

Hexagram 27 – Spiritual Nourishing



Spiritual nourishing

Furthering, meaningful.

Carefully oversee nourishing

The motives of seeking the nourishment's essence.

Image Tradition

Spiritual nourishing. Furthering, meaningful.

Correct nourishment makes its meaningful.

Carefully overseeing nourishing.

Overseeing one's purpose for nourishing.

Overseeing the motives for seeking nourishment.

Overseeing one's source of nourishment.

The sacred and the Earth nourish the myriad beings.

The sages of old nourished the worthy to extend their wisdom to the myriad commoners.

In sacred time, nourishing to further life on Earth.

Structure:

- Above ☶, a mountain, stillness. Below ☳, thunder and action.
- The lower trigram seeks nourishment for oneself. The upper trigram nourishes others.

Image: An open mouth. The lower jaw moves while the upper jaw remains immobile.

The sacred Earth nourishes life with water, land, and air. The sacred nourishes those who seek spiritual nourishments to further life on Earth. We take the nourishments of the Earth and the sacred and transform them into offerings by bringing to life the valued ways of the path of sacred.¹ The path of sacred life teaches us how to nourish ourselves and to nourish others in ways that further life on Earth.

We carefully distinguish what nourishes our sacred being from what feeds our self-centeredness and willingness to harm. By distancing ourselves from what harms, we diminish their degrading influence upon our resolve to further life on Earth. Nourishing ourselves through ancient wisdom and the sacred sustenance within experience strengthens our resolve to live as Earth interbeings. Once they have overcome their self-centeredness and willingness to harm others, sages have the duty and responsibility to bring the ways of the sacred into the world by nourishing others.

The wise nourish themselves to further life on Earth by disciplining themselves to not harm the Earth Interbeing and by learning how to live harmoniously with other beings on Earth.

¹ **Common values of path of sacred life (work in progress):** reverence and respect for the sacred and the sacredness of life, gratitude for the experience of life on Earth, humble surrender to the sacred knowing of what to do to further life on Earth, compassion, loving interactions, equitable sharing and caring for the Earth, patience, and self-discipline to recover and preserve our balance with Earth Interbeing, By living these ways, we deepen our loving awareness of the sacred and sacredness of life and Earth.

The wise fulfill their purpose to further life on Earth. The valued ways nourish our resolve by guiding us in what to do and how we live. The self-centered seek only self-benefit and willingly harm others and the Earth for self-benefit, ignoring the suffering they cause.

When we seek nourishment, we find the nourishment we need within ourselves. In the process of removing the ways we harm, we uncover our innate natures of compassion, humbleness, patience, loving-kindness, sharing, and balance. These ways of living nourish us in furthering life on Earth. The self-centered expect others and circumstances to nourish them in achieving their purpose to benefit themselves. Never satisfied with what they have, the self-centered foolishly depend upon ever changing external circumstances to provide for them. To know someone, we need only observe what aspects of their being they nourish.

We on the sacred path know our dependence upon the sacred and express our gratitude for what we receive by furthering life on Earth. The self-centered deny the sacred as the source of their being and rely on their own willingness to harm to get what they want.

The sacred and Earth bring forth and nourish all life with what we need for our wellbeing. The ancient sages knew their lives as sacred blessings and nourished those on the sacred path to teach others how to live the mystery of life on the beloved and majestic Earth.

The inner path leads us through the world, but the world does not overwhelm those devoted to the ways of the spirit. The path teaches us how to transform whatever we experience into nourishing wisdom. If we see through the delusionary struggles between self and other, our clarity reveals how to turn difficulties into opportunities to bring to life our devotion to caring for the Earth Interbeing.

We interbe within the interconnected web of life on Earth. The moment serves as the sacred altar upon which we place our offerings to nourish ourselves and others. The wise carefully consider how they nourish themselves and what they nourish.

The sacred time to further life on Earth is always now.

Line 1: The line has the inner capacities to nourish itself with wisdom, but instead hungrily depends upon others nourishing it. This valueless way of nourishment leads to dependency upon external circumstances always meeting our needs.

Line 2: People provide for their own nourishment or properly receive nourishment from others who have the duty and privilege to provide it for them. This line rejects the spiritual knowing it has received and seeks to accumulate the spiritual nourishment of others. Seeking spiritual wisdom from others that we have within ourselves leads to spiritual materialism.

Line 3: The line rejects spiritual nourishment. Those who reject spiritual nourishment cause their own suffering. Nothing good comes from this path.

Line 4: The sage hungrily seeks wise others with whom it can cooperate to further life on Earth. It seeks their wise partners to fulfill its purpose, which it cannot do on its own, a blameless behavior as the effort benefits all.

Line 5: The line acts in ways contrary to conventional expectation as it follows a higher law, an unknown sacred path. The line acts properly if it does not attempt too much.

Line 6: The accomplished sage line nourishes itself and provides nourishment for others. Even in adverse conditions, it successfully fulfills its responsibilities to nourish others and to further life on Earth.