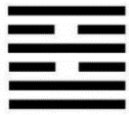


Hexagram 38 – Opposition



*Opposition.
Small affairs meaningful.*

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

Structure:

- Knowing above ☲; harmonious 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 differences in our views, especially our views of situations over which we have no influence. When entangled in opposing views, we move into disharmony with the other and perhaps even conflict. Each defends their position because they want to prove they know better than the other.

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 The sacred unity of life flows out of interdependence.

Every being has unique gifts with which the sacred has endowed them. Like a puzzle, all life fits interdependently within a sacred unity. We could not complete the sacred puzzle without the unique gifts each being brings to life. 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.

When we know our common sacredness, equality, and interdependence, the need arises for a bridge to harmoniously interacting with others. Opposition need not become a permanent condition if we view it more of a challenge than a disaster.

We interact within the sphere of what we know we already have in common by focusing on the small and ordinary experiences and challenges of daily life over which we have some influence. Learning about the lives of others deepens our appreciation and respect for them. Hearing the views of others about a mutual problem helps solve the problem. Instead of trying to convert others to our view, we appreciate their perspectives. Inwardly, we renounce our conditioned views of external differences as markers of worthiness.

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.

Bridging opposition to harmoniously interact is a natural interdependent process. Harmonious interactions allow us to mutually appreciate each other and to solve our mutual problems and difficulties of life. All life has unique differences, but we have a common sacredness and interdependent purpose to further life on Earth. Our inner connection of sacredness prevails over superficial differences and estrangements. Perceiving differences as gifts furthers life on Earth.

Throughout the bridging process, we refrain from imposing our will and open to curiosity, the wanting to learn from the other and the situation. The structure of the hexagram points to how to overcome opposition. The lower trigram has the attribute of the joy of learning from each others, which brings us into fellowship. The upper trigram signifies the wisdom of responding to the suffering of others by removing the ways we cause suffering and alleviating the suffering of others.

Learning about the uniqueness of others and the urge to reduce suffering 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 flows 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, equality, interdependence, and wanting to live. 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.

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 from knowing what to do to further life on Earth. Unexpectedly, the line receives sacred knowing and willingly obeys despite the challenges it faces 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 bridges its disharmony with others and situations by knowing our common sacredness, equality, interdependence, and urge to live.

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.