

Hexagram 37 Family of Life



Family of life.

Nurturing ways of yielding and caring.

Image Tradition

Family of life.

Yielding to the sacred ways within.

Strength in caring for others.

The sacred purpose and Earth's receptivity, indeed.

The family of life obediently live the ways of sacredness.

Each being fulfilling their responsibilities to the sacred, others, and the Earth.

Living the path of harmony and equitable sharing as equal interbeings.

Holding to the ways of sacredness within and on Earth.

Structure: Above, nurturing (trigram ☴), below caring (trigram ☷). Nurturing of caring.

Images of ideograms. Household: roof and pig or dog, the most valued domestic animals living under the same roof with the family. **Personhood:** individually and collectively.

Within an interdependent reality, all life lives as interbeings, as a family. All beings know their sacredness and that of all life. Life fulfills the purpose and moral obligation the sacred gave to life – to further life on Earth by caring for each other and the Earth. To survive within an interdependent reality, life could have no greater purpose or moral principle. Life survives within an interdependent reality by caring for each other.

While life wants to survive, some ignorantly choose to survive in self-centered ways. They have the willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit and ignore the suffering they cause. Violations of the sacred ways have consequences since we not only harm others and the Earth, but ourselves as well in degrading the conditions for life on Earth.¹

The sacred ways weave the ways of caring into life. The sacred family of the Earth Interbeing depends on one another for our mutual survival and well-being, the glue that keeps us together. We yield to the sacred command in the ways the Earth yields to the sacred will to manifest what the sacred causes. We yield to the sacred knowing of how to bring the sacred ways of caring to life.

Caring depends upon us getting along with others and equitably sharing the bounty of the Earth, which deepens over time. We transform our self-centered view to perceiving our interdependence. The family upholds the sacred command to further life on Earth by caring for others. We get along

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.

with each other by respecting our equality and interdependence. We equitably share by knowing our common neediness, mutual care, and alleviating suffering. We live simply for others to simply live.

Beings respect the equality of others. Diversity only makes the Interbeing family stronger. Differences abound within a family, but individual's talents and gifts do not give one power over others or make one more special than others. The willingness to understand and learn from others comes from valuing others and knowing that everyone belongs and has a voice. Strong families harmonize and celebrate their differences.

As a family, we focus on fulfilling our responsibilities within our interactions. Actions have consequences for the actor and the cosmos. All beings have responsibility for their actions and make amends for any harm inflicted on others. When ignorant or confused, we do not act despite great inner urges to do so. We discipline ourselves to live the sacred ways and to resist self-centered behaviors and views. We obey the sacred will rather than our will or that of others.

We gladly yield to the sacred will of how to live on Earth with other beings as we know our well-being depends upon the well-being of all life and the Earth. We belong to the family of life .

Line 1: Within the interbeing family, beings center on the sacred Earth Interbeing and adhere to its sacred ways, the rules of being and the family. All beings steadily keep their will on further life on Earth by caring for others and extinguishing all causes for repentance.

Line 2: Life has no purpose other than its survival by caring for others within an interdependent reality. We further life on Earth by perseveringly nurturing the ways of sacredness.

Line 3: To preserve life on Earth, beings need the inner balance between firm discipline to resist what harms and indulging wants and desires. Too severe discipline leads to remorse. Yet in instances when behaviors compromise the balance and harmony of the family, we each distance ourselves from the ways of a harmful culture and firmly correct our harmful views and behaviors to further life on Earth. We cultivate the willingness to do the harder but right thing to do.

Line 4: The sacred bestows great blessings upon those who devotedly care for the Earth Interbeing and who cause the family of life to thrive.

Line 5: The sage imagines all life living as a sacred interbeing. The family of life depends upon beings caring for one another and mutual feelings of affection within interactions.

Line 6: Each being has the responsibility to live the ways of sacredness, which encourages others to do the same. The line does not look to others to do this work for it. It overcomes its self-centeredness and willingness to harm others for self-benefit. It perceives the sacredness of others and the interdependence of all life on Earth.