## 1 The Standing Stone

Key words: determination, holding our ground

As we walk through the valley, we see this lone stone. It is standing, since time immemorial, proud and strong, letting the sunrays play through the holes pierced in it. Those who erected it are long gone, but it is still guarding this field of wild grass.

It is standing, proud and strong. But it also plays with the wind, the rain and the light. It knows that deep within, they make it softer, but it still guards the passage in the valley. Its language is forgotten, but its meaning remains untouched.

We feel humbled by its majesty, its determination to stand still, no matter what, while letting the elements play with its openness.

We realize that we are like this stone. We are firmly standing our ground while staying open to possibilities. We all hold our inner truth tight, while letting others see what we want them to see. We are the alchemists, transforming whatever comes into opportunities. We are strong enough to do so, while keeping our balance.

We feel a deep compassion for this ancient one, who is here accomplishing what it was meant for so long ago, standing strong still, day after day. We decide to keep it company for a while, breaking its loneliness, whispering our story to it. Somehow, we feel that it brings it something.

Then we take our bag back, and we step forward. Always forward. Because we still need to learn, to grow, until we find this special place where our alchemy will fully play its role. We will, too, guard and protect it, standing firmly but peacefully.

For now, we still have a journey to live, a valley to explore.



You need to hold your ground.

You need to stand firmly, while remaining open to opportunities.

You need to release the negativity you may feel, letting it go in the ground, or through you. It's not yours to keep.

You need to raise your head in dignity and express your true self.

The time has come to stop and reflect on the path you already walked and realize your growth. You can stand high and strong.

Let others see your true colors. You can be proud of what you achieved so far. Ground yourself and shine!

You alone knows what it took to come that far. Be humble and speak your truth. Bring your light to the world to see.

Be yourself, and enjoy this time of truth.

