

Hexagram 63 After Completion

 After completion.
What has harmed has changed in sacred ways.
Benefit from discernment.
Initially favorable.
Completing comes to an end: disorder.

Image Tradition

After completion.
What harms has changed in sacred ways.
Firmness and yielding in their proper places.

Initially favorable as yielding to the sacred ways causes harmonious unity.
After completion: the end of effort leads to disunity.
One's path comes to an end.

Structure: Water ☵ above. Fire ☲ below. Water above fire.

The hexagram depicts the improbable state of complete order, in which all the firm and yielding lines stand in their proper place. No tension remains within the completely balanced situation. However, the slightest external influence or inner movement will disrupt this balance and push it back into disorder and another cycle of change.

Because of the inevitability of change, we do not delude ourselves that we can ever reach an unchanging state of balance. Whatever we complete continues to change. The sacred path has no end point. Instead, we experience life as an ever changing and continuing dance about the center of unity and equality.

When we free ourselves from an instance of deep conditioning, one that we have struggled with for a long time, we might believe we have finally freed ourselves from this harmful way once and for all time. We delude ourselves. We have within our nature the willingness to harm others, which will find ways to express itself within an unguarded moment like unwanted weeds. The path does not free us from our willingness to harm others for self-benefit but rather teaches us how to refrain from manifesting it. We learn how to not harm others and to further life on Earth. Earth.

We know that one thing leads to another. Even at the moment of completion of what we set ourselves to do, everything changes, including us. Out of what we have accomplished emerges our next step, and another cycle of unfolding the ways of the Earth Interbeing opens for us.

The sacred path to further life on Earth moves us toward wholeness with the Earth Interbeing, not nirvana or the transcendence of suffering. Each step on the path deepens and expands our wisdom about how to live in the sacred ways to further life on Earth. Suffering melts into compassion and joy. Every time we overcome an obstruction that keeps us apart from the sacred, we take a step closer to knowing the sacred, sacredness, and how to further life on Earth. The sacred path has no end.

Line 1: Once the wise line has achieved what it had set itself to do, it rests before taking the next step. It takes time for what the line has accomplished to settle and to unfold in its own ways. The line refrains from immediately advancing to avoid unsettling at the moment of completion.

Line 2: Upon completion, a new cycle begins. Upon completion, do nothing. The line keeps itself in hidden retirement until what it has completed settles and its next step emerges.

Line 3: Those who take on ambitious undertakings upon completion have the urge to expand upon their success. The wise do not take on challenges that go beyond their capacities to respond in ways that further life on Earth. The line may have some success in advancing directly against what harms but only after a long and difficult process. We need to overcome our inner harms before we can advance against them in the world.

Line 4: In a time of completion, an unexpected change causes a disturbance. The foolish ignore the warning and do not address it. The line remains alert to the reemergence of self-cherishing and the willingness to harm. It immediately and effectively responds to them.

Line 5: Elaborate rituals and outer displays replace a sincere and humble offering to the sacred. True devotion does not depend on form but on how we serve to further the Earth Interbeing.

Line 6: Completion has little stability. The line ruins completion by deluding itself that it has extinguished its willingness to harm for self-benefit. In an unguarded moment, self-centeredness and the willingness to harm reemerge and unfold their dangerous aspects.