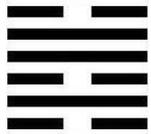


Hexagram 47 Restricted



Restricted.
Sacred influence pervading and nourishing all.
Furthering the sacred within, significant.
Without fault.
Words untrustworthy.

Image Tradition

Restricted.
Strength enshrouded indeed.
Joyful in the face of severe obstruction.
Restricted and not letting go one's place: Growing.

One's very sage reached.
Furthering one's sacred being, important.
Using a strong inner stability indeed.
Words untrustworthy.
Honoring the mouth leads nowhere.

Structure:

- Lake ☱ over water ☵. The lake dries when its water drains downward.
- Joyful (upper trigram) in the face of danger (lower trigram.)

Ideogram: A tree growing in a narrow space. The tree does not have room to grow.

The hexagram describes times when we do not know how to get out of danger. We have tried or considered every option to resolve a severe difficulty without success. The situation compels us to act, but do not know how.

We experience the overwhelm of not knowing what to do within a dangerous situation over which we have little control, severely limiting what we can do. Because we have exhausted all the options we could imagine, we feel blocked and distressed. The challenging circumstances pressure us to do something, but they exceed our capacities.

In such times, the sage advises us not to trust our reasoning but to yield to sacred guidance. When we approach life problems as a game of chess, we constantly consider the moves of other players and their likely responses to our moves. When we play against more skillful opponents, we know our disadvantages and likely defeat as they know we will limit our moves to what we have tried unsuccessfully in the past. Thinking always follows the rules of the game. When rationality traps us into a corner, stop thinking. Overthinking a difficult problem often ignores what we can always do – change ourselves to change the circumstances.

We transform ourselves on the sacred path to further life on Earth. Changing ourselves changes the game. On the sacred path, when we do not know what to do to further life on Earth, we open and yield to sacred guidance.

To open to the sacred, we first give up words, the stories we have about the challenging problem. We cultivate within us a stable still point from which we can face inner and outer changes. Within this place

we know our sacredness and the sacredness of all we experience. In this inner temple we deepen our wordless awareness of the sacred and simply rest within that joyful awareness of the sacred.

We persevere within this transformational field. At some point, but perhaps not today, our relationship with the difficulty shifts. We perceive the sacredness of the crisis and its sacred lesson for us to master. We receive the sacred blessing of knowing how to respond to the crisis in ways that further life on Earth.

Once we have removed our distorted perception of a problem, we can more clearly understand its complexity. When we change our view of it, the problem may no longer exist and our compulsion to act upon it evaporates. At other times, the problem persists, but now with a clearer discernment, we can explore what we can do or how we can change ourselves to help resolve it in ways that further life on Earth.

We offer the sacrifice of self-change to address the needs of the suffering by yielding to the sacred guidance on what furthers life on Earth. We change ourselves even if the changes do not seem rational to us. We simply do what the circumstances need us to do. Sometimes that will mean we do not act to allow a situation to unfold without our interference. Gaining sacred insights into what we can do requires patience. We prepare ourselves to know what to do by continuing to remove what separates us from the sacred.

Even when extreme difficulties threaten us, we have the joy that comes from living the sacred ways. We can face incredible hardships with a light heart. Whenever it seems as if we have no options, we turn inward to deepen our sacred understanding of the situation. We rely upon our faith in the sacred path to get us through even the darkest nights of the soul. By so doing, we strengthen our path, heal ourselves of what harms, and further life on Earth.

Line 1: Feelings of despair and a belief in its powerlessness overcome the line, who falls ever more deeply into despair. These dangerous views come from not knowing what to do to get out of danger. When the distressed believe they have no options other than to act ignorantly, they do not know how to act even in small ways to move through difficulties and further their survival. They do not get out of danger for a long time.

Line 2: An oppressive situation of its own making prevents the privileged line from acting to further life on Earth. However, the line has sufficient faith in the spiritual path and comes to know that it must sacrifice its privileges to do the work of the sacred.

Line 3: The line feels oppressed by its delusions. It abandons wisdom and ignorantly acts impetuously against whom it blames for its suffering. Consequently, it has now caused an actual danger and rests on thorns of worry. The line sees only obstacles surrounding it and has no support. Cutoff from the flow of life and blocked from the sacred by its own doing, the line experiences great danger.

Line 4: The wealthy and privileged line wants to work for the oppressed, but instead of proceeding with energy to address the suffering of life and the Earth, the line begins in a measured, hesitant way. It finds it difficult to renounce the benefits it gains from complicity with what harms. However, because of its sincere intentions, these difficulties do not endure as the line at last frees itself from what harms and lives to further life on Earth.

Line 5: Conditions frustrate the line's efforts to further life on Earth. It does not have sufficient insight into the situation or alignment with the sacred ways and values.¹ The line turns inward to correct itself through self-discipline and sacrifices what keeps it apart from the sacred and the Earth Interbeing. Joy comes when the line sees its way forward to care for others, all life, and the Earth.

Line 6: The line fears changing its harmful ways, which would expose it to uncertainty. However, the line conquers its fearful resistance by deeply understanding how much suffering it causes others through its willingness to harm others for self-benefit. It resolves to change its ways and does the harder but right thing do.

¹ **Sacred Ways** (work in progress): Sacredness of earth and life, all changes, conditional causation, actions have consequences, life on earth subject to limits, birth and death of life on Earth, immortality through children, all life feels pain and suffers, interdependence, interbeing, reciprocity, limits of knowing, mystery of unknown. The sacred command is for life to further life on Earth.

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.