

Hexagram 64 – Not Completed

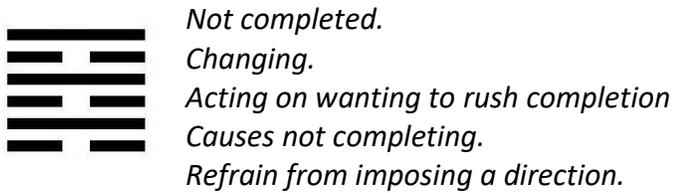


Image Tradition

Not completed. Changing.
Yield to the sacred.

Acting on wanting to rush completion emerges from self-centeredness.
Causes not completing.

Refrain from imposing a direction.
The ongoing changes incomplete.

The hexagram represents a transition from what harms to what furthers life on Earth, much like how the bleakness of winter subtly changes into a blossoming spring. Completion of this transition occurs within sacred time, once all the conditions necessary for the emergence of the new era of furthering life on Earth have ripened. The new era unfolds on its own without our interference to hasten it.

Those lacking the patience to wait for the new era to emerge try to force its coming by imposing their own vision and direction on the sacred process. Whatever the self-centered do will fail and make the old era more dangerous. When self-centeredness and the willingness to harm for self-benefit entangle us, we lack the inner clarity and awareness of the sacred needed to know what to do. We seek to plant our vision into the future, but the harsh conditions of the harmful culture overwhelm our efforts.

The wise distance themselves from the harmful ways of the old culture. They know not to impose their will upon others and situations. Rather, they overcome their willingness to harm by changing themselves. The emergence of a culture that furthers life on Earth depends on us cultivating within ourselves how to interbe. The Book of Changes calls us to bring forth the new era by distancing ourselves from the old and by living the values of an Earth Interbeing.¹

Those on the path open to sacred wisdom and guidance to prepare for the new era as we know we can do this work by ourselves. We have the primary responsibility to stop the ways we harm life and the Earth. This work of self-discipline takes time and a hard penetrating effort, but it comes with the great joy of bringing to life the sacred values. Steadfast and upright, the wise use their strength to banish harmful tendencies in small, attainable ways by persistently choosing to act in ways that further life on Earth.

The sacred path transforms us. The wise carefully attend to the important but overlooked details of ordinary life as their field of change. Rather than taking advantage of the moment to benefit themselves personally, sages discern how to best serve the moment in ways that further life on Earth. The wise

¹ Sacred Values of the Earth Interbeing (work in progress): respect for the sacred unity and equality of life on Earth, patiently bearing the burdens of life, yielding to the sacred to know how to compassionately further life on Earth, humbleness and gratitude, lovingly nurturing and caring for the Earth Interbeing, giving back for what we receive or take, mutually beneficial and affectionate interactions, and self-discipline to remove the ways we harm life on Earth.

cautiously prepare the conditions for the great transformation by living the sacred values. The new era suddenly appears on its own, sparked by the accumulated efforts of many.

The path leads us out of confusion by teaching us how to interbe with other beings within the place on Earth that the sacred has planted us. Compassionate love flows through humble sages as they overcome what keeps them apart from the sacred and Earth Interbeing. Just as the harsh winter blossoms into spring, we overflow with joy as we no longer harm others for self-benefit or ignore their suffering.

The transition from a culture of harm to one of caring for the Earth Interbeing appears strange to us in every way, unlike anything we have experienced as a being or a culture. We cannot look to the past to know what to do as the time resembles a rebirth.

Yet nothing comes to an end. All changes. The Book of Changes ends with a new beginning, which spirals us back to the start of a new path, a new cycle. The sacred path has no end as the old path opens to a new one, a new beginning. The sacred path of change continues. The Book of Changes transforms.

Line 1: At the bottom of a dangerous situation, the anxious weak line impulsively acts. It does not clearly understand its capacities, the situation or consider the likely consequences of its actions. Its effort to impose its will ends in regret and humiliation.

Line 2: The line refrains from acting as conditions require it to patiently wait to allow the situation to unfold.

Line 3: The line needs to further remove how it harms others, life, and the Earth before it can know how to further life on Earth. To push ahead blindly leads to confusion and harm.

Line 4: The line struggles to overcome the root of all harms, the willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit, the enemy which comes in many guises. Overcoming the willingness to harm requires a strong self-discipline and a firm adherence to the sacred values. While this struggle consumes much time and effort, the line succeeds.

Line 5: The line has overcome its willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit by its unshakeable steadfastness. It manages itself correctly and can settle all difficulties in the same manner. The light of living the sacred values shines forth from the humble sage, which influences others to do the same. The sages inner and outer being conform with the sacred values.

Line 6: Upon overcoming the willingness to harm for self-benefit comes the sense of wellbeing and release from tension. The wise line enjoys the moment and allows the time to unfold on its own, refraining from imposing a direction upon it. It preserves what it has achieved by its perseverance in living the sacred values.