

Hexagram 26 – The Great Restraining of Self



The great restraining of self.

Realization. Discernment.

Not centered on the self. Significant.

Benefit from entering the stream of life to further life on Earth.

Image Tradition

The great restraining of self.

Persevering strength: firm values, resplendent inner illumination.

Daily renewing one's sacred path.

Strength above that honors others on the sacred path.

Able to stop and persist.

The great correcting indeed.

Not benefiting the self, significant.

Nourishing others on the sacred path indeed.

Benefit from entering the stream of life to further life on Earth.

Harmonizing with the sacred ways indeed.

Structure: Above, the mountain, unshakeable ☶. Below, the sacred ☷. Unshakably holding to the sacred.

Those on the sacred path discipline themselves to overcome their willingness to harm others for self-benefit. Bringing to life our sacredness depends upon disciplining our harmful thoughts, words, and deeds that keep us apart from the sacred and the Earth Interbeing,

Those willing to harm others for self-benefit center their view of the world upon themselves. They perceive all others as objects available for their use or as obstacles in their way. The self-centered focus their lives upon accumulating wealth and having power over others. As they believe that they know all they need to know, they act rashly without considering how their actions could affect others. Those willing to harm for self-benefit ignore the suffering they cause others.

Many allow external circumstances to control the direction of their lives. On the path, we strengthen our will to respond to whatever experience arises in ways that furthers life on Earth. When uncertain how to respond well, we pause until we know how to respond in ways that benefit all.

Living the path teaches us to strengthen our resolve to discipline ourselves and to bring to life the sacredness of our being. The grueling and arduous work to overcome our willingness to harm for self-benefit expands our awareness of the sacred. We deepen our knowing of the sacred values and how to live them.¹

¹**Ways of the sacred path to further life on Earth (work in progress):** Joyfully surrendering to the sacred and sacredness of all, humbly yielding in gratitude for all we experience, awakening to sacred knowing of how to lovingly further life on Earth, discerning how to live in balance with the Earth Interbeing, disciplining ourselves to remove the ways we separate ourselves from the sacred and sacredness, compassionately responding to suffering, harmoniously interacting with all life, communing with all life the blessings of the sacred Earth.

Once we have overcome our willingness to harm others through self-discipline, the path to further life on Earth reveals itself, and we can act upon that knowing by nourishing others in the sacred ways.

The wise do not imagine that we can at once and for all time extinguish our willingness to harm; thus, they remain vigilant. In these ways, we come to align our lives with the sacred ways and values. Through surrendering our self-will to the sacred will, we flow harmoniously with the sacred Earth Interbeing to further life on Earth.

Line 1: The strong line wants to advance, but circumstances prevent it. It benefits from not striving to advance regardless of circumstances and by allowing experience to unfold without its interference.

Line 2: The situation blocks the line's capacities to advance. It waits to deepen its sacred being until it knows what to do.

Line 3: The line disciplines itself to overcome its harmful ways and to nourish its sacred nature. It wants to bring what it has learned into the world to further life on Earth. Yet the line lacks sufficient stability in its self-discipline and sacred awareness to live them persistently in daily life. Without a firm stability, it could not escape the perils of acting within the world. The line perseveres in the difficult and arduous work to transform itself. In this way it frees itself of its harmful ways so that it can successfully bring to life the sacred ways.

Line 4: The line resists prematurely acting within the world. It takes the time and makes the effort to firmly restrain its willingness to harms for self-benefit and uncovers its sacred nature.

Line 5: The line has learned to dissipate dangerous energies by perceiving and transforming their roots. It overcomes its willingness to harm others for self-benefit and opens to interbeing with the Earth.

Line 6: Once free of its willingness to harm others and now knowing its sacred nature, the line releases its accumulated sacred potential into furthering life on Earth and receives sacred blessings.