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## with great power, comes great responsibility



## I-Ching & The World of Metaphysics Natural laws Kerby Kuek

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Western Han era scholar Dong Zhongshu also wrote in depth about the five elements and the filial concept in his tome Chun Qiu Fan Lu, or Luxuriant Dew of the Spring and Autumn Annals.

The five elements theory explains creation: water breeds wood, wood creates fire, fire breeds earth, earth creates metal, and metal creates water - and the cycle goes on.

Implied in this creation concept is that unique relationship in which a son must respect and be loyal to the father, while the father has an obligation to nurture the son - leading to balance and filial piety.

For ancient Chinese, one acts in harmony with the natural laws in performing ritual worship in accordance with the four seasons, with the son and wife strictly following them.

The names of this ritual change according to the season. In spring it is ci, in summer yue, in autumn chang and in winter zheng.

If such rituals are neglected, the laws of life are violated.

The traditional Chinese follow three forms of worship: worship of heaven or cosmic powers; worship of ancestors; and the worship of gods and devils.

Through such practices, one pays respect to supernatural powers.

Dong wrote: "The emperor receives heaven's command. Ministers should follow the emperor's command. The son follows commands of the father, a wife should follow the husband's command, and so on. Such relations are absolute."

But according to The Book of Rites, such relations are relative meaning if the emperor violates his order, ministers can violate the emperor's.

It is up to you to decide which writing is more applicable to today's world.

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Quote of the week: If you want the world to change, change your own world first.

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