

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 amoral oppressiveness 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 oppressive 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 culture lie within these founding crimes against the sacred, life, and the Earth.

We have the sacred responsibility to stop ourselves from harming others and to alleviate the suffering we have caused. Just knowing about our complicity with oppression will not overcome our complicity. Overcoming oppression begins with dismantling the wrong views that we still cling to that enabled the generational crimes against life and nature. Self-centeredness reflects how oppressors view others as objects to overpower and possess. These same views empower our willingness to harm others for self-benefit. Once we have identified these self-serving views within ourselves, we renounce them and learn to live in ways that further life on Earth.

Oppressors do not have the willingness to correct themselves. When we see another act oppressively, rather than correct them, we make the effort to see that same fault within ourselves and resist it. Living the sacred ways has the most power to overcome the amorality of the generational oppression. Acting in excessive ways will lead to regret, but too much effort proves better than making no effort at all. We overcome our sense of entitlement and superiority by cultivating humility and surrendering to the sacred knowing of what to do. We focus on living with life on Earth equitably and harmoniously.

The generation that puts an end to generational oppression of other cultures, life, and the Earth have the gratitude and praise of future generations who benefit from the new culture based on furthering life on Earth.

Line 1: The line manages the generational oppression by living the sacred ways. In this way it corrects the faults of the past and puts an end to the cycle of generational harm and opens to living the ways of the Earth Interbeing.

Line 2: The line doubted its power to do this work to overcome oppression or has avoided doing it because of its complicity with the corruption. The line comes to repent for how it has oppressed others and the Earth. In now wanting to overcome generational harm, angry righteous indignation will not do. The line finds the path of the middle way by correcting itself and learning how to live in ways that further life on Earth.

Line 3: The line vigorously corrects itself to dismantle its oppressive views and actions. 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 of oppression.

Line 4: The line, in a responsible position, continues to advance oppression ways 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: The sacred benefits those who remedy their generational crimes of oppression.

Line 6: The line does not seek to change the world. Instead, it discerns the sacred way for transforming the oppressive culture into the culture of the Earth Interbeing. It focuses on becoming an interbeing. Those who do this work accept the lonely burden of their sacred path.