

LOYALTY: BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ROOTS

Children are loyal to their parents even if they are neglected or abused by them. Likewise pets are loyal to their masters under similar circumstances. The explanation is, of course, that children depend on their parents for survival, and so do pets relative to their masters. In this case, then, loyalty is an aspect of dependence. There is a second root of loyalty, namely cooperation: our loyalty to our partners or fellow workers in a social enterprise derives from common interest. This kind of loyalty is an aspect of mutual dependence. However, loyalty bonds of this kind can be weakened and even utterly dissolved by extreme competition.

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