



## 19. Overseeing

earth above,  
lake below

**Above the lake there is earth, overseeing. Superior people use inexhaustibility of education and thought to embrace and protect the people without bound.**

Overseeing means overseeing below from above. Below is *lake* ☱, above is *earth* ☷; there is earth above the lake. Lakes make things wet, earth supports things; widely providing water and support for the many—this is the image of *overseeing*.

What superior people see in this is that education should be promoted and the life of the people should be stabilized; therefore they educate the people tirelessly, thinking of them and teaching them, guiding them with virtue, equalizing them with etiquette, gradually influencing them.

Education is endless, and thought is also endless; the purpose is to improve the morals and customs of the populace. The ground of ethics gives abundant life, embracing the people without cruelty, protecting and embracing them, minimizing criminal law, making taxes light, seeing to sufficiency of food and clothing, like taking care of an infant, embracing and protecting without bound.

When education and protection are done properly, there is harmony between the leaders and the followers, a unity of will, resulting in an atmosphere of light and peace. This is the way it is when superior people are in positions of authority; but superior people who have no position also teach and protect people in the same way. When superior people instruct others tirelessly, making speeches and writing books, they hope that everyone will become a sage, that every person will attain the Way. This too is teaching and thinking inexhaustibly.

The mind of superior people embraces the whole universe, viewing others and self as equals, accepting every being, loving every being; this too is embracing and protecting without bound. Regardless of whether superior people have positions or not, they all aspire to foster life.