

Disintegration of Western Culture

We find the pattern of cycles throughout the Earth Interbeing – the orbit of the Earth around the Sun, the water cycle on Earth, the daily cycle of lights and dark, the seasonal cycles, the cycle of life. We observe a circular flow of phenomena, each succeeding the other until we return to the starting point again. Seasons flow into one another with fixed regularity and deviate only within themselves but never in relation to one another. All life comes into life, grows, declines, and dies.

Life has adapted to the cycle of seasons – the emergence of leaves and flowers in spring, growth in summer, disintegration in autumn, and rest in winter. We see similar cyclical patterns of growth and decline within our efforts, organizations, and cultures.

Decline and disintegration define old age. The natural changes of aging lead to death. In the same way, Western civilization approaches its collapse, its death. The growth of the Western capitalist system becomes increasingly disjointed and disunited. It has no way to prevent its collapse and every efforts to rekindle its growth only hastens it demise. The consensus among the power elite about how to advance Western capitalism fractures into opposing views that prevent meaningful communication. When growth stops, the capitalist system collapses.

We live within this time of the collapse of Western capitalism and its culture. In the time of collapse, the willingness to harm others for self-benefit increases, causing ever more suffering. The pervasive mistrust of people prevents cooperation.

The wise protect and preserve the sacred way by safeguarding what they know within their sacred path. We conceal our convictions so that we do not end up arguing about them with those not on the path and remove ourselves from situations that promote conflict. We find our relationships with others increasingly difficult, leading to misunderstandings and miscommunications.

We know that we cannot influence those complicit in destroying life on Earth. Efforts to do so open us to compromising our values and purpose.¹ We would not solve anything but only pull ourselves into the chaos of disintegration and collapse. Instead, we allow the Western culture's implosion to unfold on its own.

In small ways we further life on Earth and maintain the integrity of the sacred ways. While we do not directly engage with the collapsing culture, we do reach out to those most oppressed and harmed by Western capitalism to relieve suffering and to build supportive and mutual relationships. By constantly transforming our harmful beliefs and attitudes conditioned by Western culture, we deepen our sacred being and capacities to bring to life the ways that further life on Earth even in the darkest of times.

The collapse and disintegration of the harmful culture will pass into the spring of a culture that furthers life on Earth.

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¹ **Common values of furthering life on Earth (work in progress):** reverence and gratitude for the sacred and the sacredness and equality of life on Earth, patience and loving awareness for arising experience, surrender to the sacred knowing of what to do to further life on Earth, compassionately responding to relieve suffering and the causes of suffering, harmoniously interacting with others through loving-kindness, equitably sharing and caring for the interdependent Earth commons, responding in valued ways that further life on Earth, self-discipline to preserve our balance with Earth and mutual wellbeing. By living in these ways, we deepen our loving awareness of the sacred and sacredness of all life and the Earth.