

In the **first hexagram of the I Ching**, I Ching, **The Creative (Ch'ien/Qian)** is associated with four fundamental virtues:

1. Yuan (元) – The Creative / Originating

- The power of beginning.
- The source from which things arise.
- Often translated as "supreme success," "the primal," or "creative force."

2. Heng (亨) – Success / Penetrating

- Growth and development after the beginning.
- The smooth unfolding of potential.
- The ability to influence and move through obstacles.

3. Li (利) – Advantageous / Beneficial

- What is fitting, useful, and beneficial.
- Acting in harmony with circumstances.
- Bringing benefit to oneself and others.

4. Zhen (貞) – Perseverance / Correctness

- Steadfastness and integrity.
- Remaining true to the proper course.
- Persistence grounded in principle rather than stubbornness.

Wilhelm's classic translation renders the judgment of The Creative as:

"The Creative works sublime success,
Furthering through perseverance."

In traditional Chinese commentary, these four virtues are often understood as a complete cycle:

Virtue	Meaning	Natural Analogy
Yuan	Initiation	Spring
Heng	Growth	Summer
Li	Fruition / Benefit	Autumn
Zhen	Preservation / Endurance	Winter

From a psychological or philosophical perspective, the sequence can be read as:

Create → Develop → Benefit → Sustain

or

Inspiration → Expression → Contribution → Integrity

Many scholars consider these four virtues not merely moral qualities but descriptions of how creative processes unfold in nature, leadership, personal growth, and human action. The Creative is the model of dynamic, life-giving energy that begins something new and carries it through to completion.