

Hexagram 38 – Opposition



*Opposition.
Small affairs meaningful.*

Meanings of ideogram: opposition, polarizing, separation, contrary, mutually exclusive, distance, absence.

Structure:

- Knowing above ☲; joyful interactions within ☵.
- Flame burns upward, water seeps downward. The two trigrams draw farther apart.

People oppose each other not because of what we have in common but our differences. A family can more harmoniously agree on what we have in common than on our views of the world. The more we disagree, the more our differences seem to separate us.

When entangled in opposing differences, we move into disharmony with the other and perhaps even conflict. Each defends their position because they believe they know better than the other. The willingness to harm the other for self-benefit arises with the wrong view of our superiority.

Life celebrates differences as they open to new relationships and ways of interacting. Abundant diversity measures the well-being of the Earth Interbeing. Life on Earth interdependently interacts to meet the mutual needs of all life. Furthering life on Earth means that we mutually assist and care for each other. Firmly centering on the sacred and persistently yielding to the sacred ways of the Earth Interbeing furthers life on Earth.¹

Knowing our sacredness and that of others grounds our harmonious interactions. The sacred unity of life flows out of our interdependence. Every being has a unique perspective of the sacred and of life. The more we learn from others their perspectives on how to move through a common danger, the more power our collective action will have. The more we learn of our common sacredness, the more our knowing of our sacredness grows. When we know our common sacredness, the need for a bridge arises.

Opposition need not become a permanent condition if we view it more of a challenge than a disaster. We regain harmony with others and bridge our opposition by focusing on the small and least controversial concerns of ordinary living. Instead of trying to convert others to our view, we appreciate their perspectives. We interact within the sphere of what we already have in common. Within our commonality, we find ways to harmoniously and mutually interact in ways of sacredness to further our lives and that of life on Earth.

We bridge our opposition to come together, a natural process. The sacred and the Earth have great differences, yet they interact harmoniously. Men and women bridge their differences to

¹ **Ways of the sacredness of the Earth Interbeing (work in progress):** devotion of living ways of sacredness, humbly serving to further life and the Earth, surrendering to the sacred will to further life on Earth, harmonizing with life on Earth, equitably sharing with all life the abundance of the Earth, making the effort to do the harder but right thing to do, stopping harmful ways and views through discipline and forbearance.

mutually benefit from their differences. All life has unique differences, but we have a common sacredness and purpose to further life on Earth. Our inner connection of sacredness prevails over superficial estrangements. Bridging the opposition of differences benefits life on Earth.

Like a puzzle, all life fits interdependently within a sacred unity. We could not complete the sacred puzzle without every being. The more we understand our interdependence, the greater the attraction of reunion with all beings and a desire to overcome our divisiveness. Yet even when the whole transcends the parts, each part retains the uniqueness of their being and experience.

Throughout the bridging process, we keep calm to quiet emotional turmoil and find ways to share our joy with others. The structure of the hexagram points to how to overcome opposition. The lower trigram has the attribute of joyfulness, which brings others into fellowship. The upper trigram represents wisdom, which discerns the path of coming together. Joy and wisdom overcome separation. We celebrate differences and learn how to live joyfully with the uniqueness of others as equals. When we release the energy of the tension we experience within opposition, it can flow into new growth.

The harmful culture teaches us to turn differences into inequality. The Book of Changes holds that what we perceive as differences completes us. Bridging opposition requires humility, the willingness to care for others, and knowing the equality of all. We transcend differences when we focus on what we all have in common, our sacredness. We spiritually mature our being into an interbeing.

Line 1: The temporary misunderstanding causes opposition. The line does not run after the other with whom it feels it belongs but who has distanced themselves from the line. If they belong together, the other will come back on their own. When someone forces an unwanted relationship upon the line, the line does not harmfully repulse the other but endures them. Eventually, the other will withdraw on its own accord.

Line 2: Conditions keep the line apart from knowing what to do to further life on Earth. Unexpectedly, the line receives sacred knowing and willingly obeys despite the challenges it may face in doing so.

Line 3: The line feels everything conspires against it. It sees others hindering its work to further life on Earth, thwarting and dishonoring it. Yet the line does not let harmful obstructions keep it from adhering to the ways of sacredness and completing its work to further life on Earth.

Line 4: The solitary line overcomes its separation from the Earth Interbeing by overcoming its harmful views and ways through the ways of sacredness

Line 5: The line bites through the opposition of internal and external experience and realizes the unity of their laws and nature. All is sacred. The line brings to life the sacred will.

Line 6: Because of misunderstandings and misperceptions, the line views others as dangerously harmful and rejects them. However, the line cuts through its ignorance. By bridging opposition, the line returns to experiencing its bond of loving sacredness with all.