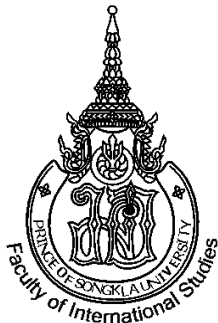


A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy

Chan, W. (1969). *A sourcebook in Chinese philosophy*.
Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

CHAPTER 4— MORAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS: THE GREAT LEARNING

A Book Review by S.A. Martin (2011)
Confucius Teachings & Chinese Philosophy 808-327
Faculty of International Studies—Prince of Songkla University



The 4 Books (of Chu Hsi)

1. Analects
2. Book of Mencius
- 3. Great Learning**
4. Doctrine of the Mean

Chapters from the
Book of Rights

Introduction (p.84)

- Small in size — **Great in importance**
- One of Chu Hsi's "4 Books"
- Confucian doctrine *Jen* (humanity) 仁 in application
- Does not discuss metaphysical problems
- Discussed the "investigation of things"
- 3 Items
- 8 steps

3 Items

The *3 Items* place Confucian programs (educational, moral & political) in a nutshell...

1. Clear character of man
2. Loving of people
3. Abiding in the highest good

The 8 Steps

“The 8 steps are the blueprints for translating *humanity* into actual living”

(Chan, 1969)

Jen (humanity) 仁

8 Steps

1. The investigation of things
2. Extension of knowledge
3. Sincerity of the will
4. Rectification of the mind
5. Cultivation of the personal life
6. Regulation of the family
7. National order
8. World peace

To Chu Hsi...

- The “Investigation of Things”
 - Inductively and Deductively
- Principle (*li*), the reason for being, is inherent to all things
- Clear knowledge of things allows one’s will to be sincere

Chu His rearranged the ancient classical text so that...

The Investigation of Things

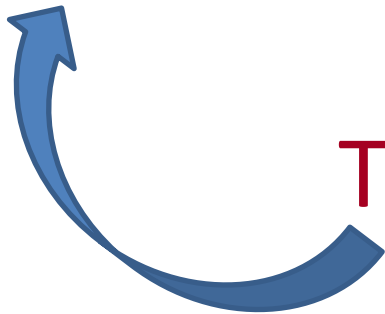
- He rearranged the ancient classical text to have the sections on the **investigation of things** before those on the serenity of the will
- The **investigation of things** is the starting point in moral and social life

Wang Yang-ming (1472-1529) argued this to be
the other-way-around!

Fundamental Doctrine of *The Great Learning*

COMPARITIVE VALUES

- Internal & External
- Fundamental & the Secondary
- First & the Last



These concepts must be clearly
distinguished

Concluding Thoughts

THE GREAT LEARNING

- Important for practical reasons
- Important for theoretical reasons
- 14th — 20th Century required reading in Chinese education
- The investigation of things = the perfect knowledge