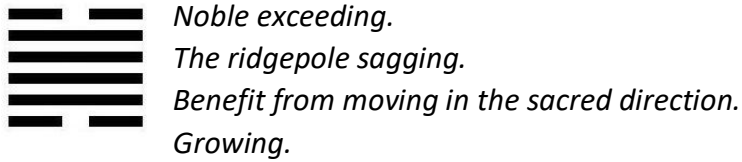


Hexagram 28 – Noble Exceeding



The hexagram has four strong lines in the center and yielding lines at its beginning and end. A beam sags to the breaking point because its weak supporting ends cannot bear the heavy load. Normally, we interact with the world in a firm disciplined manner while inwardly yielding to the sacred will within. In this imbalanced situation, strong but undisciplined energies urgently seek a release within the world, but we lack an outer firmness to control their release.

Nourishing and shaping accumulated spiritual wisdom without putting it to use creates an imbalance, a constrained tension that wants release through movement. Acting on what we know completes our knowing. If, however, we continue to deepen our understanding without bringing what we have learned into the world in gentle and harmonious ways, the power of our accumulated knowing will find its own release forcefully and dangerously.

The wise rebalance this great exceeding through acting in ways that go beyond the expectations of others by finding a gentle means to translate our sacred knowing into furthering life on Earth. We must resist the temptation to stay within the apparent safety of knowing without acting on what we know. By succumbing to the temptation of doing nothing or not enough, we lose all the fruits of our knowing. Only movement will get us out of the dangerously imbalanced time. We do this transformative work ourselves, not expecting others to do it for us.

The wise have the noble capability of smallness and flexibility to fulfill their responsibilities to care for the Earth Interbeing. We stand tall by not yielding to the temptation of passive inaction. Within this unbalanced situation, nothing but firm willingness to bring to life the sacred ways will do.¹ Those who persist in inflicting harm on the Earth Interbeing do not understand the time. We move forward by balancing firmness and gentleness to further life on Earth.

The increasing tension of knowing without action moves us to act in the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing. At the root of the imbalance, we find the hidden influences of the sacred. We courageously show the world what we have learned.

The wise bring to the world the sacred ways and do not worry about the reactions of those who have not yet freed themselves from harmful conditioning. If blocked from action by our inner fears, we will come to regret having missed the opportunity to fulfill our duty to care for the

¹ **Ways and values of the sacred path to further life on Earth (work in progress):** Love, patience, humble surrender to sacred knowing, wisdom of Earth Interbeing, firm discipline to avoid harming the Earth Interbeing, harmonious interactions, equitable sharing, and a balanced wellbeing.

sacred Earth Interbeing. We must have faith in how transformative love changes us and opens us to do the holy in the world.

Line 1: The line carefully grounds its efforts within the sacred ways to further life on Earth.

Line 2: When a willow withers yet then resprouts at its root, the life process has not reached its end but renews growth. We renew and benefit from ancient wisdom when we heed it and bring it to life within our time.

Line 3: The burden of responsibility grows until the line can no longer bear it on its own. Because of its arrogance, the line lacks the support needed from others. The situation destabilizes and collapses. Nobody can stand alone in times of great exceeding.

Line 4: The line rebalances the situation with support without going beyond what it needs to do to further life on Earth. Having any other motive would entangle the line in humiliation.

Line 5: The line entangles itself in a fruitless and trivial situation.

Line 6: The weak line goes excessively beyond the ordinary and beyond reason, represented by the image of getting too far into water. The line brings disaster upon itself as it did not have the capacities and support it needed. However, it does not incur blame as it acted with the great purpose to further life on Earth.