

Hexagram 41 – Diminishing



Diminishing.
Acting on sacred knowing.
Sacred wisdom.
Without fault in persevering in this way.
Benefit from furthering life on Earth.
How is this done?
Use two sacrificial vessels for the offering.

Ideogram: Hand and ceremonial vessel, the offering of a sacrifice. **Meanings of ideogram:** make an offering, give away; diminish; lose, damage; blame, criticize.

Structure: The lake ☱ below decreases its depths to increase the height of the mountain above ☶.

Image Tradition

Diminishing.
Sacrifice what harms to increase living sacredness.
The sacred path moves upward.
Sacrificing and acting on sacred knowing.

Sacred wisdom.
Without fault in persevering in this way.
Benefit from furthering life on Earth.
How is this done?
Use two sacrificial vessels in the offering.

Two sacrificial vessels according to the situation.
A time to give up harmful ways, a time to increase living sacredness.
Diminishing harmful ways and increasing living sacredness: overfilling emptiness.
Go with the situation in diminishing harmful ways and increasing living sacredness.

On the sacred path, we make the sacrifice of making the effort to bite through our harmful ways and views and stopping ourselves from harming life and the Earth. We sacrifice our beliefs in our being special and our willingness to harm others for self-benefit and ignoring the suffering we cause. A sacrifice requires that we put more effort into diminishing our harmful ways and views a bit more than we might otherwise be willing to do.

As we diminish our harmful ways, we uncover our sacredness, the gift the sacred bestows upon all life to know how to live on Earth with other beings in the ways of sacredness.¹ Diminishing our faults does not increase our sacredness but rather increases the clarity of our apprehension of it.

When we empty ourselves of our willingness to harm others for self-benefit, we overfill that emptiness with our willingness to live our sacredness to further life on Earth. Diminishing our harmful ways and views changes our experience of life and increasingly distances us from the harmful culture to the point that we

¹ **Ways of the sacred and sacredness:** We live within the reality caused by the sacred, a reality marked by the sacred ways: interdependence, change, equality, and sacredness. The ways of sacredness guide us to living sacredness to further life on Earth, the sacred purpose of all life: awakening to sacred knowing; wisdom of living sacredness; harmonious and respectful interactions; devotion to the sacred; humble submission to sacred ways and direction; responding to the suffering of others; restoring and preserving a balanced life; manifesting the sacred purpose to further life on Earth.

feel like a stranger in a strange land. We more clearly see how the harmful culture binds us to it and learn how to loosen our shackles by sacrificing these attachments.

Our journey through life becomes an offering of how we live. We stop ourselves from harming life and Earth and live in ways that furthers life on Earth. The offering becomes a blessing.

Line 1: The bold line wants to quickly overcome a harmful way and has the willingness to offer whatever it takes to do it. The line needs to discern how much it can sacrifice without harming itself or its path. If too much, the line will come to regret what it offered. If too little, the sacrifice has no meaning. We sacrifice a small step beyond what we have the willingness to offer. The sacred path is a journey, not a race, a path of small exceeding.

Line 2: The line has diminished its harmful ways and views and lives sacredness. It has nothing more to sacrifice. Thus, when it responds to the needs of others, it does so in ways that do not diminish its integrity or compromise the ways of sacredness. The line shares with all its many blessings.

Line 3: The line sacrifices its belonging to a group that that harms to follow the sacred on a solitary path.

Line 4: As the line diminishes its harmful ways and views, it regains its balance and its sacredness shines brighter, a great joy.

Line 5: The line lives its sacredness, unobstructed by harmful ways and views. The sacred moves through the life of the line to extend its loving kindness and protection.

Line 6: The line increases others without decreasing itself in the ways of sacredness. The line has received the greatest increase by living sacredness. It takes nothing from others but gives them all the benefits of furthering life on Earth.