

## Hexagram 3 – Beginning of Growth



*Beginning of growth.*

*Evolving interactions of the whole.*

*No benefit from imposing a direction.*

*Benefit from establishing supports.*

Structure: Danger above ☰, movement below ☷. Movement within danger.

The ideogram of the hexagram images a seedling sprouting through hard soil. Within us we have the seed of sacredness. When we prepare the ground of our being to support its ripening, knowing and living our sacredness takes root.

As we cultivate our sacredness, we experience both the joys of a life rediscovered and the difficult work of overcoming our harmful conditioned behaviors and views. We struggle with our resistance to change our harmful conditioning. When we distance ourselves from a harmful culture to learn how to live our sacredness, we sacrifice the ways of living we had.

Because we have only known our self-centeredness, we have yet to fathom our sacredness and the sacredness of all life and Earth. We do not know how to live as an equal among equals or as interbeing within the Earth Interbeing. No benefit comes from speculating how we might live such lives as we would only do so through the filter of our wrong views. We accept that we cannot begin to know until we have uncovered our sacredness by overcoming our harmful ways and views.

At the beginning of our sacred path or when our path opens to a new cycle, we feel confused and uncertain about our way forward. When confused, the wise hold themselves back from acting ignorantly, and causing ourselves only more uncertainty and danger. Taking this step back from imposing our will upon the situation and allowing it to unfold on its own requires us not to indulge our urgency to act. We calmly endure the tension between wanting to act and restraining ourselves from acting until we have prepared ourselves to know how we can further life on Earth.

When we choose to recover our balance with the Earth Interbeing, first within ourselves and then in the world, we knowingly put ourselves in the path of dangerous forces. The wise do not give up nor wait for others to rescue them. Instead, they overcome what separates them from their sacredness and the Earth Interbeing by deepening their sacred knowing of how to move forward, to take the next step. We prepare to do this by establishing our supports.

At this time, we cannot accept help from others without fully understanding how their help might lead us to follow their path and not our own. To know how to move in the direction of our own unique path, we surrender to sacred knowing and find refuge within the sacred. The ways of the Earth Interbeing guide us through our ignorance.<sup>1</sup> The Yi Ching teaches us the ways of the Earth Interbeing. Becoming familiar with the ancient wisdom of many cultures and the lives of our interbeing relatives encourages us to perceive and live our lives as an interbeing.

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<sup>1</sup> **Ways to further life on Earth (work in progress):** honor the sacred, humbleness, humble surrender to sacred knowing, wisely responding to further life on Earth, firm discipline to avoid harming the Earth Interbeing, harmonious interactions, equitable sharing, and staying balanced with the Earth Interbeing.

At the heart of turmoil and danger dwells the sacred. Every day invites us to begin anew. By overcoming our reluctance to change our ways, we have the courage and confidence to free ourselves from our harmful ways and views and to ripen our interbeingness.

Within sacred time, our turmoil and uncertainties pass, just as a thunderstorm comes with much fury, fills the air with rain, and then subsides. The ten thousand things take shape and unfold in the ways of their sacredness. We harmoniously follow the ways of the Earth Interbeing, surmounting every challenge and transforming ourselves into interbeings.

We need only open to the majesty of the Earth Interbeing to know that we must further life on Earth. The power of the Earth and the overflowing abundance of life, even now when wounded, call us to interbe. Life always dawns on Earth.

**Line 1:** The strong and correct line has difficulties in advancing. Aware of the dangers, It moves cautiously and perseveres within the ways of the Earth Interbeing to further life on Earth. Through its humbleness and concern for the suffering of others, the line gradually acquires the inner resources it needs to further it on its path. The line shows others how to overcome obstacles in difficult times.

**Line 2:** The line has great difficulties in advancing. It feels compelled to advance, which separates it from the sacred. However, it successfully resists its ignorant urge to act. Once the line has overcome its impulsivity and emotional turmoil, it regains its calm and discerns the sacred path through the difficulties.

**Line 3:** The line, confused and uncertain about how to proceed against what harms, ignores wisdom and acts ignorantly, failing to obtain the outcome it sought. The wise wait to advance their purpose until they know the sacred path through dangerous situations.

**Line 4:** The line humbles itself and receives the sacred wisdom it needs to move through danger.

**Line 5:** The line does not have the capacities or supports it needs to move through a difficult situation. Its premature actions to further life on Earth fail and cause more difficulties. The line needs more time to further uncover its sacredness by removing its harmful ways and views and to practice in small ways furthering life on Earth, a ripening process that we cannot force.

**Line 6:** The end of its difficulties approaches, but the line loses its willingness to further its path. Not wanting to struggle more to free itself, the line gives up. Sadly, it returns to its conditioned ways and remains lost.