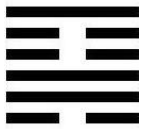


Hexagram 18 Corruption



Corruption.

Sacred. Spiritual influence nourishing all.

Benefit from entering the stream of life with a great purpose

Before acting, discern the way forward.

After acting, observe the consequences of acting.

Ideogram: A bowl in which worms breed.

Structure: Gentle indifference of the lower trigram has come together with the rigid inertia of the upper, resulting in corruption and decay.

Ignoring the harms we inflict upon others and the Earth for self-benefit corrupts social and natural conditions. This situation has roots in the denial of the sacred and the willingness to harm others and the Earth for self-benefit. The community has ignored this corruption for generations, and now people freely exploit the community and the Earth Interbeing. The corruption calls for a remedy.

Cultural conditioning causes people to view these harms as normal. People have adhered to the culture's dangerous beliefs and conventions ways of living for generations, which they now consider normal. Efforts to reform the culture meets with resistance, especially among those who materially benefit from complicity with what harms. They have lost their will to restore a balanced and harmonious culture. A sense of powerlessness overwhelms those who seek to free themselves from the corruption as the culture has separated them from the sacred and each other, fragmenting their vision and efforts. They wait for heroes to come and do their work.

Everyone, regardless of their position in life, has the innate power and capacity to overcome their harmful conditioning. Once we fathom how denial of the sacred and the sacredness of the Earth Interbeing has put survival of life on Earth in peril, we have to responsibility to care for the Earth Interbeing. We begin by turning toward the sacred for wisdom and mastering our own willingness to harm others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering we cause. As we learn the ways to live on Earth with other beings in ways that benefit all, we deepen our spiritual being and open to practicing the ways to restore the balance and harmony of the Earth Interbeing through its sacred ways.¹

Knowing what to do depends on proper deliberation. When we do not fathom the cause of the corruption and instead rely on speculation, our efforts will not get to the root of the danger and likely cause even more danger. We need to uproot this spiritual disease, or we will waste valuable time and effort futilely treating the myriad symptoms of it.

¹ **The Ways of the Sacred Earth Interbeing:** We worship the sacred through our care for Creation. We interbe with Creation, relating to all with equality, respect, and care so that life continues and thrives on Earth. We know the sacred ways for Creation to continue and thrive and to overcome what keeps us apart. We know and respond to the mutual neediness of life in ways that further the harmony of Earth Interbeing. We know and care for our place as the ground upon which we preserve the balance of Earth Interbeing by reciprocating for what we take through our stewardship of the Earth Interbeing. We live within interbeing's moral boundaries and Earth limits and learn from our life lessons how to overcome what keeps us apart. We live as unique beings in the ways of the Earth Interbeing to preserve Creation's harmony and balance and to overcome what keeps us apart. We respond to whatever we experience in the ways of the Earth Interbeing and hold ourselves accountable for our actions. (12/23/24)

Once we act, we need to attend to the consequences of our action. If we observe others have benefitted from we have transformed ourselves and act in the world in the ways of the sacred Earth Interbeing, then we can joyfully pursue our course of action. If we experience disharmony and imbalance within ourselves or in our interactions, then we need to stop and reconsider our understanding of the situation. If we have harmed others, we need to remedy the harm we caused.

The hexagram does not speak to those who have inflicted great harm upon the Earth Interbeing, but to those called to overcome the corruption and recover our harmony and balance. Only by shouldering this responsibility and acting to benefit all do we become the courageous leaders we seek. We have no other way. We must free ourselves from our conditioned denial of the sacred and work for the continuation of life on Earth in ways that benefit all. Decisiveness and energy take the place of the inertia and indifference that have led to decay so that a new beginning can follow its ending.

Love prevails over both the beginning and the end.

Line 1: The line transforms its beliefs conditioned by the harmful culture. It now knows the sacred Earth Interbeing. With this knowing as its moral compass, the line furthers its sacred path to fulfill its responsibility to care for the Earth Interbeing.

Line 2: The line recognizes how the culture has conditioned its emotions by attaching thoughts to the emotions to form emotional thoughts, feelings. The line turns compassionately toward its emotions while dropping the conditioned thoughts, freeing its emotion from conditioning and transforming them into guardians of its spiritual path.

Line 3: The line works to transform the harmful culture that previous generations caused and allowed to fester. Proceeding too vigorously in righting the oppression and injustices invites disharmony, but no serious harm results. The time calls for people to act firmly rather than ignore the suffering and the cause of suffering.

Line 4: The line, in a responsible position, advances the harmful culture to further its self-benefit. It ignores its duty to root out the decay. The time comes when such people will experience shame and regret for the ruin they have allowed. The wise overcomes what harms by meeting it with clarity and purpose.

Line 5: This line has the sacred calling to manage the corruption originating from denial of the sacred and eroding the balance and harmony of the Earth Interbeing for self-benefit. Those on this spiritual path receive the support of the Earth Interbeing and become sages.

Line 6: The highly developed sage distances itself from the turmoil of the world life to create incomparable values for the future. It does not enter public life but does not remain idle and merely criticize. The sage works not for one era but for all life and for all time.