

Hexagram 18 Overcoming Generational Corruption



Corruption.

Sacred knowing and firm discipline.

Putting forth a great effort despite the danger.

Before acting, discern the way forward.

After acting, observe the consequences of acting.

Image Tradition

Corruption. The firm above and the yielding below.

Indifference and not changing. Corruption.

Overcoming corruption: Sacred knowing, firm discipline, and following sacred ways.

Benefit from putting forth a great effort despite the danger.

Overcoming what needs overcoming.

Before acting, discern the way forward.

After acting, observe the consequences of acting.

Overcoming generational corruption has a new beginning.

Sacred transformation indeed

Ideogram: A bowl in which worms breed.

A culture that embodies the amorality of its founders passes this amorality to their descendants. This corruption of harmful beliefs and attitudes of the founders decays the culture. The culture continues to decay for as long as the amoral beliefs and attitudes find another generation willing to harm others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering they cause. Over time, the willingness to harm others for self-benefit erodes the willingness to further life on Earth. The roots of the inequality and disharmony of the current lie within these founding crimes against the sacred, life, and the Earth.

This generational decay endures because of the unwillingness of those who benefit from harming others to change their ways and their indifference to the suffering of others. Our complicity with the ongoing amorality entangles us with the founders' amorality. We have the sacred responsibility to stop harming others and to alleviate the suffering we have caused. Just knowing about our complicity with amorality will not overcome our complicity. We must change our harmful beliefs and attitudes and stop ourselves from willingly harming others for our self-benefit. What one generation has corrupted, another generation can make whole.

Later generations have total responsibility to repair the wrongs of the founders as we have benefited from the past ongoing crimes. Success depends upon knowing what to do and then doing it. We turn to the sacred to know how to put an end to the generational amorality and the suffering it causes. Then we act with a great resolve and decisiveness to replace the inertia and indifference that led to the generational decay. We do this work in harmony with the sacred ways, first within ourselves and then within the world, always remaining vigilant to guard against the harmful ways.¹

¹ **Values, ways, and natures of the sacred path to further life on Earth (work in progress):** Love, humbleness, joyful surrender to the sacred knowing, balance, firm self-discipline, compassion, harmony, and equitable sharing.

Disintegrating influences and wrongdoings of the harmful culture may surround us, but we remain aligned with the sacred ways. We keep our balance by rejecting hierarchy and knowing the equality of all. Our love and compassion prevail and extend from ending the corruption to returning to the ways of the Earth Interbeing. Overcoming generational corruption sacredly transforms us.

Line 1: The current generation remedies the corruption of the ancestors by taking the blame of the ancestors. The line takes on the dangerous effort and succeeds, which opens to living the ways of the Earth Interbeing.

Line 2: The strong line recognizes the weakness and unwillingness of the current generation to remedy the crimes of their ancestors, yet it knows its responsibility to remedy the suffering caused by the ancestors. Knowing the weaknesses and ignorance of others, it compassionately alleviates the suffering caused by the amoral culture and remedies the causes for the suffering without punishing those complicit with the crimes of the ancestors. Those who doubted their power to do this work or who avoided doing it because of self-benefit come to repent what they have done.

Line 3: The line self-righteously corrects the generational harms that cause discord and distress. Others judge the line as unfair. However, the longstanding amorality justifies the use of too much energy rather than not enough to overcome the generational harms.

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 allowed.

Line 5: Others honor the line for remedying the generational corruption.

Line 6: The line transcends the suffering of the world into the realm of ideals.