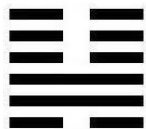


## Hexagram 46 – Ascension



*Ascension*

*Sacred. Growing.*

*Perceiving sacredness.*

*No fear.*

*True principles and decisions: discipline important.*

**Structure:** Grounding below ☷. Yielding above ☶☶.

**Meaning of Ideogram:** Ascend, rise; climb step by step, offer a sacrifice.

The ideogram literally means the stage of ascension during distillation, a process of heating used to separate alcoholic vapor from fermented solids. Ascension on the sacred path frees our sacredness from harmful ways and views, which obstruct living sacredness and furthering life on Earth.

The sacred path to furthering life on Earth depends upon us preparing ourselves to live our sacredness to further life on Earth. As in most spiritual paths, we begin by removing the harmful cultural conditioning that urges us to willingly harm others and the Earth for self-benefit. We must overcome our self-centeredness, the will to have power over others, and our resistance to changing ourselves. As we free ourselves of what harms, we begin to perceive our sacredness and to practice its ways, grounding ourselves in our work to further life on Earth.<sup>1</sup>

In the transition to living sacredness and becoming an Earth interbeing, a battle takes place between our will to have power over others and yielding to the sacred will. In this battle, we must confront and transform those conditioned aspects of ourselves that we have up to this point avoided – belief in our superiority, our willingness to harm for self-benefit, our wanting to have power over others and situations, our ignorance, and all the other ways that drive the devastation of life on Earth.

This hexagram describes the successful outcome of yielding to the sacred will, a necessary step in the path if we want to further life on Earth. In preparing to take this step, we become virtuosos in overcoming what harms by repetitively practicing surrendering ourselves to the sacred will and living sacredness. However, we can never ignorantly presume that we have completed the process of ascending but must always remain on guard against what harms.

In surrendering to the sacred will, we flow with sacred movements without resistance to achieve the sacred will. Yielding to the sacred moving our lives deepens along with our capacities to live the ways of sacredness. When we yield to the ways of sacredness, we respond to the needs of the moment, allow our experience of life to unfold without our interference, alleviate the suffering of life and Earth,

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<sup>1</sup> **Ways of sacredness:** worshipping the sacred by how we live within an interdependent reality to further life on Earth; living the sacredness and moral interdependence of life and Earth; fulfilling our moral obligation to respond to the suffering of others and all life; surrendering to the sacred will what to do; the equality of mutually beneficial interactions; the equality of equitable sharing of Earth's abundance; keeping still when ignorant; willingness to make the effort to do the harder but right thing to do.

part from our harmful views and behaviors, and rest within the sacred, our refuge. We respond to whatever arises in caring ways and with good feelings.

Difficulties and dangers will cause us sorrow and distress in our efforts to live as an interbeing and further life on Earth, but we deeply know the need for us to do so. As we learn to live our sacredness, we overcome what separates us from interbeing and come to know with greater clarity our need to ascend what keeps us apart from the sacred and to learn the uniting ways of sacredness.

Life constantly offers us opportunities to further our sacred path of furthering life on Earth. However, most harmfully conditioned people dismiss or ignore their sacred responsibilities to others, all life, and the Earth. Those on the sacred path to further life on Earth must struggle against our deep ignorance and unwillingness to give up self-benefits, our wanting power over others and situations. We ascend from these and other obstacles. Eventually, we come to know and live the equality and the sacredness of all life on Earth and confidently take the path's next grounding step to further life on Earth.

**Line 1:** The line devotedly ascends toward sacredness. It unites as an interbeing with all life and the Earth to fulfill the sacred command to further life on Earth.

**Line 2:** The line, without fault, lives the ways of sacredness and joyfully dedicates its life to furthering life on Earth, the sacred purpose.

**Line 3:** The strong line confidently yields to the sacred will and opens to living its sacredness. All obstacles have fallen away, which might cause doubts, but as the opportunity accords with the sacred time, the line has no fear and takes full advantage of this sacred blessing.

**Line 4:** The line reaches the step of the sacred path in which it no longer has ambitions apart from the sacred will. It furthers life on Earth through living its sacredness.

**Line 5:** The sacred path ascends gradually, one step at a time. The line guards against becoming intoxicated with its success on the path and remains humble. It takes each step as it comes and thoroughly masters the lesson the step presents to deepen its knowing of how to further life on Earth.

**Line 6:** On the path, when the ascending line does not know what to do, it stops to discern the way forward. Otherwise, it would ignorantly take a misstep and experience misfortune. The line pauses and perseveringly investigates what obstructs it. It yields to the sacred knowing of how to overcome obstructing harmful ways and views through the ways of sacredness.