

Hexagram 19 – Approaching Growth



Approaching growth.

The enduring and unerring evolving interactions of the whole.

Culminating with the retreat of light,

Coming end of growth.

Structure:

- Joy within ☰ and outer devotion ☵☵. Devotion above sinks downward toward rising joy.
- Two strong lines grow upward into the hexagram from below.

Time: The hexagram marks the 12th month in the Chinese calendar (January – February), the approach of the Chinese new year and spring. The power of the strong light ascends again, a joyful time of certain growth. No obstruction blocks the sacred growth, which makes possible an easy, gentle advance.

In sacred time, light returns while the darkness declines. The sacred causes the pattern of a descent following every rise and a rise follows every descent. The return of sacred influences beneficial for new growth accords with the time. Just as spring heralds the return of growth within the Earth Interbeing, sacred time renews our holy work in the world to further life on Earth.

With the approaching season of new growth, sages set themselves to do their holy work. Sages practice interbeing and teach others their heart's concern through how they live in the world. They have no limits in their willingness to nourish the potential of others by caring for them, working with them, and joyfully bringing to life the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing.¹

Yet spring does not last forever. Winter ends growth. Whatever grows, wanes. Even during the flourishing season, sages know a decline approaches but do not let the reality of the inevitable decline discourage them. They do not let sacred time slip by but bring to life the sacred ways they had prepared in their retreat from darkness. The wise flourish during the time of new growth.

If we meet the inevitable darkness before it becomes reality – even before it begins to stir – we can harvest and safeguard what we have nourished and cultivated during this cycle of growth to further the Earth Interbeing.

The wise know how to get through the coming darkness. Winter advances quickly and firmly but does not itself last. When the sacred time for new growth returns, we do our holy work in the world.

Line 1: The first two lines support each other in advancing the ways that furthers life on Earth. This strong line avoids letting its enthusiasm to advance overwhelm its discipline and perseveres in following the sacred. It serves as a good influence in a strong place.

¹ **Ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing (work in progress):** devotion to the sacred, receptivity and humbly yielding to the sacred will, knowing the sacred will, wisely responding to experience to further life on Earth, firm discipline to avoid harming the Earth Interbeing, harmonious interactions, equitable sharing, and balance with the Earth Interbeing.

Line 2: The first two lines support each other in advancing the ways that further life on Earth. This line depends upon the sacred knowing of what to do rather than its own. Its actions have the strength to counter the inevitable end of this propitious time of growth.

Line 3: The line wants to advance what benefits itself. However, it anxiously realizes its fault and instead pursues the sacred purpose, overcoming its initial error. It knows what it must do.

Line 4: The line has the views and ways to advance the sacred will for all life to further life on Earth. The line adheres to the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing.

Line 5: This line represents the knowing of the sacred will to further life on Earth. The sage has receptivity of the sacred knowing of how to do its holy work in the world.

Line 6: Exalted sages do not transcend the difficulties of the world but turn toward them and support the holy work of others.