

Hexagram 25 – Without Self-Will



Without self-will.

Wholeness of sacredness.

Ignorantly not acting in the ways of sacredness causes harm.

No benefit from willfully imposing direction on life and Earth.

Structure: Sacred above ☵. Action below ☷. Acting in sacred ways.

Image Tradition

Without self-will.

The sacred comes within and activates sacredness.

That persistently moves life in sacred ways.

The sacred harmonizes life with sacredness by means of correcting.

Direction of life belongs to the sacred.

Willfully imposing own ways causes harm.

No benefit from imposing own direction upon life.

When one does not live sacredness, where can one go?

When the will of the sacred does not protect, can one do anything?

The letting-go of self-will opens to living sacredness and furthering life on Earth. When we finally surrender to the sacred will, the sacred enters our lives and activates our sacredness, represented by the first line of the hexagram. Without a will of our own or a purpose other than furthering life on Earth, the sacred guides us into living sacredness and fulfilling the purpose of our lives, of all life.

Through a long and arduous process, we have come to harmonize our life with the sacred ways and purpose by overcoming our harmful ways and views. The wanting to impose our will upon others and the Earth stands as the last obstacle to living sacredness. Our deeply entrenched conditioned willfulness to have our way strongly resists surrendering to the sacred will and the ways of sacredness to further life on Earth.¹

Imposing our will for self-benefit harms others, life, and the Earth. Nobody benefits from forcefully making others and things more to our liking as the suffering such an effort causes harms us as well within an interdependent reality. Cultures that do not live in ways that further life on Earth cause Earth destruction and immiseration of life. Living in ways contrary to the ways of sacredness fully exposes us to consequences of our action. When we have removed the sacred from our lives and ignore the necessity to further life on Earth, our lives decay, as represented by hexagram 12, ☵.

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.

The hexagram describes an outcome, which those conditioned by harmful cultures find difficult to achieve. Yet if we persevere in moving toward yielding to the sacred, we put in motion a direction in our lives, a tendency. We receive no support from cultures that promote inequality, self-benefit, competition, violence, and which ignore the suffering of life and Earth. The struggle comes down to the choice between our willingness to harm others for self-benefit or to surrender to the sacred ways that further life on Earth.

Lines 2 and 3 of hexagram 11 (䷶) instruct those who yield their will to the sacred how to live.

Bear the ignorant with gentleness and kindness.

Have the resolve to overcome whatever separates us from other beings and the sacred.

Extinguish our harmful ways and views.

Put an end to belief in our superiority.

Avoid extremes.

Know that an increase follows every decrease, unity follows separation.

Keep returning to the sacred when we lose our way.

Expect difficulties and hard work on the sacred path but persevere.

When aligned with the ways of sacredness, we have no fears, only blessings.

Accept what we do not have the capacities to change but retreat from harmful ways and views. Find small ways within our limitations to live sacredness and to further life on Earth.

Line 1: The line yields to the sacred will by moving away from what harms and comes to know how it can fulfill its purpose to further life on Earth.

Line 2: The line focuses on the task before it rather than on how it may benefit from its efforts. The line does the work because it is the right thing to do and meets the needs of the moment.

Line 3: The line experiences an unexpected harm. Those on the sacred path experience misfortune but do not blame others for it. This line ignorantly blames others and conflicts with them and the ways of sacredness.

Line 4: The line perseveres in overcoming what separates it from the sacred and its sacredness. This effort itself brings sacredness to life and furthers life on Earth.

Line 5: The line responds to the needs of others, taking upon itself the suffering of others. However, the line does not then focus on its own suffering. With sacred guidance, the line works to alleviate the interdependent suffering of the other and to influence the interdependent conditions that cause suffering. Its efforts to alleviate suffering transform its suffering into joy.

Line 6: The line has surrendered its will to the sacred. However, if it does not persevere in doing so and ignorantly acts on its own, it fails to live sacredness and causes harm.