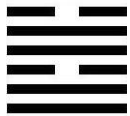


Hexagram 58 – Way of Mutually Beneficial Interactions



*Mutually beneficial interactions.
Harmonizing. Sharing. Caring.*

Structure: Doubling of trigram ☵, harmonious Interactions. **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.

The sacred causes life on Earth to live within an interdependent reality and to have the urge to live, to survive. By necessity, life has the purpose to further life on Earth through harmonious beneficial interactions, equitable sharing of the Earth's abundance, and the moral obligation to respond to the suffering of others. Only when we have a moral understanding of our interdependence do we have the courage to take on the suffering of others as our own.

Actions stimulate a response. Responses stimulate an action. Beings do not initiate their own independent actions but rather respond to the what others, circumstances, the moment call them to do. We interact with other beings but do not impose upon them what we want. Others respond to our needs. In mutually beneficial interaction, beings share and care for others, and others share and care what we need.

Cultures of domination manipulate others to achieve what the more powerful want. We learn to view others as a threat to our freedom to do so. An unequal interaction gives those with more power the capacity to interfere on an arbitrary basis in certain choices that the other is in the position to make for themselves, the definition of domination. In unequal interactions, the more powerful take without giving back and ignore the suffering of others.

The more equality we have with others, the less we would reject those we consider lower than us or try to please those we view as our superiors. Within mutually beneficial interactions, beings have no power over others. We have the power to choose to harmoniously respond to the needs of others as an equal among equals. We have the power and responsibility to change our oppressive ways and views.

Beneficially responding to others within an interaction requires an awareness of the circumstances and uniqueness of the other to know how to respond in ways that care for their needs and furthers them. Thus, we respond differently according to the other and its situation.

We never lose the integrity of our own uniqueness in the process of responding. Moreover, in responding to another, we safeguard the integrity of others to make choices they have the capacity to make on their

own. Responding in the ways of sacredness provides a path to do that.¹ Our response to the need of another exerts a moral influence on the other. By not telling them what to do, we avoid imposing our will upon them. They may come to want to respond to the needs of others. When we do not know how to respond in ways that further the other, we turn to the oracle for guidance.

Because of their uniqueness, every being has their own understanding of sacredness and gifts they have received. Thus, we remain open to the moral influence of others to deepen our understanding of sacredness and its ways. Others have their own view of reality and life, which expands our view. Having diverse views gives us a clearer understanding of how to solve common problems. We influence others and others influence us.

Mutually beneficial interactions depend upon us having good feelings for each other. We have good feelings when others care for and further our well-being in kind ways. Thus, we choose to respond to others with others and all beings in kind and caring ways, in ways that harmonize with living in an interdependent reality.

Responding to the needs of others and the moment with good feelings roots itself in sacredness, the furthering of others through living our sacredness. Letting go of what we want frees us to open to the needs and situation of the other and harmoniously respond with care and kindness. Within mutually caring and kind relationships, we recover what we thought we lost forever, a way of living on Earth with other beings who kindly care for each other and encourage each other to further life on Earth. We transform ourselves into interbeings.

Line 1: The humble line harmoniously interacts with others and situations. It confidently yields to the guidance of the sacred influence.

Line 2: The line's inner being and behavior harmonize with the sacred ways. The line lives the ways of sacred. All causes for repenting disappear.

Line 3: The distractions and concerns of the world overwhelm the line. It focuses on ever-changing external circumstances to give it pleasure and ignores its life having an inner direction.

Line 4: The line cannot decisively choose between the pleasures of worldly concerns or responding to the needs of others. Consulting the oracle for guidance in what to do possesses joy and blessings.

Line 5: Worldly concerns tempt the line to indulge the hopes and fears of its self-centeredness, which would weaken its resolve. The line correctly resists indulging its harmful ways and views.

Line 6: This hexagram ends with the self-centered line helplessly wanting ever more pleasures from others and the world. It lacks the will to respond to the suffering of others.

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.