relate to us or others as unequal to them. The wise do not succumb to the stressful tension of opposition as it entangles us within it, tossing us to and fro. We become merely an object among objects. Those caught in the repulsive forces of opposition cannot transform opposition.

When live in a culture that promotes opposition with each other, life, and the Earth. We cannot work on a common effort with others who still believe in their superiority over others, all life, or the Earth. At every step, internal and external obstructions would arise and inner contradictions rage. Once we have deeply healed ourselves of our imagined superiority, then we will see what unfolds and where our path leads us.

The more we view the world as interconnected, the greater the attraction of reunion and desire to overcome our divisiveness. We heal when we immerse ourselves within our infinite interrelationships with life and Earth. Yet even when the whole transcends the parts, each part retains its unique experience of being and differences.

Throughout the process, we keep a calm and glad mind and find ways to share our joy with others. The structure of the hexagram points to this path. The lower trigram has the attribute of joyfulness, which brings others into fellowship. The upper trigram represent wisdom, which discerns the path of coming together. Joy and wisdom overcome separation. We celebrate differences and learn how to live with the uniqueness of others as equals.

Our differences do not exist in reality. We use appearances to describe attributes of an ever changing experience. A wave sees other waves, yet all waves are the ocean. We can resolve and move beyond differences toward wholeness with the Earth Interbeing, that which encompasses us all. The Book of Changes holds that what we perceive as differences actually complete us. When we joyfully interact for the benefit of all, we realize wholeness with Earth Interbeing.

Often the burden feels too heavy a load, but the wise accept their duty to restore harmony within relationships. The transformation of opposition requires humility, the willingness to care for others, and the knowing of the equality of all. We defer to others out of our great respect for our common sacredness. We renounce both arrogance and servility. By remaining centered on the sacred and yielding to its ways, we further life on Earth. We become the necessary agents capable of overcoming what keeps us apart. We know the sound of one hand clapping.

Line 1: The line emotionally reacts to an interaction with someone it dislikes but makes the effort to not act while emotionally in turmoil. It regains its compassionate understanding for the other and recovers its wholeness. When disharmony decreases, those who belong together come back.

Line 2: Conditions keep apart those who belong together. The line wants to connect with others in ways that bring its wisdom to life. Unexpectedly, the opportunity to act wisely within the world presents itself. Acting wisely furthers life on Earth.

Line 3: The line feels everything conspires against it. It sees other hindering its progress to achieve its higher purpose, thwarting and dishonoring it. Yet the line does not let the situation cause it to lose faith in the path. Despite the struggle, it holds to the sacred ways and ultimately achieves its purpose.

Line 4: The solitary line works on overcoming what keeps it apart from others. Unexpectedly, the line meets another wise person and find they share the sacred purpose to further life on Earth. They struggle to overcome what keeps them apart within themselves and in the world, moving others to work with them to care for the Earth and all life.

Line 5: The weak line does not act to further life on Earth. It turns toward wisdom to know what to do. With the strength that flows from this wisdom, the line acts to further life on Earth.

Line 6: At the extreme of disharmony, the isolated line turns away from the sacred and believes in its wrong view of others and life. Doubts and harmful thoughts about others come forth by the hundreds. However, when its opposition reaches the extreme, the line restores its connection with the sacred and its ways. It now sees as blessings what it had feared.