

Hexagram 26 – Power of the Will



Power of the will.

Benefit from perseverance.

Not benefiting the self. Significant.

Benefit from furthering life on Earth.

Meanings of Ideogram Da: orient the will toward a self-imposed goal, impose direction; ability to lead or guide one's life. **Meaning of ideogram Chu:** control, restrain; tame, train; sustain, raise.

Structure: Above, the mountain, keeping still ☶. Below, the sacred ☳. Keeping still within the sacred.

Our will moves us through life toward a deliberately chosen and avowed purpose. It opposes influences and forces that would lead us astray from our purpose. A mountain holding down and keeping still within us the power of our inner sacredness offers an image of a strong will to further life on Earth.

We need the power of a strong will to break harmful behavior patterns and learning to live the ways of our sacredness.¹ It takes great willpower to resist harmful cultural conditioning that undermines our faith in the sacred through doubt, separation, and inequality.

The power of our will to further life on Earth must exceed the power of cultural conditioning for us to overcome the harmful ways and views of the culture. The practice of keeping still in the face of urgent impulses to harmfully impose our will upon others or situations strengthens willpower. An impulsive reaction agitates an emotional turmoil that compels us to act in harmful ways. If we recognize an emotional reaction threatens to subvert our will to further life on Earth and then stop ourselves from acting upon it, we have strengthened our willpower. When we choose not to do what our harmful conditioning wants us to do, we have strengthened our will further life on Earth. Much of the work we do to stop our harmful ways comes from the power of our willful nonaction.

A strong will can break harmful habits, overcome our reluctance to change, exercise patience when angered, and move us to do the harder but right thing to do. We need a strong will to break our complicity with a harmful culture's inequality and the privileges we enjoy gained from crimes against the sacred Earth Interbeing. Every time we overcome what harms life and Earth, we have renewed and strengthened our will. With a strong will, we perseveringly choose to live in ways that further life on Earth.

The wise do not imagine that we can at once and for all time extinguish our willingness to harm; thus, we remain vigilant. Throughout the path of learning how to live our sacredness, ever more subtle impulses to harm spring forth to challenge the power of our will. We may not always succeed in catching them early. Then, we simply increase our vigilance by discerning the motives of the choices we make, whether they further our self-benefit or life on Earth. Every time we prevent the loss of will power by acting harmfully, the

¹ **Ways of sacredness to further the wellbeing of life on Earth (work in progress):** devotion to the sacred by furthering the wellbeing of life on Earth; living the sacredness and moral interdependence of life and Earth; compassionately responding to the moral obligation of interdependence to respond to suffering of life; surrendering to the sacred will to know how to respond to suffering of life; equality of mutually beneficial and harmonious interactions; equality of equitable sharing of Earth's abundance; preserving a balance living within a world of change and our sacredness; willingness to make the effort to do the harder but right thing to do.

power of our will increases, which becomes available to overcoming other harms and practicing living sacredness.

Removing what harms and learning the ways of sacredness is a solitary path. Only we can change ourselves. Efforts to correct or convert others do not work as we do not have the power to change others. Trying to do so requires us to impose our ignorant will upon others and situations, which causes harm and danger. We come to the path of life on our own. Others may not understand us or speak ill of us. Yet if we persevere in parting from what harms we will keep moving toward living our sacredness and knowing the sacredness of all.

Living the path of sacredness teaches us to strengthen our resolve to discipline ourselves and to bring to life the sacredness of our being. The grueling and arduous work to overcome our willingness to harm for self-benefit expands our awareness of our sacredness. Recovering innate sacredness supports the work of our will. As we overcome our willingness to harm others through self-discipline, our work to further life on Earth further reveals itself. Through our holy work in the world, we will to live our sacredness.

In these ways, we come to align our lives with the ways of sacredness. As we perseveringly strengthen our will to further life on Earth, our will becomes indistinguishable from the sacred will for us to further life on Earth. We become like the Earth, without a purpose beyond the sacred purpose. Through surrendering our self-will to the sacred will, we flow harmoniously with the sacred Earth Interbeing to further life on Earth within the sacred field of an interdependent reality.

Our will becomes the means through which we penetrate our sacredness to flow with the sacred will to further life on Earth. We bring back to the world the living waters of our holy work to slake the thirst of all beings to live their sacredness and further life on Earth.

Line 1: The strong line wants to advance, but dangerous obstacles prevent it. The line firmly refrains itself from acting to avoid wasting its power on what it cannot change and causing harm. It allows experience to unfold without its interference.

Line 2: The line willingly accepts the sacred knowing to stop itself from moving against harmful forces it does not have the capacities to overcome. Instead, it strengthens its capacities by living the ways of sacredness.

Line 3: Harmful ways and views separate the line from the sacred and its sacredness. It perseveres in overcoming its harmful ways and views to uncover its sacredness. In this way it recovers its sacredness and prepares itself for the knowing of how to further life on Earth.

Line 4: The line matures in its capacities to stop itself from acting on harmful impulses. With this powerful skill, it can immediately and easily stop harmful urges as they arise.

Line 5: Living sacredness weakens the line's harmful behaviors and views. Though the line may still feel on occasion the willingness to harm for self-benefit, the willingness to act upon the urge dwindles.

Line 6: The line has overcome its willingness to harm others and now lives the ways of sacredness. It pours its powers into the sacred will through its holy work to further life on Earth and experiences the blessings of the sacred.