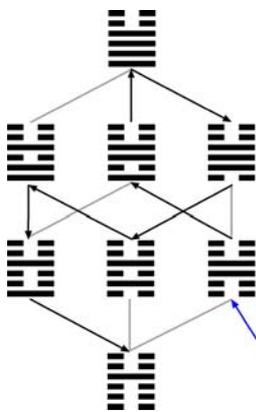


A Study Guide for Actualising a Spark of Ideal

Introduction

Sitting in Susie's Diner a while ago, after reading a guilt inducing eco-mag you said that you felt the need to do something, to contribute to the world in some positive manner, but you didn't know what. I suggested that a good hexagram to represent this state was *Arousing* above *Receptive* – this shows a spark of yang at the base of heaven, stirring the place of ideals and patterns, with emptiness, no answer yet but receptive, in the earth, the place of circumstance. On further reflection, I realized that, of course, this hexagram was part of one of the natural cubic projections of the hexagram lattice. This is, co-incidentally, the second cube in the octocubic unfolding of the lattice; the first step through an unfamiliar dimension into an alternative space. This cube is shown below.



The Structure of the Cube

The cube is composed of all of the hexagrams that have *Arousing* as the trigram in the upper position, then taking each of the eight trigrams as possible adjuncts in the lower position. If *Arousing* represents the impetus to make an ideal actual, then the eight trigrams in this cube represent all of the possible situations that can arise by considering the possible circumstances that might combine with that ideal. These hexagrams, and their arrangement in this cube then form an object study that may help you to explore your need to act in the world.

The hexagram that I suggested as your original situation is the lowest hexagram in the cube. However, if you are following the natural sequence of hexagrams around the lattice, then the point of entry into the cube is at the hexagram shown with the blue arrow. The continuation of this linear path around the cube can then be traced by following the arrows. So then you see that the hexagram that I first suggested as your state is actually the last hexagram in the cube before embarking on the next stage of the journey.

The Components of the Cube

Let us now consider each of the hexagrams in the cube, in the order in which they would be traced if following the lattice path. You would enter at the blue arrow, having stepped up from the lower cube, and follow the arrows around the lattice path. For each hexagram I shall give its traditional name and number, so that you can look it up in your preferred translation. I shall also describe each hexagram energetically, trying to relate it to the overall concern of this study guide.

 Traditionally, this is called *Small Excess* and it is 62 in the King Wen sequence. These circumstances require you to be small and humble, not stepping outside of the bounds of your immediate concerns. Although you have inner strength, you must be cautious and moderate in its expression as the situation does not favour you.

If we consider its energetic meaning in the context of the current study I would say that the *Arousing* energy in the ideal is being blocked and bound by the *Stillness* in the

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circumstance. Stillness can be interpreted two ways: as binding, preventing manifestation; or as waiting, in abeyance until the appropriate moment. As the first step into a new dimension, it might be good to wait to find some accustom to the new space, but it would not do to hold back from entering in to its exploration.



Traditionally, this is called *Abundance* and it is number 55. This is a time of great abundance. However, its very nature means that it is culminating and it will not last long. You should take advantage of these circumstances while they flourish. Be generous, do not try and hoard these riches, spread the wealth to everyone within reach.

Its energetic meaning shows a *Fire* ignited in your circumstances by the spark of *Arousal* from your ideals. Fire is a spark bound to its fuel, so injecting some material impetus to the previously bound circumstances will step us here around the lattice path.



This is called *Great Strength* and it is number 34. In this situation, the creative energies are surging forward and there is tremendous potential. You should use this energy to move things forward. However, it is important not to lose your balance and be swept along. You must remain focussed.

Considering its energetic aspects we can see that the circumstances are *Creative*, fully yang, and this supports and amplifies the *Arousing* energy of the ideals. It is the base from which the ideal functions, but this is also its imbalance, its unmanifest perfection with no gap for expression. As one of the steps in the seasonal cycle, this point is also a member of another natural cube, so this is a possible place to change orientation completely, should you wish to explore the edge of the universe.



This is called *Enduring* and it is number 32 in the King Wen sequence. It represents the creation of something that will endure but which requires perseverance and continuity from all involved. You must cultivate consistency in yourself and strive to repair your mistakes and learn. From this, you must constantly renew your commitment to the common goal. This is the way to create an enduring legacy.

From the energetic perspective these are resonating complements; the circumstance is *Penetrating*, and this is the binary complement of the trigram *Arousing*. The energy in the lower trigram answers the energy of the upper trigram. This lower trigram is also the first touch of yin in the loop of waxing and waning, the opening that here allows expression and another step around the lattice.¹



This is traditionally called *Release* and it is number 40. This represents a time to work on untangling your knots and cutting through what ever obstructs you; this is how you will attain release. Consider the difficulties that you face and understand how they bind you. Once you understand how you are bound, you can work effectively to loosen the bonds.

Energetically, the circumstances flow like current in a wire and spark a field of ideals. The inner expansion lifts the burst, like rooted jing from the centre; the spark focuses the expansion. Or a tangential vector thrown out from a spinning circle.

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 This is called *Transforming the Feminine* and it is number 54. It represents changes over which you have no control, they are imposed on you by the circumstances. If you can accept this and let the changes happen without becoming anxious, then you will have an opportunity for your personal development later.

Energetically, the circumstances are *Open to Arousal* and this is about potential, and waiting on that potential manifesting. Hope, too. Accumulating a reservoir in readiness as you travel the lattice path.

 This is called *Arousing* and it is number 51 in the King Wen sequence. These circumstances contain the capacity to shock! A powerful, primal energy comes, redoubled. Such a violent force can be frightening, it can blast through your preconceptions and initiate a great change. Do not succumb to fear, recognize that this energy brings a great opportunity.

Energetically, energy doubled, climbing up the lattice, this is the receptive accepting of the ideal in the circumstance. Tracing the lattice path, excitement at progress, butterflies in the belly.

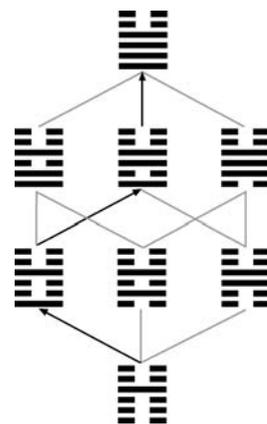
 This is called *Precaution* and it is number 16. Taking precautions and ensuring your readiness before events start to unfold means that you can respond enthusiastically from the outset once things are underway. Conversely, being unprepared means that your first steps on a new venture are hesitant as you seek to establish yourself.

Following around the lattice path, with energy doubled before, and applying an impetus again brings us, poised on the brink of another step through a higher dimension, to open receptivity to whatever the spark of ideal may bring.

Using the Cube

You can follow the lattice path around the cube, considering the steps that you take, and their implications. There are some descriptions above that narrate a possible walk and this path is shown on the original diagram, entering from the lower cube by the blue arrow and following the arrows around to the exit at the bottom.

Or, you can take your original hexagram as your starting point, the hexagram at the bottom of the cube, and explore paths up through the lattice to the top. There are 6 possible paths from the bottom to the top, the diagram on the right gives one example. This would be different ways, from your current situation, of filling your circumstances with the glow of your ideal.



Notes

¹ The energetic interpretation gives this hexagram a meaning close to the traditional meaning of 31, *Influence*. So, then the energetic meaning of Openness above Stillness becomes more like the traditional meaning of this, its linear opposite, 32 *Enduring*.