

Hexagram 58 – Harmonious Interactions



Harmonious Interactions.

Harmonizing. Furthering life on Earth. Responding to suffering.

Structure: Doubling of trigram ☵, harmonious Interactions. Inner strength with outward gentleness.

Image of ideogram: mouth and vapor, communication of speech.

Meanings of ideogram: harmonious, pleasant, easy, responsive, free, unhindered; promoting interaction and interpenetration; opening, passage; the mouth; exchange, barter; straight, direct; meet, gather; place where water gathers. **Action of trigram:** rouse to action and good feelings, stimulate; urge, stir-up; exhort, persuade, say, relate; cheer, delight; joyous, peaceful; exchanging words.

Beings are interdependent, responsive, and entangled with one another. Good feelings make it possible for beings to interact in harmonious and mutually beneficial ways with each other and with the Earth. When we have good feelings, we forget the difficulties of our work. Good feelings allow us to confront great dangers and hardships, dispelling despair and dread. Good feelings encourage us to do the harder but right thing to do. The sacred encourages life to hold to the sacred ways through our sacredness.¹

The sacred furthers the diversity of interdependent life on Earth by causing the equality of life, out of which the unity of Great Harmony arises. The reality of interdependence has no hierarchy of who has power over whom or has more worthiness than others. Mutually beneficial interactions depend upon mutual respect, common neediness, and the good feelings among equals. Just as in a great choir, many voices harmonize into one. The joy of harmonizing with life lifts us into interbeing.

We practice harmonizing with others within our ordinary, daily interactions and begin by removing what obstructs our having good feelings for another. If we do not feel safe within a relationship, then we may need to distance ourselves from it. However, most relationships within a harmful culture reflect the norms of that culture: self-centeredness, the willingness to harm for self-benefit, and ignoring the suffering of others. Interbeings center on cultivating the conditions that further harmonious interactions – stopping ourselves from harming others and caring for others. The practice of interacting harmoniously does not depend upon others doing it with us. We change ourselves by persistently choosing to respond to others harmoniously. We will get it wrong many times, but we learn from our mistakes. In our hearts we cultivate our sacredness and the resolve to interact with gentle kindness.

When despair within a relationship overtakes us, good feelings elude us. The practice of gratitude opens to joy. We have gratitude for others and how they have benefited us. We rejoice that we have daily opportunities to pour all our life energy into furthering life on Earth. Opportunities for having and sharing good feelings present themselves all the time. When we resonate with the sacred through yielding to the sacred ways and interacting beneficially with others, we experience good feelings. A quiet, wordless, self-contained joy rests contentedly with everything.

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.

Life learns. Mutual good feelings open into learning from each other and solving problems. We learn how to interbe from interbeings. Learning from each other satisfies a deep joy of penetrating our ignorance. Without goods feelings, we cannot learn.

We measure the effectiveness of our practice by looking at our experience of others and our mood. By us persistently responding to others with good feelings, our experience of our relationships becomes more pleasurable. Good feelings for others lighten our hearts and give us a buoyancy that allows us to persist in the sacred ways in times of confusion and turmoil. Joy for the sacred ways reenergize us and lifts us up out of despair into knowing what to do. Joy gives us the power to overcome whatever separates us from others and the sacred Earth Interbeing. Good feelings transform the conditioned reactive feelings of discontent with the circumstances of our lives into wanting to further life on Earth. Whatever comes up, we remain calm and respond with a glad mind, willingly bearing the inevitable difficulties of life in ways that benefit all. Good feelings grow strong relationships and make great efforts possible.

Caring for others and furthering life on Earth also depends upon beings having good feelings for one another. With good feelings, we yield to the sacred and interbe, the Earth Interbeing. Those who harmonize with others and the sacred ways fit, tune, and adapt to others, circumstances, and however the sacred limits us. Interbeings get along with others and where the sacred has planted us. True joy comes from living our sacredness and harmonizing with the sacred.

The deeper our devotions to the ways of sacredness, the greater our joy in living our sacredness and doing our sacred work. We move with the flow of life within the flowing cosmos rather than standing above and outside it. The sacred causes life to harmonize to move as one toward the unity of the Earth Interbeing, the Great Harmony.

The path of self-cherishing provides us pleasures and comforts. On the sacred path, we bear the burden of doing the harder but right thing to do, but we have the joy of furthering and caring for life and Earth.

Line 1: The line harmoniously interacts with others and situations. It confidently moves in harmony with spiritual influence. Its joy arises from an inner strength in and outward humbleness.

Line 2: The line's inner being and behavior harmonize with the sacred ways. The line finds pleasure and no regrets in furthering life on Earth in ways that benefit all, the trustworthy purpose.

Line 3: The self-centered line wants others and the world to please it and willingly harms others to have its way. If it persistently refuses to change its harmful views and ways, the line will never have enduring joy as it focuses on ever-changing circumstances to give it pleasure.

Line 4: The line has no joy as it cannot decisively choose between the temptations of seductive pleasures and harmonizing with others, circumstances, and the ways of sacredness. Consulting the oracle for guidance possesses the joy of knowing what to do.

Line 5: Worldly concerns tempt the line to indulge the hopes and fears of its self-centeredness. The line correctly resists what would harm.

Line 6: This hexagram ends with the self-centered line helplessly wanting ever more pleasures from others and the world.