

Hexagram 19 – Approach of Growth

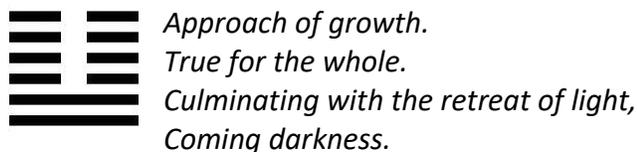


Image Tradition

Approach of growth.

The Earth immersed in the enduring waters of life.

Rousing to action and also yielding.

Firmness within the center and also harmonizing.

The sacred purpose by means of self-discipline.

The sacred way indeed.

Culminating with the retreat of the light when darkness increases.

The diminishment not lasting indeed.

Patterns of Wisdom

A sage teaches its heart's concern without end.

And tolerates and nurtures all to keep them safe without limits.

Structure:

- Joy within ☰ and outer devotion ☵☵. Devotion above sinks downward toward rising joy. The two movements approach each other.
- Two strong lines grow into the hexagram from below, the light power expanding with them.

Time: The hexagram marks the 12th month in the Chinese calendar (January – February), the approach of the Chinese new year and spring. The power of the strong light ascends again, a joyful time of certain growth. No obstruction now blocks the sacred ways, which makes possible an easy, gentle advance.

Yet spring does not last forever. The times reverse in autumn and the power of light will then retreat. Whatever grows must wane. Once the decline sets in, the season of growth ends as it cannot go beyond its time.

Sacred patterns and cycles, not human effort, cause this propitious time of growth. Light returns while the darkness declines. The sacred pattern requires that a descent follows every rise and a rise follows every descent. The return of powerful beneficial influences accords with the time. Just as spring heralds the return of growth within the Earth Interbeing, the time now opens to fulfilling our purpose to care for the Earth and all life.

Even in the midst of the flourishing season, sages know a decline approaches. They do not let this opportune time slip by but bring to life the sacred in ways for which they had prepared for during the time of darkness. In the same way they ready themselves and warn others to prepare for the

retreat of the light. If we meet darkness before it becomes reality – even before it begins to stir – we can harvest and safeguard what we have brought to life in the ways of Earth Interbeing.¹ The wise know how to get through the coming darkness.

Within the approaching season of new growth, sages set to work to fulfil their purpose to further life on Earth. They subdue their willingness to harm for self-benefit through firm self-discipline. Sages teach others their heart's concern, tolerating and nurturing all. They have no limits in their willingness to nourish the potential of others by caring for them, working with them, and bringing to life the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing.

Within the ascending light, sages joyfully devote themselves to bringing to life the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing. They do not let the reality of an inevitable decline discourage them. Instead of futilely resisting Earth Interbeing cycles, the wise rise above what changes by persistently and compassionately furthering life on Earth. Acting in this way never fails.

Line 1: Coming growth within the Earth Interbeing approaches. The line compassionately furthers life on Earth.

Line 2: Coming within the Earth Interbeing approaches. The line has not yet completely yielded to obeying the sacred command to further live on Earth by caring for all.

Line 3: The line imagines it can interbe with the Earth Interbeing without making an effort to fulfill its responsibilities to further life. The line soon learns differently and regrets its presumption.

Line 4: The time of growth with the Earth Interbeing has arrived. The line adheres to the sacred and follows the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing.

Line 5: The line defers to wisdom to learn how to fulfill its sacred responsibilities. The partnership of knowing how to interbe with life on Earth and acting on that wisdom furthers life on Earth.

Line 6: Exalted sages have put the concerns of the world behind them and withdraw from its turmoil. They may decide to return to the world to support the strong and wise, a great blessing for those advised and strengthened.

¹ **The Ways of the Sacred Earth Interbeing:** We have the sacred purpose to further life on Earth in ways that benefit all. We know the equality of all life. We seek wisdom to know how to interbe and further life on Earth. We interbe with other beings harmoniously and compassionately. We give back to the Earth Interbeing for what we have taken to survive. We self-discipline ourselves to not harm others and live humbly. We respond compassionately to the suffering of others and remedy what harms. We assume accountability for how we have furthered life on Earth in these sacred ways. (7-4-25)