

Hexagram 7 – Disciplining the Will

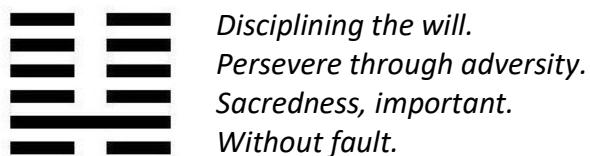


Image: Scattered elements brought together into a functional unit around a worthy center.

Ideogram: heap and whole, turn confusion into a functional unit. **Meanings of Ideogram:** master; organize, make functional; take as model, imitate, follow; army, troops; leader, general.

Structure: Earth above ☷, receptive, yielding. Water below ☵, dangerous. Danger inside and devotion outside.

Every being has the responsibility to further life on Earth by disciplining itself to live the ways of sacredness.¹ Out of myriad beings harmoniously living their sacredness emerges the Earth Interbeing. By self-correcting our ways and views that endanger the Earth Interbeing, we safeguard life on Earth. The process of disciplining our will transforms us into interbeings.

When we stray from our life purpose to further life on Earth and center on what benefits us as an individual, we have the willingness to harm others, life, and Earth for self-benefit by imposing our will upon them and then ignore the suffering we cause. We want power over others to dominate and oppress them to get what we want. When others dominate and oppress us, we experience the suffering of domination and oppression. In different situations, we dominate others and ignore the suffering we cause them.

People have evolved with a deeply embedded urge to have power over others, life and the Earth by imposing our will upon them. Harmful cultures cultivate this urge. We may not identify as an oppressor until we catch ourselves exercising the privileges of the powerful. Our undisciplined urge to impose our will on others, life, and Earth way has brought us to the cusp of extinction of life on Earth.

Thus, those on the sacred path discipline their will. Because of its deep roots within our evolution and cultures, we have great difficulties in uprooting our will for power over others. Ignorance underlies this urge for power. Oppressors ignorantly believe they know best what to do and arrogantly soar above all obstacles to have their way. They ignore the ways of sacredness as they consider them useless in getting what they want.

We reset the compass of our will. The will does whatever increases our chances to survival – the will to live. Within a harmful culture, the will learns that harming others leads to survival within the culture. When we deeply understand that the harmful ways of our culture endanger the survival of life on Earth

¹ **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.

and that to survive, we must learn how to live harmoniously on Earth with other beings, then we move our will to furthering survival by overcoming what harms and living sacredness.

Our will gradually resets itself after a long learning process of discerning what harms and what furthers life on Earth. We will experience much difficulty and suffering caused by our resistance to changing the direction of our will, which we come to accept as part of the process. As it resets, we strengthen the power of our will to stop us from imposing our will upon others and situations. At some point, imposing our will on others loses its automaticity, that we now have the willpower to pause before acting upon the urge, giving us time to consider what truly will serve the needs of the moment and resist harming others for self-benefit. We remain ever vigilant for the ignorant urge to impose our will upon others and situations and disempower it immediately once again.

Without a strong will to further life on Earth, we would give up the struggle to subdue the urge to have power over others. Yet we persevere in correcting our will by overcoming how we harm life and Earth and by learning how to interbe. Sacred knowing of how to live our sacredness gives us the needed support to do this holy work. A strong disciplined will opens to yielding to and obeying the sacred leading us in this holy work that transforms us into interbeings and furthers life on Earth. In our every choice and response, we firmly resolve to live sacredness.

Line 1: One needs a strong disciplined will to successfully subdue the willingness to harm for self-benefit. A disciplined will adheres to the ways of sacredness to further life on Earth and yields to the sacred knowing of how to proceed against harmful ways and views. Otherwise, we cannot overcome what harms and obstructs our knowing what to do, and we will experience defeat.

Line 2: Centering on sacredness provides the model towards which to strive and brings the line in harmony with the sacred. The sacred bestows blessings upon the line and moves through the line to do holy work within the world that benefits the wellbeing of Earth and all life.

Line 3: Acting in ways that do not align with the ways of sacredness causes harm and even more danger.

Line 4: In the face of an overwhelming danger beyond its capacity to respond in ways that further life on Earth, the line correctly retreats to avoid defeat and disarray. This blameless retreat does not reflect the qualities of the line but the situation. The retreat protects the greater effort.

Line 5: The opportunity arises to remove what harms. The disciplined will, centered on the sacred, adheres to its mission to further life on Earth and succeeds. The undisciplined fail, creating more harm and danger, as they do not have the will to overcome what harms.

Line 6: The struggle against what harms has ended successfully, and the line now knows how it can best serve to further life on Earth. The line remains vigilant to the inevitable emergence of its willingness to harm others and the Earth. The line disrupts such urges immediately to preserve the balance and harmony it has recovered.