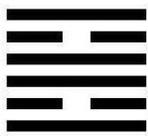


## Hexagram 30 - Knowing



*Knowing.  
Harvesting, Trial.  
Growing.  
Taming the self-will. Significant.*

### Image Tradition

*Knowing. Knowing what to do indeed.  
Sun and moon knowing what to do reach heaven.  
The hundred grains, grasses, trees knowing what to do reach the Earth.  
Redoubled knowing uses knowing what to do to reach correcting.  
Thereupon changes accomplished below heaven.*

*The supple knowing what to do reaches the center's correctness.  
Caused by cultivating the sacred ways.  
That uses taming the self-will, significant indeed*

**Structure:** Inner knowing ☵, outer knowing ☲. Inner and outer knowing one knowing.

If we do not know the causal conditions of a situation, we do not know what to do. Acting when we do not know what to do harms us, others, and the Earth. When people and cultures ignorantly deny the sacred and the ways of the sacred path to further life on Earth, we willingly harm others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering we cause.<sup>1</sup>

People on the sacred path accept the mysteries of life and the reality that we do not know the who, what, where, when, why, and how of life and the cosmos. We learn how to live harmoniously with others within this mystery, but our lives and experience of life remain unknowable.

Yet we find the sacred and the ways of the sacred knowable. We know the sacred as deeply as our we know our breath. No words describe the knowing of the sacred beyond what we hold within our hearts, a knowledge that only opens to deeper mysteries. Our life flows within the sacred. We know to live the sacred ways. All else we arrogantly claim to know reveals our ignorance. We know nothing but sacredness.

The sacred patterns of life on Earth teach us the sacred ways of living on Earth. We know the sacred command to further life on Earth with other beings in ways that further all life and the Earth. We know the sacred equality and unity of life and all we experience. Generations learn these patterns and pass their knowledge of how to live on Earth with other beings to their children.

---

<sup>1</sup> **Ways and values of the sacred path to further life on Earth (work in progress):** awakening and maturing our loving sacred being, living humbly, joyful surrender to sacred wisdom to know what to do, compassionate action, harmonious interactions, equitable sharing and caring for the Earth, responding to change in ways that further life on Earth, and preserving our inner balance with the sacred, life, and Earth. By living these ways, we deepen our loving awareness of the sacred and reverence for the sacredness of life and Earth.

Those who adhere to the ways of a culture that denies the sacred ways and values seek wealth and power over others, steal from the Earth Interbeing and bend the will of others to do their bidding. They call knowledge whatever they can use to benefit themselves. When their perversion of the sacred ways becomes monstrous, these cultures collapse from within their own ignorance.

People who distance themselves from harmful cultures and turn toward the sacred have a growing knowledge of the sacred but do not yet know what to do as our faults blind us. As we deepen our knowing of the sacred ways and values, we see how the harmful culture has conditioned us to wrong views of ourselves, others, all life, the Earth, the sacred. When we stop acting out the conditioned harmful ways, our knowing brightens. We come to know equality and unity, balance and harmony, interdependence, reciprocity, and caring.

Discernment links knowing sacredness to freeing ourselves of our faults to know how to further life on Earth. We discern how to overcome our self-centeredness and our willingness to harm others for self-benefit and the conditions that make it possible for all life to flourish. With discernment, we live our lives aligned with the sacred ways and values in all our daily choices we make, from morning to night. Staying present with the sacred makes discernment possible as it avoids falling into the confusion of wrong and harmful views tempting us to indulge them.

Knowing what to do to further life on Earth depends on our skillful discernment of knowing what leads to harm or benefit. We express our knowing how to further life in ways unique to our being.

Knowing what to do demands acting upon that knowledge. At the beginning of the path, we lack confidence to act in ways that further life on Earth that exceeds what others expect us to do. We feel uncertain about how our choices will affect us. Yet, we can no longer respect or follow the authority and traditions of a culture that persists in devastating life and Earth. Knowing requires us to willingly take a step into the mystery, to allow ourselves to be led.

Our power to become an interbeing depends upon our confidence in our discernment to know what to do, a confidence that comes from making choices aligned with the valued ways. By discerning what harms and what benefits and acting upon what we know to further life on Earth, we steer ourselves through the stream of unknowable consequences of our transformational actions.

The sun and moon know how to reverently move according to the sacred will. The hundred grains, grasses, and trees know how to reverently grow in the sacred ways. In the same way, we learn to reverently yield to the sacred ways to transform ourselves into interbeings and care for all life on Earth. We discern how to become the vessels through which the sacred mystery flows.

We journey as strangers through life, not knowing from whence we came nor where we go. Knowing the sacred and sacredness gives us our purpose to further life. We overcome what keeps us apart and humbly seek directions home.

**Line 1:** On the path, the wise persistently self-discipline themselves to overcome their harmful ways. They come to know and respect the consequences of their actions.

**Line 2:** The sage knows what to do. It furthers life on Earth by yielding to the sacred will, ways, and values. The sage balances itself by grounding itself within the Earth Interbeing and opening to the sacred.

**Line 3:** The setting sun reflects life's impermanence. When focused on death, people lose their resolve to further life on Earth. The sense of inescapable decline and death impels them to uninhibited indulgence to enjoy life while it lasts or to lament aging. Such unfortunate attitudes spoil our lives. Sages care not whether death comes early or late but await their allotted sacred time. Even though they recognize that old age leads to oblivion, they simply continue to deepen their interbeing with Earth and all life.

**Line 4:** The line rushes out to achieve but then comes back, unprepared for the difficulties it confronts and achieving nothing. It burns with energy, then, like ashes, becomes fixed, stagnant. The line cannot bear the burdens of life.

**Line 5:** The line understands change and how to change itself. It overcomes its resistance to change and accepts the difficulties and losses that self-change entails. The line transforms its self-centeredness into furthering life on Earth, a true change of heart.

**Line 6:** Self-discipline subdues our willingness to harm others. Knowing what to do, the sage pulls out its harmful beliefs by their roots but tolerates harmless ones. Overly strict asceticism, like undue severe punishment, fails in its purpose. Within the world, we get rid of the roots of harm and save what furthers us in the good. In this way the wise overcomes what keeps them apart from the sacred and the Earth Interbeing.