

## Hexagram 61 Inner Conformity



*Inner conformity: enclosure, significant.*

*Benefit from furthering life on Earth.*

*Benefit from adhering to the sacred ways and values.*

### Image Tradition

*Inner conformity.*

*The yielding located inside secured by a firm discipline and values outside.*

*Changing and nurturing leads to a sacred conformity between the inner and outer being.*

*Thereupon changing how one lives life indeed.*

*Enclosure, significant. Conforming extends to discipline and values indeed.*

*Benefit from furthering life on Earth.*

*Within the enclosure of discipline and values, emptiness indeed.*

*Inner conformity from adhering to the sacred ways.*

*Only then harmony with the sacred reached indeed.*

The hexagram has strong lines above and below that enclose the open center. The strong lines represent firm discipline and adherence to the values of the sacred Earth Interbeing.<sup>1</sup> The center images the sacred inner being within our emptiness of self.

Sacredness indwells within all life. A firm self-discipline removes what separates from the sacred and a strong adherence to the sacred values enclose an emptiness that opens and yields to the sacred direction to further life on Earth. Self-discipline and living the sacred values alone secure conforming our inner and outer being with the sacred.

The path of the sacred Earth Interbeing offers us the tools we need to remove how we harm others, life, and the Earth through self-discipline and the values needed to live as responsible interbeings. Through our willingness to change ourselves and to learn how to live on Earth with other sacred beings, we gradually conform our how we live and our inner sacredness. Our changes and what we have learned transform the way we live on Earth with other beings in ways that further life on Earth.

The gradual path of living a sacred life depends upon our willingness to do so, a daily devotion that strengthens our resolve to persistently discipline ourselves to overcome whatever keeps us apart for the sacred and to furthering life on Earth. Living the sacred values humbles us and harmonizes us with the Earth Interbeing.

Where we rest our heart-mind measures our conformity with the sacred. We lack conformity with the sacred when we rest our heart-minds in worries about how to overcome what threatens us or take advantage of others for self-benefit. At our core, we feel irretrievably flawed yet present ourselves to the world as exceptional and superior. Such a center of rest ignores the sacred values and generates the harms we do.

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<sup>1</sup> **Sacred Values of the Earth Interbeing** (work in progress): Acceptance of limits, affection, bearing burdens of life, calm, caring, commoning, compassion, equality, furthering, generosity, giving back for gifts received, gratitude, humbleness, interbeing, joy, kindness, love, mutuality, nonaction, participatory democracy, patience, place-centered, renunciation, resolve, respect, sharing, unity.

Resting our hearts-minds within the sacred depends upon self-discipline and high levels of attention to empty ourselves of worrying about our past faults, anticipating and planning, pondering others or our work. Empty of self-centered thought-feelings and images, we experience a fertile sacred space, an incomprehensible space yet full of knowing and vibrancy in which we rest. Just rest.

On the sacred path, we learn how to rest in the sacred by bringing into coherence our inner and outer being. Through persevering self-discipline, we humble ourselves and know the sacred equality of all life. We know our power lies not in trying to change what we cannot change but in how we respond to what we experience. We discipline ourselves to give up our futile efforts to make others do what we think they should do and move toward having the agility and openness to respond to the unpredictability of life easily, lightly, and simply in valued ways.

We approach the sacred through our faults. Overcoming our faults causes our spiritual growth and teaches us how to interbe. Even though this difficult work causes us suffering as we struggle to remove what separates us from the sacred, we accept this work as an honor. We gradually come to rest within the sacred, the breath within the breath.

Each time we overcome another wrong view, attitude, or behavior that separates us from abiding calmly within the sacred, we take another step toward conforming our outer and inner sacred being. Each step deepens our resting within the sacred. Each step of letting go opens us more to the sacred flowing through our lives. We know what to do. As we become the flute through which the sacred flows, we make the music of furthering life on Earth.

**Line 1:** It requires a serious effort to preserve openness and the willingness to yield to the direction of the inner sacred. The wise vigilantly ward off thought-feelings that would distract them from resting within the spirit.

**Line 2:** The inner sacred calls to all life to have the joy that arises from harmonizing with the sacred. With overflowing joy, the line furthers life on Earth. It achieves its heart's desire to rest within the inner sacred.

**Line 3:** The line constantly reacts to whatever arises in experience, preventing it from resting within the spirit. When it experiences life going its way, the line feels joy but feels distress and anger when it does not. This describes those who depend on life always meeting their expectations, an image of instability and a lack of purpose.

**Line 4:** The wisdom of the inner sacred grows brighter as we move closer to living the sacred values that further life on Earth. The line distances itself from its culture and others that willingly harm others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering of others and the Earth. The line discerns what harms and what furthers, abandoning what harms and keeping what furthers. The line journeys through life like a horse that bears its burden of responsibilities without concern whether others do the same.

**Line 5:** The line, free of all inner obstacles and delusions, lives a life in which its inner and outer life conform with the sacred.

**Line 6:** The line wants to soar to the highest spiritual realm, but it cannot. Its words fly upward, but its actions do not follow. The line believes it knows the sacred and counts on mere words to awaken others. The line will have cause for regret if it persists in not practicing what it preaches.