

Hexagram 10 – Treading the Sacred Path



*Treading on a tiger's tail.
Not snapping at people.
Heavenly influence pervading and nourishing all.*

Image Tradition

Walking the sacred path.

The yielding treading on the firm indeed.

Joy that harmonizes with the sacred.

That uses treading on the sacred path.

No harm.

Heavenly influence pervading and nourishing all.

The solid in the center and correct.

Treading on the sacred and also joyful.

Shining understanding indeed

Ideogram: Body and repeating steps.

Structure:

- Above, the sacred ☵. Below, joy ☱.
- Firmness rejoicing in flexibility. The yielding follows the strong, treading upon it.

On the sacred path, we walk on holy ground. Our knowing the sacredness of ourselves, all life, the Earth, and experience deepens along with our sense of wonder and mystery for it all. Every way we turn, we see the sacred. We become reverent.

Beginners on the path do not know how to live a sacred life but have faith that the path will teach us. We give up the delusion of knowing what to do and surrender, yielding to the sacred knowing of what to do. Because the path guides us to furthering life on Earth, we joyfully follow it.

Through our faults and missteps, we approach the sacred. As we remove the ways in which we harm life and the Earth, we uncover our true nature and values.¹ The more we liberate ourselves from our wrong views and dangerous behaviors, the brighter our sacred nature shines. Our lives come to harmonize with the sacred. How we respond in sacred ways to whatever we experience becomes more certain and natural.

The sacred path challenges us with an ongoing series of life lessons, each lesson a step in our sacred life journey. We learn from our lessons and cultivate our true nature by moving through our lessons. By focusing on living the sacred ways, we build the momentum to unseat our self-centeredness and willingness to harm

¹ **Common nature and values of furthering life on Earth (work in progress):** a strong resolve to live a sacred life to further the sacred Earth Interbeing, grounded within the sacred experience of life, willingly surrendering to the sacred knowing of how to further life on Earth, relieving suffering and unravelling the causes of suffering, harmoniously interacting others by knowing the sacredness, equality, and interdependence of life on Earth, equitably sharing of the Earth commons, responding in valued ways that further life on Earth, restoring and renewing through self-discipline our balance with Earth and life to recover our mutual wellbeing. By living in these ways, we deepen our loving awareness of the sacred and sacredness of all life and the Earth.

others for self-benefit. Not acting on our self-centered preferences and biases opens us to the sacred moving our lives. Through these lessons we grow in understanding how to joyfully interact with sacredness

On the sacred path, we evaluate and correct our behavior and views as we go along. Our confidence in the path grows as we perceive how others and the Earth benefit from what we do. Those with sincere intentions to care for the Earth and all life may stumble and make mistakes, inadvertently causing harm. The path turns these missteps into yet another lesson. Through our faults, we come to the sacred.

We come to know ourselves as the ocean and the wave, as sacred being who arise as expressions of the sacred and then return to the sacred. Without expectations or demands, we act to further all life and not just our own. We see the sacred coming through the distortions and defilements of the cultural conditioning which imprison us. By holding to the sacred ways, we manage wild and dangerous situations. Because we do not forget our sacredness, we dance within the sacred like a wave on the ocean.

Step by step, lesson by lesson, the path leads us to overcome our harmful and divisive ways to move toward interbeing. The path does not perfect us, and we must remain ever vigilant for an uprising of our willingness to harm. The path does not release us from suffering but cultivates our compassion to transform suffering into what furthers life on Earth.

Harmonizing with the sacred ways becomes a joyful dance. In this way the young girl can play with the wild tiger and come to no harm: what acts and what is acted upon merge. We open to a helpless joy that comes from treading upon the sacred path.

Line 1: The solitary line treads on the sacred path. As it has no relationships with the other lines, the line remains free of entanglements, and its path unfolds on its own.

Line 2: The solitary line calmly treads the sacred path. The world may be in disarray, but the line remains faithfully centered on the sacred.

Line 3: Only the foolish would recklessly advance into the very mouth of the tiger and suffer the consequence of the tiger biting it. In this situation, the line does not have a full understanding of the situation. However, like a warrior, it willingly exposes itself to danger to serve a purpose greater than it and suffers for it.

Line 4: This line treads on the tiger's tail but does not get bitten. A great resolve to further life on Earth, tempered with circumspection, allows it to achieve its aim within dangerous situations.

Line 5: The line removes the ways it harms the Earth Interbeing despite the difficulties and suffering it experiences from doing so.

Line 6: The line has completed the sacred path of removing harm, proven by how it furthers the Earth Interbeing. An ending opens to a beginning, renewing the line's sacred path. The line has the joyful blessing of living the sacred ways.