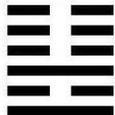


## Hexagram 36 Wisdom Wounded



*Hidden wisdom.*

*Living the sacred ways in hardship leads to spiritual transformation.*

### Image Tradition

*Wisdom retreats into sacredness.*

*Wounded wisdom.*

*Knowing and yielding to the sacred.*

*When the ignorance and self-centeredness of the world obstructs the great purpose, sages accept hardships to further life on Earth.*

*Sages who know the sacred ways do this.*

*Keeping to the sacred amid hardship transforms the wise into sages.*

*The time requires the wise to obscure their wisdom from the world.*

*In the time of hardship, the wise diminish what separates them the sacred and the Earth Interbeing to deepen their spiritual being.*

*Sages who know the sacred ways do this.*

### Patterns of Wisdom

*Wisdom retreats into sacredness.*

*Wounded wisdom.*

*Sages care for the Earth Interbeing within a harmful culture by diminishing their exposure to harming and by deepening their spiritual being.*

### Structure:

- Earth ☷ above wisdom ☶. Wisdom hidden within the Earth.
- The top line hides and damages the light of the other lines.

The spiritual path supports our efforts to overcome our conditioned willingness to harm others for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering we cause. The harmful culture conditions us to believe that we live as objects within an unholy material universe, a belief that separates us from the sacred and the Earth Interbeing. By rejecting these wrong views and conditioned behaviors, we open to recovering our sacredness and interbeing with Earth and all life. Following the sacred ways strengthen our capacities to compassionately overcome what keeps us apart.<sup>1</sup>

We experience hardships from breaking free of our cultural conditioning. In our struggles to free ourselves, we experience all the withdrawal symptoms of an addict struggling for sobriety: craving, sleeplessness, anger, fear of rejection, self-pity, despair, anxiety, and more. At first, we

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<sup>1</sup> **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)

feel powerless to overcome our cultural conditioning, yet deep within our being we sense the sacred and the empowering joy that comes from living the sacred ways.

These strong storms of emotional reactivity come from our conditioned, habituated wrong views and harmful behaviors compelling us to harm. When we struggle directly against these emotional reactions, we entangle ourselves more deeply within their turmoil of suffering and yield to the harmful ways of our conditioning. Irrationally blaming others for our suffering only adds the fuel of anger to the emotional fire storm. Anger compels us to react in harmful way, which will only strengthen our conditioning.

Those on the sacred path learn not to act when emotionally charged. Instead we withdraw into the refuge of our being's sacred center and stay there to weather the strong conditioned urges to react in harmful and ignorant ways. We repeatedly drop any stories of blame or despair that might arise. When we allow the strong emotional waves to pass through us without analyzing or acting upon them, no matter how much they cause us to suffer, we move toward sacredness.

Our willingness and capacity to bear the emotional suffering caused by our withdrawal from our habituation from the of the harmful culture measure the wisdom and strength of our spiritual path. Whenever we cannot compassionately respond to any situation that exceeds our capacities to do so, we retreat from the situation and find refuge within the sacred.

Our hearts will break many times on the path toward sacred interbeing as a reminder that hearts are meant to stay open.

**Line 1:** The line aspires to overcome its harmful conditioning but a difficult situation triggers a culturally conditioned emotional reaction, which causes confusion about how to respond wisely. The line withdraws from the situation and turns inward toward the sacred from which it draws support. From this refuge, the line separates its difficult emotions from the compulsion to enact what the conditioning wants the line to do. It bears the emotional suffering and does not act. Others may criticize the line for withdrawing from a difficult situation, but the line has responded wisely.

**Line 2:** When deeply wounded by anger or despair, the line calls upon the sacred for the strength to yield to the sacred ways and respond compassionately.

**Line 3:** The line comes to know its compulsive willingness to harm others for self-benefit and then ignore the suffering caused as the source of its affliction. By overcoming its conditioned compulsion, it moves toward fulfilling the great purpose of furthering wholeness within its own being and that of the Earth Interbeing

**Line 4:** The line willingly suffers the hardships of overcoming its harmful cultural conditioning. This process transforms the line into a spiritual being as it now has the willingness to compassion others to further their wholeness and that of the Earth Interbeing by responding wisely to the suffering of others.

**Line 5:** Oppressive conditions immediately surround the wise line. Because it does not have the position to directly struggle against what harms life and the Earth, it turns inward to deepen its spiritual being. The line prepares itself for opportunities to overcome within the world what harms the Earth Interbeing.

**Line 6:** This line represents those who promote the willingness to harm others for self benefit and then ignore the suffering caused. Those who oppress and harm the Earth Interbeing will lose their control, causing the culture of harm to collapse. Such is the pattern of life on Earth.