

Zhu Xi, “Discussion of yuan, heng, li, and zhen [the Four Virtues of Qian]”¹

(*Yuan heng li zhen shuo* 元亨利真說)

Yuan 元 [supreme/origin], *heng* 亨 [penetrating], *li* 利 [appropriate], and *zhen* 真 [correct] are the nature. Birthing, growing, gather, and storing are the dispositions. Birthing by means of *yuan*, growing by means of *heng*, gathering by means of *li*, and storing by means of *zhen* are the mind.

Humanity, rightness, propriety, and wisdom are the nature. Compassion, shame, respect, [knowledge of] right and wrong are the dispositions. Loving by means of humanity, disliking by means of rightness, respecting by means of propriety, and knowing by means of wisdom are the mind.

The nature is the principle of the mind; the dispositions are the functioning of the mind; the mind is the ruler of the nature and dispositions.

Master Cheng [Hao or Yi] said, "Its substance is called change [*yi* 易]; its principle is called the Way [*dao* 道]; its function is called spirit [*shen* 神]." This is correctly put. [Cheng Hao] said, "In terms of Heaven's naturalness we call it the Way of Heaven. In terms of what Heaven confers on the myriad things we call it the Decree of Heaven." [Cheng Yi] said, "The mind of Heaven and Earth is birthing things," which is also this [idea].²

	Nature 性 (principle 理 of mind)				Dispositions 情 (functioning 用 of mind)				Mind 心 (ruler 主 of nature and dispositions)			
[Natural]	<i>Yuan</i> 元	<i>Heng</i> 亨	<i>Li</i> 利	<i>Zhen</i> 真	Birthing 生	Growing 長	Gathering 收	Storing 藏	Birthing by <i>yuan</i>	Growing by <i>heng</i>	Gathering by <i>li</i>	Storing by <i>zhen</i>
[Human]	Humanity 仁	rightness 義	Propriety 禮	Wisdom 智	Compassion 惻隱	Shame 羞惡	Respect 辭讓	Right / wrong 是非	loving by humanity	Disliking by rightness	Respecting by propriety	Knowing by wisdom
	[Mencius' Four Virtues 四德]				[Mencius' Four Seeds 四端]							

¹ *Hui'an xiansheng Zhu wengong wenji*, 67:3254. The translation of these terms is based on Zhu Xi's commentary on the *Yijing*, the *Zhouyi benyi*. See my translation, *The Original Meaning of the Yijing: Commentary on the Scripture of Change*, by Zhu Xi (NY: Columbia University Press, 2020).

² *Er Cheng ji*, 4; 125; 366.