



I-Ching & The World of Metaphysics

with great power, comes great responsibility

Unalterable Principle 天經地義之大事

To perform ritual of worship in accordance to 4 seasons is the natural law and unalterable principle for ancient Chinese, filial son and wife would follow rigidly such custom by offering differently agricultural produces to worship ancestors in particular. Different season will have different name for such rituals, as for Spring such ritual is termed as 'ci' and in summer is "yue", while in autumn such ritual is named "chang" and in Winter the name of 'zheng' is given. If such practices are neglected, the purpose of life as human is violated.

四時的祭祀是天的常道，地的義理，孝子孝婦就依據上天四時的變化，各地的出產來奉獻祖先。春天的祭祀叫『**祠**』，夏天的祭祀叫『**禘**』，秋天的祭祀叫『**嘗**』，冬天的祭祀叫『**烝**』，如錯過時令而不能及時祭祀的話，那就喪失**為人之子**的道理。

Traditional Chinese would have 3 levels of worships, firstly is to the 'Heaven' (Cosmic Power), secondly to 'Ancestors' and third to both 'Gods & Devils'. This is end result of yielding to the supernatural powers.

中國傳統的神靈崇拜有三個方面；**尊天，敬祖，拜鬼神**。這反映了人對自然力量的屈從。這又通過一定的祭祀儀式體現其影響。

Dong Chun Shu: 'The Emperor would receive command from the Heaven, the ministers of government should follow the command from the Emperor, son follows order from father, and wife follows order from husband and so on'. Such relations are absolute. But in accordance to 'The Book of Rites' such relationship is 'relative', meaning that if Emperor violates his order, fellow ministers can violate the emperor's order! Which one is applicable in today's' world, is personal!

董仲舒：《天子受命於天，諸侯受命於天子，子受命於父，臣受命於君，妻受命於夫，卑者受命於尊者，皆為受命於天。》臣子服從君王是**絕對**的。《禮記·表記 云：天子受命於天，士受命於君，故君命順，則臣有順命；君命逆，臣有逆命》。君如果逆於天命，則為臣者也可以逆天子之命。可見這關係是**相對**的。宜不宜用？見人見智。

By Kerby Kuek

