

Living on Hillsides: Terracing



On a recent trip to a Greek island, I was struck by the vast number of stone walls that created a mosaic of terraces on almost every hillside. Some, dating back to pre-Homeric times, were mere shadows of their former selves, but recognizable even in their brokenness. I thought about how time-consuming it must have been to build them, but also how necessary they were to

sustaining safety and productivity.

Chi (energy) flows quickly down slopes, and the steeper they are, the faster chi flows. Because people living on hillsides are vulnerable to natural processes, including strong winds, erosion, and landslides, they may experience vulnerabilities in their personal lives, as well. In effect, rushing chi may pass them by. "Struggle" may become a dominant theme: to "hold on" to money, health, jobs, satisfying relationships.

The ancients dealt with the forces of nature by creating a series of terraces, strengthened by low stone walls, to preserve the land and make it farmable. We can learn from their solution. If you are living on a hillside, ask yourself if opportunities seem to flee by or if money is difficult to save. Strengthen your position and capture supportive chi by terracing the land around your home with trees, plants or low walls.