

Hexagram 40 – Knowing What to Do

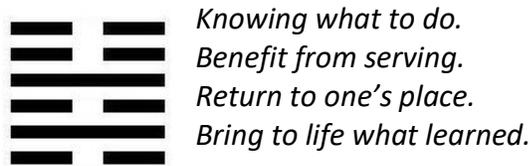


Image Tradition

Knowing what to do. Facing a severe danger requires us to act on sacredly knowing what to do. Acting on what we sacredly know what to do avoids the danger overwhelming us.

Knowing what to do. Benefit from acting.
Moving away from danger benefits all being.
Returning to rest within the sacred, important.
Acquiring the sacred center indeed.
Bring to life what learned.
Overcoming danger possesses achievement indeed.

Heaven and Earth deliver needed rain,
Benefiting the hundred fruits, grasses, and trees, causing all to sprout.
The sacred time of acting on sacred knowing what to do to overcome danger great indeed.

Structure:

- Above thunder ☳, below danger ☵.
- Upper trigram moves up and away from the lower trigram, the sphere of danger.

A thunderstorm breaks and releases the built-up tensions of drought. Afterwards, nature again breathes freely, an image of moving out of danger. In the same way, acting on knowing what to do to overcome danger releases us from what harms.

When we do not know how to overcome a danger, we remain in danger. The wise do not act ignorantly as they know that acting when confused only increases the danger. They seek sacred knowing of how to respond to danger in the ways that further life on Earth. The sacred blesses those who seek to know with the insights the Yi Ching offers us.

Once we know what to do, we act to share the blessings of our received insight in ways that further life on Earth. We act to overcome a danger within ourselves not to just for ourselves but for all life and the Earth. By bringing to life what we know within us in a balanced way, we remain centered on the sacred. Overcoming a danger that challenges us in valued ways achieves much.¹

¹ **Values, ways, and natures of the sacred path to further life on Earth (work in progress):** Love, humbleness, joyful surrender to the sacred knowing, balance, firm self-discipline, compassion, harmony, and equitable sharing.

Upon acting on our sacred knowing, we refrain from further interfering with the situation. We allow the consequences of our actions to unfold within the situation. Instead, we return to calmly rest within the sacred.

We bring to life what we now by stopping ourselves from harming. By interacting with others harmoniously and equitably, we further life on Earth We keep our center within the sacred and manifest the sacredness of all.

The sacred bestows its blessings to overcome what endangers life. We turn to the sacred to know how to respond to the dangers within ourselves that endanger life on Earth.

Line 1: The line acted upon its sacred knowing and has no blame. It refrains from further action and allows the situation to now unfold on its own without its further interference.

Line 2: The line overcomes its beliefs in its superiority, its belief that it deserves more of what it wants, that others should please and honor it, and that life should meet its expectation for it. It now knows how to refrain from acting in these ways. By so doing, the line furthers life on Earth.

Line 3: Those who take from others to have more than they need invite others to take it from them. We have the responsibility to equitably share what all life needs as an equal among equals.

Line 4: Within a corrupt culture, people indulge themselves in what harms. To overcome the corruption, the line frees itself of its willingness to harm others for self-benefit and adheres to the sacred ways.

Line 5: The sage holds fast to the ways of the Earth Interbeing and frees itself from its harmful ways and wrong views. Self-centeredness withdraws from those who resolutely resist its harmful views and ways.

Line 6: The line vigilantly guards against its self-centered tendencies and willingness to harm for self-benefit. Should dangerously harmful views and ways arise, the line has the awareness to see them coming and the means to overcome them through self-discipline and adherence to the sacred ways to further life on Earth.