

The Way of Original Nature

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June 8, 2024



The I Ching: Ancient Book of Change

I have been reflecting lately on the differences between our original nature and fallen nature, or as the I Ching puts it, the way of the "superior man" or "inferior man".

Our fallen nature says, "I must win," so then we use every possible way, including cheating, lying, destroying people's trust, insulting my rivals, to end up on top. As long as we win, it doesn't matter if we destroy everything around us. We can't stand our rivals, we want them to fail and rejoice when they do.

Original nature says: "May the best one win," and then tries as hard as possible to be the best one. Here we invite our rivals to do better than us, do our best for a good outcome, acknowledge their good points, be gracious no matter if we win or lose, and can sit down with our rivals to decide what's best for all. We want our rivals to succeed, help them up when they fall down, and applaud when they win.