

Hexagram 54 Imposing Direction on Life



Imposing direction on life.

Causing own misfortune.

No benefit from imposing one's will.

Structure: Action ☳ over pleasure ☴. Acting on pleasure.

The hexagram describes the great danger of imposing a self-centered direction upon life. The sacred furthers life on Earth and obligates life to participate in this holy work, the sacred purpose and meaning of life. All life wants to live, to survive. Thus, we naturally have an urge to survive. Within an interdependent reality, we know that our survival depends upon the wellbeing of all life.

When we seek survival, we naturally seek the survival of all beings by responding to the suffering of others. The sacred bestows sacredness upon all life for us to learn how to live with other beings on Earth in ways that further life on Earth. When life does not follow the ways of sacredness, life endangers its survival.

Dangerous cultures rebel against the sacred and reject the sacred purpose of furthering life on Earth. Instead, they further their willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit. People within harmful cultures seek what they believe will make them happy – power over others and material wealth – and ignore the suffering of others. Harmful people and cultures offer no benefit to life on Earth. We ignorantly believe that we have the right to dominate life and the Earth and overpower the sacred will. The sacred does not further those who want only more power and wealth.

On the sacred path, as we recover our sacredness by overcoming our harmful ways and views and practice sacredness, we prepare ourselves to receive the work unique to our being that the sacred gives us to further life on Earth within the world, our holy work. Through our efforts to fulfill what the sacred guides us to do, we continue to deepen our understanding of the ways of sacredness and remedy ever deeper levels of harmful views and ways that our work reveals to us.

Impatience endangers those on the sacred path, eager to further life and Earth in the world. We may believe we have prepared ourselves enough and presume to know what we should do to further life on Earth without sacred guidance. Our ignorance leads to our misfortune and compromises our sacred path. The sacred guides and furthers only those willing to yield their will to that of the sacred.

We patiently continue to prepare ourselves to do the holy work in the world by overcoming our impatience and willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit. Our sacred work comes to us in sacred time as we persevere in humbly responding to the needs of other beings and the Earth. Rather than doing what we believe will give us pleasure, we cultivate a deep joy in following sacred guidance to further life on Earth.

Line 1: The line recognizes its ignorance and dependence upon the sacred for guidance. Perseveringly, it refrains from harming life and. Within its capacities it furthers life on Earth, yielding to the sacred will and encouraged by sacred blessings. The line focuses on its duty to further life on Earth instead of advancing itself.

Line 2: Harmful ways and views obstruct the line's vision, but it sees clearly enough to know its duty to further life on Earth and does what it can. It perseveres on its solitary path to overcome its willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit. Inwardly knowing its sacredness, the line devotes itself to learning how to live sacredness within the world.

Line 3: The line waits for the holy work it wants to have, blind to the work the sacred has given it. Upon realizing its arrogance, the humbled line lowers its expectations and yields to the sacred will.

Line 4: The line patiently cultivates the inner conditions necessary for it to recognize its holy work. Even though the process of preparing itself has taken longer than expected, the line patiently perseveres in overcoming its harmful ways and views and eventually attains what it sought.

Line 5: The line humbly does its holy work, fulfilling the sacred purpose of furthering life on Earth in the ways of sacredness, giving all honor to the sacred

Line 6: The efforts of those who work to further life on Earth in ways that do not entail effort or devotion on their part do not endure. We fulfill the sacred purpose to further life on Earth by bringing to life the sacred will through our own efforts.

Image Tradition

Imposing own direction on life.

The great ways of the sacred and Earth.

If life does not follow the great ways of sacredness, life fails to grow.

Imposing own direction on life.

When people determine the direction of their life,

They ambitiously impose their will upon the sacred and the Earth.

Causing their own misfortune. .

Not appropriate indeed.

No benefit from imposing one's will on life.

The weak believing it master the strong.