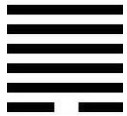


Hexagram 44 – Overcoming Harmful Temptations



Overcoming harmful temptations.

Powerful attraction to harm for self-benefit.

No benefit from seizing what powerfully attracts.

Structure: One weak line enters from the bottom and seeks to dissolve the integrity of the above strong lines.

Meaning of ideogram: driven encounter, compelled by primal instinctual forces, fusion of Yin and Yang; meet, encounter, associate with; mating; magnetism, gravity; be gripped by impersonal forces.

We remain vulnerable to acting upon harmful ways and views we have yet to master. Through our vulnerability, harmful temptations arise which seduce us to indulge them. They seem so inviting and harmless. Temptations gain power only because we do not regard them as dangerous. We willingly act upon them. Most temptation we can easily nip in the bud because of their triviality. Yet others endanger our sacred path to further life on Earth. Harming for self-benefit overpowers sacredness as the decider of what we do. Succumbing to temptations degrades the sacred path.

If resisted from the first, temptations would never gain influence over us. Receiving this hexagram warns us that a harmful temptation moves us to act in ways contrary to furthering life on Earth. If we have the willpower to pause before leaping into danger, we can penetrate with understanding our powerful attraction to what harms and discern the harms we would cause others, the Earth, and our sacred path if we acted upon misguided intentions. Not acting on temptation avoids danger even if in small ways. We encounter the sacred within the small.

Most attractions further life on Earth. Our innate sacredness attracts us to live its ways to further life on Earth.¹ Beings attract each other to mutually and beneficially interact as equals within the unity of the Earth Interbeing. The suffering of others draws us to care for them.

We need to discern whether an attraction draws us to harm or to sacredness. Sometimes a temptation dresses itself up as what would further life on Earth but would do the opposite, as when we manipulatively impose our will upon another to obtain a desired outcome. However, temptations identify themselves through their sense of urgency. Temptations drive us to act upon them immediately. They feel like an external forces pushing us to act to relieve the distress of our confusion and sense of emergency. We experience temptations within an emotional turmoil because even when strongly drawn to them, we know indulging them will harm us, others, and our sacred path. The sacred attracts us within sacred time, the eternal now, like the enduring attraction of gravity. The wise never act when emotionally confused.

Even if we do succumb to a temptation and suffer the consequences and humiliation, we can still learn from our mistake by considering what made us so vulnerable to fall for it. We can see through what

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.

appeared to us as an emergency to discover the motivation, the primal energy driving the temptation. When we can connect the temptation with avoided vulnerabilities, we have identified a blind spot and work on remedying it, such as our passive indulgence of privileges derived from a legacy of generational harms.

The sacred attracts to our sacredness through our faults. While we cannot change the past, others, or our culture, we can strengthen our resolves to resist temptations and remedy the consequences of causing suffering. We can learn from our mistakes.

When we do refrain from acting upon a temptation, we rebalance ourselves by simply resting within the flow of the unfolding of processes furthering life on Earth. Because we rescued ourselves from harming others and the Earth, we have nothing to do except experience the joy and gratitude for our sacredness and for the opportunities to further life on Earth.

Learning how to manage temptations is a gradual process. Our mastery grows each time we resist them successfully. Temptations will overpower us, but we learn from our failures how to do better next time. We learn the power of nonaction in managing temptations and more confidently part from what harms and yield to sacred knowing of what to do. As we become more vigilant against temptations, we disrupt them sooner so that eventually our temptations become passing waves rather than tsunamis.

On the path we seek to preserve our capacities to live within the sacred now, to accept and compassionately respond to whatever suffering we encounter in life. By avoiding inner emotional turmoil, we remain calmly centered on the sacred. When confused or emotionally charged, we do not act but allow ourselves and the situations to unfold without our interference until we know what to do in ways aligned with our values and purpose to further life on Earth. We view temptations as patterned emotional waves that rise and then fall apart and cease. In the depths, everything becomes law.

Line 1: The line renounces temptation immediately and chains itself to its sacredness. Its early response avoids the temptation growing stronger and overwhelming the line's resistance.

Line 2: The line pours its energies into stopping the advance of a harmful temptation. It serves as the threshold guardian to protect its sacred path to further life on Earth from the degradation caused by the willingness to harm. It resists firmly but harmoniously to avoid activating wanting to harm.

Line 3: The line did not take seriously the dangers of a temptation and delayed stopping it. As the temptation has strengthened, the weakened line must choose between acting upon an increasingly urgent desire or thwarting a strong desire by renouncing it, an unsatisfactory situation.

Line 4: The line flees from difficult situations to avoid coping with the stresses they evoke, the temptation of denial. The line fails to perceive the fault It projects unto others as its own and corrects others rather than itself, thus alienating others. Neglecting responsibility retards spiritual growth.

Line 5: The line relies on the ways of sacredness to transform harmful temptations into what furthers life on Earth. It allows the tempting situation to unfold and ripen on its own without acting upon it or resistance. It comes to see the sacred within what seems evoking compassion.

Line 6: The line impatiently meets the approach of temptation harshly. Although not the way of sacredness as its precludes harmonizing, the line incurs no fault.