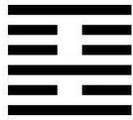


Hexagram 22 Adorning



*Adorning,
Sacred transformation.
The small.
Harvesting: having a purpose in life.*

Image Tradition

*Adorning of less importance than having a purpose in life.
Sacred pattern indeed.
People follow the natural restraining of ornamentation.*

*The sun and stars cause days and nights and the season,
People observe their patterns to know the changing times.
People use the forms of ceremonies and rituals
To regulate and beautify their ways.*

Structure:

- Above mountain ☶. Below ☲ fire.
- Brightness under massive stillness.

Ideogram: cowry shells (money) and flowers, linking value with ornament.

Image: A fire illuminates and beautifies the mountain, but the light does not shine far.

We find the Earth Interbeing and all its natural places beautiful– the forest, insects, desert, lizards, ocean, fish, mountains, and birds. Whatever the sacred brings forth embodies beauty. Any attempt to add to natural beauty degrades it. Natural forms perfectly fit the purpose and meaning of life and the Earth.

People embellish the appearance of our bodies and what we make to reflect the aesthetic standards of the culture or their imagination. When carried to an extreme, adding embellishments to form conceals the meaning and purpose of a being or a situation. We no longer see beyond its superficial appearance.

Used sparingly and only in unimportant things, embellishing enhances our aesthetic appreciation of things and situations without hiding what really matters – the meaning and purpose of the being and situations. Trying to make beautiful what harms confuses and endangers us.

The wise choose the simplicity of natural forms over ornamentation. Natural beauty needs no external ornamentation. The purpose and meaning of a being stand forth in its own physical form, a form that strongly fits its purpose and meaning.

The forms of cultures fit the purpose and meaning of the culture. Hierarchical cultures have pyramidal forms and front-facing audiences. Clearly defined morals and rules of conduct define egalitarian cultures, which have circular forms for within these cultures all participate as equals. We cannot imagine the form of the Earth-Interbeing, which has massively distributed itself in time and space.

Behaviors and views shape the form of our being. Sages cultivate the sacredness of their meaning and purpose. Their behaviors and views reveal sacredness.

A wave persists until the energy form of the wave dissipates back into the ocean. The wise know that they are the ocean yet in their brief lives they dance like waves. T

Line 1: This line represents the humble sage, who adorns itself with sacredness and the sacred knowing how to further life on Earth. It has let go of every worldly indulgence as the line knows how to live the sacred ways from within.¹

Line 2: It takes time for beings to mature their sacred being. The wise deepen knowing their sacredness and bring the ways of the sacred into the world. Ultimately, they become sages who transparently live the sacred ways to further life on Earth.

Line 3: Excessive concern for material form diminishes the line's clarity of wisdom and leads to its loss of the sacred path. This warning applies to both ostentatious displays of wealth and to extreme asceticism. The wise know that any practice can turn into a rigid form that no longer connects them with the spirit. They know the importance of living a balanced and harmonious life.

Line 4: The line chooses between living the sacred ways or living for wealth and self-benefit. Sages let go of their self-centered willingness to harm for self-benefit. They live as equals among equals and unite with the sacred.

Line 5: The line seeks to know the sacred and has distanced itself from harmful views and ways. It deems its devotion to furthering the sacred Earth Interbeing of greater value than material possessions or power over others. The line follows the example of sages, those who forego all cultural forms to unite with the sacred.

Line 6: The line has reached the highest stages of unity with the sacred and equality with the Earth Interbeing. Its life transparently furthers life on Earth.

¹ **Ways and values of the sacred path to lovingly further life on Earth (work in progress):** Yielding to the sacred, knowing sacredness, compassion, joyful interbeing, gratitude, furthering life on Earth, self-discipline and flexibly responding to change, and centered inner stillness.