

## Hexagram 53 – Becoming an Interbeing



*Becoming an interbeing.*

*Correcting what obstructs.*

*Refrain from imposing a direction on the process.*

**Structure:** Penetration ☵ above and stillness ☷ below.

The hexagram images the slow growth of a tree on a mountainside, which extends its influence as it gradually grows into a great tree. The firmly rooted tree grows according to the laws of its being and survives because of its adaptability. Other life benefits from the many blessings of the food, shade, and shelter the tree extends to others.

Beings become interbeings, a gradual natural process. We grow into interbeing by rooting ourselves into the sacred and by learning to live the mutually beneficial ways of the Earth Interbeing, stillness within and outer growth. We become interbeings through a combination of moral effort to overcome what harms within ourselves and flexibly responding to whatever we encounter in ways that manifest the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing within the world.<sup>1</sup>

This gradual maturation process has stages of growth, each of which takes time, a process which we cannot hasten. The path to interbeing opens with our strong intention to further life on Earth. We recognize our harmful and dangerous ways and that of our culture obstruct us from fulfilling our intention. Because we know that we do not know what to do, we humbly surrender ourselves to the sacred path to further life on Earth. We perseveringly align our lives with the sacred ways. As our spiritual being ripens, we come to know that imposing our will upon others and the Earth to force them to become more to our liking does not work but only causes us more danger. Thus, we struggle to overcome our wrong views of self-centeredness and superiority. Eventually, we learn the deep value of humility and bring to life the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing within whatever arises in experience. Finally, the process ripens us into an interbeing, and we work to further life on Earth, influencing others through our actions.

Maturing our sacred being, while a natural process, depends upon persevering in the same course. We gently but persistently respond from an inner calm to whatever we experience in the ways that further life on Earth. This perseverance prevents the loss of our focus on the sacred purpose.

A tree gradually grows according to its nature wherever planted. Every day, it shows some growth in its rootlets or twigs. It becomes a great tree, but it took years for it to become this way.

**Line 1:** The line at the beginning has a strong determination to interbe but does not yet know how to respond to confusing and dangerous situation. Without the support of others and surrounded by criticism, it moves slowly and cautiously, the correct way to proceed.

**Line 2:** The line humbles and surrenders itself to sacred knowing, which nourishes the line's spiritual growth. The line practices within its daily life what it has learned.

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<sup>1</sup> **Ways and values of the sacred path to further life on Earth (work in progress):** Love, patience, humble surrender to sacred knowing, discernment of what to do, firm discipline, harmonious interactions, equitable sharing, and a balanced wellbeing.

**Line 3:** The line indulges its self-centeredness and gets entangled in a situation beyond its capacity to manage well. Its actions only deepen the dangers, yet it stubbornly advances itself. The line experiences the dangers and harms of imposing its will and conflicting with others. It learns to move through danger by yielding to sacred knowing to preserve its balance and by seeing and resisting within itself the faults it sees in others.

**Line 4:** The line deepens its understanding of the central values of humbleness and the sacred ways. It stabilizes its balance by responding harmoniously and equitably within all interactions and situations in ways that further life on Earth. .

**Line 5:** The line has gradually ripened sacred being. It has overcome its self-cherishing and willingness to harm. An interbeing emerges who manifests the sacred ways to further life on Earth.

**Line 6:** The line interbes within the sacred Earth Interbeing. It works to further life on Earth and influences others through its sacred work.