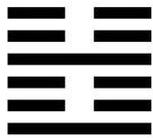


Hexagram 51 – Collapse



The shake.
Sacred pervading and nourishing all.
The shake coming: frightening, frightening.
Laughing words, shrieking, shrieking.
The shake scares a hundred miles.
The sage persists in its path to further life on Earth.

Image Tradition

The shake. Sacred pervading and nourishing all.
The shake coming: frightening, frightening.
Anxiety involves blessings indeed.

Laughing words, shrieking, shrieking.
Afterwards possessing by consequence indeed.

The shake scares a hundred miles.
Fear in the distance and-also fearing the nearby indeed.

The sage persists in its path to further life on Earth.
Preserving its awareness of the sacred presence, the sacred path, and its service to the Earth Interbeing.
The sage offers itself to the sacred will.

Structure: Two thunders ☳☳ combine, thunder after thunder. One strong line under two weak ones presses upward so violently that it arouses fear.

Time: The trigram ☳☳ marks the spring equinox and the beginning of a new cycle of growth.

An unexpected shock, like a claps of thunder, causes fear and trembling. From this action, comes that action. From that action, comes this action – a thousand actions all come from the first action. One fear connects to many other fears, persisting like resounding thunder.

Within the unexpected, the sage perceives the sacred. The wise do not resist, ignore, nor flee from the sacred but rather turn inward toward the sacred for guidance. They calmly hold the disturbing experience within a loving awareness of the sacred until they have the sacred insight of how to respond in ways that further life on Earth.¹

An unexpected shock also wakes us from complacency and inertia. We realize that we do not know what to do to escape our ignorance and despair except to seek the sacred knowing. Those who have run out of options surrender to the sacred and the mystery of life.

¹ **Sacred ways and values furthering 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.

The wise do not let fear stop them from furthering life on Earth. Sages move through their fears and ride the great uncertainties of an unexpected disturbance. While conditions may change, our sacred responsibilities do not. Life for eons has found ways to respond to rapidly changing conditions. Sages know that great transformations come through crises.

Self-centeredness causes us to fear the unexpected as a threat. Fear weakens our resolve to further life on Earth as it narrows our focus onto what benefits us, entangling us in complicity with what harms. When fear overwhelms us, we cannot do what the sacred calls us to do. Immersing ourselves in fear fully exposes us to harming ourselves and others to escape our fear.

Even when surrounded by great danger, sages follow their chosen path cheerfully and humbly. Confidence in the sacred ways gives us the resolve to overcome what harms within ourselves and in the world. Compassionate action triumphs over our willingness to harm, giving us the freedom to creatively manifest the sacred within a crisis.

We can prepare for unexpected shocks within our daily interactions. Whenever something unexpectedly or even mildly disturbs our flow, such as an unwanted interruption or coming to some harm, we can pause before reacting and choose to respond compassionately. When fear arises and keeps us from doing what needs doing, we can choose to move through it within a loving presence. Our deepening commitment to further life on Earth becomes our compass, guiding us to what truly matters.

An unexpected shock demands our response. The sacred path cultivates our skills to further life on Earth. Sacred transformation occurs within crises.

Line 1: An unexpected shock causes fear. The wise use the opportunities within an unexpected disturbance to shape the situation in ways that further life on Earth. Their loving awareness of the sacred allows them to move through their fears.

Line 2: An unexpected shock causes the line to experience a loss. Rather than react to the situation in habitual ways, the wise line distances itself from the situation to gain a wider perspective to know what to do. Once it has regained its calm, it perceives its loss as illusory.

Line 3: Fear of the unexpected freezes the line into inaction in a time it needs to act. If the line perceives the sacred opportunity within the crisis, it will know what to do to further life on Earth and act.

Line 4: The strong line, caught fast in the mire of its ignorance, does not respond energetically to the moving times. It remains entangled with what harms and loses the creative opportunity.

Line 5: The sage line perseveres in its work to further life on Earth even during repeated shocks and loses nothing. The line remains centered on the sacred, avoiding being tossed hither and thither by external circumstances and acts in the valued ways.

Line 6: The unexpected shock threatens ruin. Within such a calamitous situation, the sage line remains calmly centered on the sacred even when fear has overwhelmed others. It perceives within the crisis the unfolding of the sacred way to unity. If we have not already lost ourselves in reactivity, we can move through our fears and fulfill our sacred responsibility to further life on Earth.