

# Thoroughly Understanding Cause and Effect: Is the Deciding Factor Human or Divine?

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The ancients lived according to the principle, "Enjoy what is natural and obey what is destined," while cultivators lived according to "Follow the course of nature." The book of *Chao Ye Qian Zai* recorded the following story, which helps to illustrate that a person's life is determined by destiny. It is indeed as the founder of Falun Gong, Mr. Li Hongzhi, said, "If something is yours, nobody will take it away," from *Zhuan Falun*.

Before Wei Zheng in the Tang Dynasty became the Prime Minister, two gentlemen worked under him. Wei Zheng once overheard these two people chatting under the window of his office. One of them said, "All of our government positions are decided by this old man (referring to Wei Zheng)." The other said, "It's all decided by heaven."

The very next day Wei Zheng drafted a letter for the gentleman who believed that one's destiny was decided "by this old man." The letter, addressed to the vice minister's office, requested that the bearer of the letter be offered a good government position. The gentleman in question was not aware of the contents of the 'letter'. Just after he stepped out the door, he felt pain in his heart, so he looked for the other gentleman, who believed that heaven controls a man's destiny, and asked him to deliver the letter for him. The day after, the gentleman who believed in divine destiny obtained the good government position.

Afterwards, when Wei Zheng heard about this, he could not help but sigh, "That everything is controlled by the heavens is probably not a false notion!"