

Hexagram 25 – Self-Discipline



*Without entanglement with what harms.
Wholeness.
Not disciplining oneself causes harm.
No benefit from entanglement with what harms.*

Structure: Sacred above ☰. Action below ☳. Acting in sacred ways.

Image Tradition

*Without entanglement with what harms.
Firm persistence in what benefit others within the world.
And firm persistence in disciplining oneself.
Persistently acting to further life on Earth.*

*Firmness within and also harmoniously interacting.
Furthering the great purpose depends upon self-discipline.
The sacred decrees it.*

*Not disciplining oneself causes harm.
No benefit from entanglement with what harms.
Those who persist in harming
Lose the protections of the sacred
Moving actually in-fact.*

Sages firmly discipline themselves to avoid entanglement in harmful feelings, thoughts, and behaviors. They obey the sacred command to further life on Earth by interacting with others in mutually beneficial and harmonious ways of Interbeing¹. By turning away from what harms and self-serving behaviors, sages compassionately relieve the suffering caused by the destructive culture and work on transforming it. Sages teach the sacred ways in harmony with the time for all beings to flourish and interbe.

Not disciplining ourselves leads to harm. Harming others, the Earth and ourselves never has a beneficial end. Those who willingly harm for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering they cause lose the purpose of life and separate themselves from the sacred Earth Interbeing community.

Line 1: The line moves away from what harms and fulfills its purpose to further life on Earth.

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 become whole and to 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.

Line 2: The line focuses on the task before it rather than anticipate the harvest. The line knows it has much arduous work to do before it can become whole.

Line 3: The line experiences an unexpected harm from an unknown cause. The line blames innocent others for the harm.

Line 4: The sage adheres to the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing and frees itself from its willingness to harm others for self-benefit. The line becomes whole.

Line 5: Unexpected external circumstances may bring harm to the sage, yet it has no need to correct itself as it did not bring the harm upon itself. The line would err if it acted to reduce an imagined fault as that would cause self-harm. The line simply rests and lets the situation unfold without reacting.

Line 6: The line frees itself of its willingness to harm and fulfills its purpose to further life on Earth, the culmination of the sacred ways. Sages in such a state do not seek to further reduce their faults as that would exceed reason and reactivate self-cherishing, anger, and loss. Those who know how to advance but not to yield will fail. The sage has the sole ambition to further life on Earth by yielding to the ways of the sacred.