Sister's Choice: Tradition And Change In American Women's Writing

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This static concept of tradition, hostile to innovation and change (which was considered decay, as a falling-away from the original model), was challenged by the Greek philosophers. Plato, for one, was also preoccupied with the concept of society’s degeneracy, but no longer saw it as a mechanical necessity; he saw it as the soul’s disorder spreading from the older to the younger generation, from the few to the many, but still within the soul’s capacity to resist and cure. “You shall find no change in God’s way,” taught Hayy b. Yaqzan, of dealing with those which were gone before and those living now. Moslem authorities, secular and ecclesiastic, preserved the tradition, and did little else.