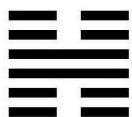


Hexagram 62 Small Exceeding



The small exceeding.

Sacred influence.

Benefit from persevering in furthering life on Earth.

Capable of small in affairs.

Incapable of great affairs.

The flying bird abandons its nest and calls.

Not proper above, proper below.

Furthering life on Earth, wisdom.

Meanings of Ideogram: **Small** – little, common, unimportant; adapting to what crosses one's path; ability to move in harmony with the difficulties of life; contrasts with the great. **Exceeding** – go beyond, pass by, pass over; surpass, transgress; error, fault, calamity.

Structure: Weak lines on the outside, strong lines within. The structure of the hexagram suggests a flying bird. With hunters nearby, the wise bird protectively stays near its nestlings to avoid capture. The foolish bird abandons its nest, calling out as it flies higher, bringing to it the attention of hunters.

Beings only have the power to change ourselves, not others. However, we influence others and situations as a causal condition, one among many. The more local and immediate, the stronger our influence becomes as a causal condition. We influence through how we choose to respond to others and experience within the moment.

In a harmful culture, we want to righteously confront and change the ways of that culture. However, we have no power over a larger system in which we are a part because of its incomprehensible complexity of entangled causal conditions. While we do contribute to causing the harmfulness of a culture in which we are part, we have vanishingly little influence to directly change it. We go too far, isolating ourselves by soaring beyond our capacities. We reap the damaging consequence of the harmful culture willingly harming us and others to protect itself.

Before we can realize the power of our influence, we first overcome our conditioned belief that we must harm those who harm us, that only anger and extremism will do. We learn how to respond to others humbly and to not impose our will harm upon others and situations.

Small exceeding points to the sacred theory of change. We change ourselves in small ways toward a desired end over time, the small exceeding. We overcome harmful habitual behaviors by choosing to respond differently to what triggers the harmful response, disrupting the pattern.

Each moment of change exceeds the last step in a small but incremental way, avoiding extremes and persevering in the ways of sacredness.¹ Every moment of experience offers us the opportunity to change our harmful ways and views. We come to see the sacred moving within the moments of our lives.

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.

Transformation from one willing to harm others for self-benefit into an interbeing depends upon a sacred process. The gradual accumulation of small incremental changes reduces our faults and increases learning the ways of sacredness. Suddenly we find ourselves living like an interbeing, the sacred transformation.

Changing the choices we make to further life on Earth within our daily life changes our influence as a causal condition, influencing others to choose to do the same. Slowly, what people consider normal moves toward furthering life on Earth. Through these small incremental and accumulated changes over generations, the world of people will suddenly find itself living as an interbeing, the sacred transformation.

Through our faults and mistakes, we learn how to live on Earth with other beings. We take one small moment of changing ourselves after the next, always depending upon the guidance of our sacredness and its ways. Through our seriousness of purpose to further life on Earth and unqualified reliability, we unconsciously influence others.

Those living in a harmful culture ground ourselves in imposing our will upon others to have our way and ignore the suffering we cause. It will take time and experience in living the ways of sacredness for us to finally accept the ways of small exceeding as the certain path to furthering life on Earth and to living as an interbeing. The sacred transforms life into interbeings. We come to the sacred in the moment.

Line 1: The weak line obstinately wants to assert itself. By ignoring what obstructs it, it harms itself and others. When urgency and self-righteousness predominate, the line goes beyond small exceeding.

Line 2: The wise line yields to the ways of sacredness with the humility of a devoted servant. It subordinates its will to a deeper source of wisdom. The sacred does not lead us but moves with us when we choose to respond in ways that further life on Earth.

Line 3: The wise understand that they have the responsibility to closely and cautiously attend to small and insignificant things. They remain wary of unforeseen dangers. However, this arrogant line considers caution petty and defiantly seeks to punish those who have hurt it, ignorant of how its conditioning pushes it to act in ways contrary to its best interests. Its self-confidence deludes it and makes the line vulnerable to unforeseen danger.

Line 4: The line responds in the ways of small exceeding and meets the needs of the situation. It then properly waits for the consequences of its response to unfold on their own without its further interference. The line serves as a warning against further acting upon a situation to which we have already responded as it would serve to impose our will on it.

Line 5: The line humbly accepts its authority to act only in the ways of small exceeding and to depend upon its inner sacredness as a guide through its confusion and ignorance of how to live on Earth in ways that benefit all.

Line 6: The bird abandons its nest and gets caught by the hunters. Bold movement does not accord with the ways of small exceeding. The line's excessive actions go too far beyond the norm. The line loses its path, abandons those in its care, and draws down disaster upon itself.