

# Broken Teacups

*by*

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The history of archaeology dates back to the 15th century when individuals and groups sought to find examples of the glories of Greek and Roman empires. They sponsored excavations seeking to find ancient works of art. ([Britannica](#)) These excavations were typically uncontrolled and reckless. Often times artifacts were destroyed or went unrecognized as being important.

In the 1700s a more scientific approach to archaeology was initiated and become a common approach to excavations by the mid-to-late 1800s. While field techniques greatly improved, many artifacts that are found at archaeological sites were either broken or found in pieces.

Over the years it has become common practice for archaeologists to try and assemble broken shards that are found together. Pieces of broken plates were often fitted together and matching pieces were then glued together. This practice extends to drinking cups, vases, amphoras, statuettes, and many other artifacts.

While the assembled artifacts provided a lot of historic and cultural information of past civilizations, they were not usable. In other words, a broken cup was still broken regardless of how well it was mended. Even though the cup may be filled with liquid, fine pieces of it may still be missing or over time the glue would weaken and the cup would leak.

In ancient times and in modern times as well, potters will often grind up broken pottery shards into powder and reforming the powder into clay that can be used for other projects.

The Bible, other religious texts, and spiritual leaders use broken teacups as lessons to signify renewal, transformation, and the transient nature of life. A broken teacup signifies the end of one life, and the beginning of a new life with unexpected turns.

From a different aspect, broken teacups are also analogous to political, social, and personal relationships. Such relationships rely on trust and once trust is broken, like any mended cup, you cannot rely on it and over time it may leak, creating other issues.

One of the dirtiest and nastiest occupations in the world is that of being an American politician.

The Constitution of the United State starts out with the words "[We the People of the United States](#)." Abraham Lincoln, in his [Gettysburg Address](#), emphasized the democratic nature of our American government with the words, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." However, most Americans today don't believe that politicians have their interests at heart. A [2023 Pew Research](#) poll indicated that politicians make many promises but break most of them. Less than 40% of those polled believe that politicians actually care about the people they represent. Following are three significant findings that demonstrate the beliefs of American voters today.

- Republicans and Democrats are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems (86%);
- The cost of political campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office (85%);
- Special interest groups and lobbyists have too much say in what happens in politics (84%).

Yet voters, for the most part, continue to reelect the same politicians who say they are trying to repair their broken promises each election cycle. Unfortunately, both the politicians and voters often think that they can continue drinking from the broken teacup promises.

While the broken teacups of politicians are typically easy to identify, broken teacups are harder to identify in various social and work environments. People are often too busy with work, socializing or taking care of themselves to recognize when their interactions with others result in trust is broken. Trust in social and work environments rely heavily on believing that others will not "stab you in the back." Once there is any inkling of back stabbing or going behind one's back, the chasm of deceitfulness continues to widen until the relationship is destroyed. Here are three examples of broken teacups that, even mended, typically will not hold tea and are discarded.

**Broken teacup example 1:** Every week we send our children off to public school. We have put trust in the teachers to properly take care of our children. However, as we learned during COVID, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) brainwashing was replacing traditional subject matter. The trust in both teachers and school administration was broken.

**Broken teacup example 2:** The workplace is a hotbed for rumors and manipulations. The adage that if you work hard, you will succeed and move up the ladder. The problem is that this adage does not say anything about what working hard is about. Most people view it as meaning working hard at your job. However, there are those who take the adage to mean working "behind the scenes" to achieve what is desired. This approach often involves manipulation and backstabbing. When such action(s)

come to light, the trust that an employee has in a coworker, supervisor, or “supporter” is broken. Such broken trust is rarely repairable.

**Broken teacup example 3:** In recent years, many ministers have admitted to their congregations violations of the [10 Commandments](#) (typically adultery). While there are over [100 verses](#) in the **Bible** on forgiveness, such revelations by church ministers severely impacts the minister, his family and also the church. ([HeadHeartHand](#)) Unfortunately, these confessions result in a broken trust of the minister being a godly person and leader by the congregation. But the congregation has also broken the trust of the minister and demonstrates the hypocrisy of many church-goers for [no man is without sin](#).

“Forgive thy neighbor the hurt that he hath done unto thee,  
so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou prayest.”

*Ecclesiasticus 28:2*

**Note:** Ecclesiasticus is considered one of the [Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical](#) books.

Broken teacups are not just the realm of political and social environments. They also apply to personal relationships.

Teacups are easily broken in personal relationships. Probably the most common relationship that is broken is between spouses. Like previously discussed relationships, the cause is broken trust. Marriage is a very complicated relationship. While love may have been what brought the husband and wife together, the cement that holds many marriages together is trust. Each partner has several areas of trust between themselves and their spouse. For example, there is reciprocal trust that neither partner will step outside the marriage and have sex with another person. There is also trust that neither partner will commit domestic violence. When children are introduced into the family the nature of trust morphs to include the parent(s)-child(ren) relationship.

Often times social and religious counselors become involved in attempts to repair the broken trust. Just like the teacup, no matter how well the repair, there will always be a lingering doubt by one or more family members.

All it takes is one little nudge in the wrong direction  
and the repaired teacup will fall apart and shatter.