Elemental qualities

Patrick Hentsch ·Companion to From Polarity to Meaning, v26 ·25 November 2026

Read the pole names from the bottom yao to the top. In $\mathcal{G}$ the top qualifies the lower pair. In $\mathcal{H}$ the repeated pole occupies both outer positions before the inversion mask is applied. In $\mathcal{L}$ the bottom and top form the frame qualified by the middle.

Source poles x^- horizontal yin x^+ horizontal yang y^- vertical yin y^+ vertical yang

Trigram	Shared handle	Genesis $\mathcal{G}$			Constituent selection $\mathcal{H}$			Double qualification $\mathcal{L}$		
		Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top
Kūn 坤	Terra	Cold	Dry	Dry	Containment	Configuration	Containment	Substance	Substance	Steady
Gèn 艮	Humus	Cold	Dry	Moist	Configuration	Containment	Configuration	Substance	Steady	Quickening
Kǎn 坎	Aqua	Cold	Moist	Cold	Containment	Animation	Containment	Substance	Activation	Steady
Xùn 巽	Succus	Cold	Moist	Hot	Animation	Extension	Animation	Substance	Activation	Quickening
Zhèn 震	Calor	Hot	Dry	Cold	Animation	Containment	Animation	Activation	Steady	Steady
Lí 離	Ignis	Hot	Dry	Hot	Extension	Animation	Extension	Activation	Substance	Quickening
Duì 兌	Pneuma	Hot	Moist	Dry	Configuration	Extension	Configuration	Activation	Quickening	Steady
Qián 乾	Aer	Hot	Moist	Moist	Extension	Configuration	Extension	Activation	Quickening	Quickening

Bigrams and readings

Trigram	$\mathcal{G}$ bigram	$\mathcal{G}$ qualification	$\mathcal{H}$ bigram	$\mathcal{L}$ outer frame	$\mathcal{L}$ reading
Kūn 坤	Terra	Dry Terra	Composition	Holding	Steady substance holds through the substance it provides.
Gèn 艮	Terra	Moistening Terra	Composition	Nourishing	Soil can sustain nourishment through what remains available within it.
Kǎn 坎	Aqua	Cold Aqua	Equilibration*	Holding	A receiving medium holds while permitting movement and dispersal within it.
Xùn 巽	Aqua	Warming Aqua	Activation	Nourishing	Sap makes nourishment available to growth.
Zhèn 震	Ignis	Cooling Ignis	Equilibration*	Sustaining	Warmth can be kept at a degree at which life continues.
Lí 離	Ignis	Hot Ignis	Activation	Emanating	A flame gives forth light through the fuel available to it.
Duì 兌	Aer	Drying Aer	Diffusion	Sustaining	A breath sustains activity through a fresh impulse.
Qián 乾	Aer	Moist Aer	Diffusion	Emanating	Air gives forth into open extension, renewing that movement.

* The elemental drawing names its four outer frames. Equilibration is provisional in constituent selection. Aqua tests whether the word admits receptive dispersal, and Calor whether it admits tempering without requiring equal temperatures.

Human Compass

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Source poles x^- horizontal yin x^+ horizontal yang y^- vertical yin y^+ vertical yang

Trigram	Shared handle	Genesis $\mathcal{G}$			Constituent selection $\mathcal{H}$			Double qualification $\mathcal{L}$		
		Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top
Kūn 坤	Pain	Retreat	Articulation	Articulation	Endurance	Being	Endurance	Exposure	Exposure	Encounter
Gèn 艮	Shame	Retreat	Articulation	Integrity	Being	Endurance	Being	Exposure	Encounter	Concern
Kǎn 坎	Fear	Retreat	Integrity	Retreat	Endurance	Action	Endurance	Exposure	Investment	Encounter
Xùn 巽	Guilt	Retreat	Integrity	Advance	Action	Creation	Action	Exposure	Investment	Concern
Zhèn 震	Anger	Advance	Articulation	Retreat	Action	Endurance	Action	Investment	Encounter	Encounter
Lí 離	Passion	Advance	Articulation	Advance	Creation	Action	Creation	Investment	Exposure	Concern
Duì 兌	Joy	Advance	Integrity	Articulation	Being	Creation	Being	Investment	Concern	Encounter
Qián 乾	Love	Advance	Integrity	Integrity	Creation	Being	Creation	Investment	Concern	Concern

Bigrams and readings

Trigram	$\mathcal{G}$ bigram	$\mathcal{G}$ qualification	$\mathcal{H}$ bigram	$\mathcal{L}$ outer frame	$\mathcal{L}$ reading
Kūn 坤	Resolution	Reinforcing Articulation	Loss	Vulnerability	Loss reaches a person where attachment has made life vulnerable.
Gèn 艮	Resolution	Counterbalancing Integrity	Loss	Self-reckoning	A look or a limit can call one's standing into question while intrinsic worth remains available to recognise.
Kǎn 坎	Preservation	Reinforcing Retreat	Protection	Vulnerability	A threat touches something one has a stake in protecting.
Xùn 巽	Preservation	Counterbalancing Advance	Growth	Self-reckoning	One's act or omission comes under a value one cares about, even before repair.
Zhèn 震	Influence	Counterbalancing Retreat	Protection	Answering	An obstruction or challenged boundary calls for an answer to this particular encounter.
Lí 離	Influence	Reinforcing Advance	Growth	Devotion	Devotion to a pursuit keeps one exposed to what moves one and to what it costs.
Duì 兌	Expression	Counterbalancing Articulation	Gain	Answering	An encounter answers a concern one carries. Gratitude can arise unbidden.
Qián 乾	Expression	Reinforcing Integrity	Gain	Devotion	Another person or a valued relation remains a concern in its own right.

The original Compass categories include their afflicted and intelligent expressions. For Joy, what answers a concern can be wholly unsolicited. For Guilt, the demand upon agency can be felt before one can take reparative action.

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Psychology

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Source poles x^- horizontal yin x^+ horizontal yang y^- vertical yin y^+ vertical yang

Trigram	Shared handle	Genesis $\mathcal{G}$			Constituent selection $\mathcal{H}$			Double qualification $\mathcal{L}$		
		Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top
Kūn 坤	Sensing	Soma	Synthesis	Synthesis	Corporal	Rational	Corporal	Impression	Impression	Contact
Gèn 艮	Sensitivity	Soma	Synthesis	Analysis	Rational	Corporal	Rational	Impression	Contact	Articulation
Kǎn 坎	Feeling	Soma	Analysis	Soma	Corporal	Holistic	Corporal	Impression	Import	Contact
Xùn 巽	Sentiment	Soma	Analysis	Psyche	Holistic	Conceptual	Holistic	Impression	Import	Articulation
Zhèn 震	Inkling	Psyche	Synthesis	Soma	Holistic	Corporal	Holistic	Import	Contact	Contact
Lí 離	Intuiting	Psyche	Synthesis	Psyche	Conceptual	Holistic	Conceptual	Import	Impression	Articulation
Duì 兌	Comprehension	Psyche	Analysis	Synthesis	Rational	Conceptual	Rational	Import	Articulation	Contact
Qián 乾	Thinking	Psyche	Analysis	Analysis	Conceptual	Rational	Conceptual	Import	Articulation	Articulation

Bigrams and readings

Trigram	$\mathcal{G}$ bigram	$\mathcal{G}$ qualification	$\mathcal{H}$ bigram	$\mathcal{L}$ outer frame	$\mathcal{L}$ reading
Kūn 坤	Sensation	Holistic sensation	Sensate	Immediacy	A whole scene impresses itself on the senses before any feature is singled out.
Gèn 艮	Sensation	Differentiated sensation	Sensate	Discernment	One note in a chord becomes perceptibly jarring. Its warrant is still in what is heard.
Kǎn 坎	Emotion	Somatic emotion	Visceral	Immediacy	A felt contraction already registers how the situation matters.
Xùn 巽	Emotion	Reflective emotion	Cardial	Discernment	A feeling's significance becomes discernible through an image or a remembered encounter.
Zhèn 震	Intuition	Embodied intuition	Visceral	Orientation	A possible pattern acquires bodily bearings before one can say what is afoot.
Lí 離	Intuition	Psychological intuition	Cardial	Taking shape	A relation presents itself inwardly in a form one can grasp, sometimes all at once.
Duì 兌	Cognition	Integrative cognition	Mental	Orientation	Judgment gives a pattern form while leaving it open to what a fresh impression may disclose.
Qián 乾	Cognition	Analytical cognition	Mental	Taking shape	A conceptual judgment specifies what follows from a distinction.

Inkling names liminal awareness. Taking shape includes an intuition becoming definite before words are available. Corporal names a bodily register. Cardial is the working name for Holistic with Conceptual, including both Sentiment and Intuiting.

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Creative manifestation

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Source poles x^- horizontal yin x^+ horizontal yang y^- vertical yin y^+ vertical yang

Trigram	Shared handle	Genesis $\mathcal{G}$			Constituent selection $\mathcal{H}$			Double qualification $\mathcal{L}$		
		Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top
Kūn 坤	Realism	Acceptance	Manifestation	Manifestation	Constraint	Appraisal	Constraint	Presence	Presence	Conditions
Gèn 艮	Opportunity	Acceptance	Manifestation	Possibility	Appraisal	Constraint	Appraisal	Presence	Conditions	Prospect
Kǎn 坎	Acceptance	Acceptance	Possibility	Acceptance	Constraint	Attentiveness	Constraint	Presence	Latitude	Conditions
Xùn 巽	Anticipation	Acceptance	Possibility	Engagement	Attentiveness	Intention	Attentiveness	Presence	Latitude	Prospect
Zhèn 震	Adjustment	Engagement	Manifestation	Acceptance	Attentiveness	Constraint	Attentiveness	Latitude	Conditions	Conditions
Lí 離	Enactment	Engagement	Manifestation	Engagement	Intention	Attentiveness	Intention	Latitude	Presence	Prospect
Duì 兌	Design	Engagement	Possibility	Manifestation	Appraisal	Intention	Appraisal	Latitude	Prospect	Conditions
Qián 乾	Conception	Engagement	Possibility	Possibility	Intention	Appraisal	Intention	Latitude	Prospect	Prospect

Bigrams and readings

Trigram	$\mathcal{G}$ bigram	$\mathcal{G}$ qualification	$\mathcal{H}$ bigram	$\mathcal{L}$ outer frame	$\mathcal{L}$ reading
Kūn 坤	Actuality	Recognition of actuality	Condition	Attending	The maker admits a material or a space as it actually stands.
Gèn 艮	Actuality	Potential of actuality	Condition	Emergence	An opening becomes apparent in the properties of what is already there.
Kǎn 坎	Stillness	Patient stillness	Realisation	Attending	An unresolved situation can be attended to while alternatives remain open.
Xùn 巽	Stillness	Pregnant stillness	Initiation	Emergence	A possible contribution begins to gather while there is room for it to develop otherwise.
Zhèn 震	Activity	Adaptive activity	Realisation	Calibration	Work already under way changes in response to an encountered constraint.
Lí 離	Activity	Executive activity	Initiation	Development	A contemplated course acquires a presence one can encounter in the medium.
Duì 兌	Imagination	Strategic imagination	Invention	Calibration	A possible course is worked out against actual resources or constraints.
Qián 乾	Imagination	Exploratory imagination	Invention	Development	Following one possibility opens another.

Attentiveness means an outward-facing awareness. A maker executing a familiar action can give a work presence without deliberating. That case tests how broadly the comparison can bear the proposed reading.

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Organic life

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Source poles x^- horizontal yin x^+ horizontal yang y^- vertical yin y^+ vertical yang

Trigram	Shared handle	Genesis $\mathcal{G}$			Constituent selection $\mathcal{H}$			Double qualification $\mathcal{L}$		
		Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top	Bottom	Middle	Top
Kūn 坤	Consolidation	Inward	Assimilation	Assimilation	Sustenance	Recognition	Sustenance	Resources	Resources	Fit
Gèn 艮	Discernment	Inward	Assimilation	Differentiation	Recognition	Sustenance	Recognition	Resources	Fit	Specification
Kǎn 坎	Extraction	Inward	Differentiation	Inward	Sustenance	Economy	Sustenance	Resources	Use	Fit
Xùn 巽	Mobilisation	Inward	Differentiation	Outward	Economy	Contribution	Economy	Resources	Use	Specification
Zhèn 震	Exchange	Outward	Assimilation	Inward	Economy	Sustenance	Economy	Use	Fit	Fit
Lí 離	Deployment	Outward	Assimilation	Outward	Contribution	Economy	Contribution	Use	Resources	Specification
Duì 兌	Composition	Outward	Differentiation	Assimilation	Recognition	Contribution	Recognition	Use	Specification	Fit
Qián 乾	Propagation	Outward	Differentiation	Differentiation	Contribution	Recognition	Contribution	Use	Specification	Specification

Bigrams and readings

Trigram	$\mathcal{G}$ bigram	$\mathcal{G}$ qualification	$\mathcal{H}$ bigram	$\mathcal{L}$ outer frame	$\mathcal{L}$ reading
Kūn 坤	Incorporation	Consolidating incorporation	Integration	Provisioning	What a focal whole incorporates becomes a coherent part of its provision.
Gèn 艮	Incorporation	Differentiating incorporation	Integration	Allocation	Differences within what belongs to the whole disclose possible roles in its organisation.
Kǎn 坎	Digestion	Conservative digestion	Nourishment	Provisioning	The whole draws from what it receives to maintain or renew itself.
Xùn 巽	Digestion	Productive digestion	Provision	Allocation	Resources within the whole are prepared for an outward contribution.
Zhèn 震	Participation	Receptive participation	Nourishment	Coordination	Participation in a larger relation sustains the focal whole's own activity.
Lí 離	Participation	Contributive participation	Provision	Output	An available resource or capacity enters the encompassing relation it serves.
Duì 兌	Reproduction	Consolidating reproduction	Formation	Coordination	In bringing forth a continuation, the whole organises the parts that make the new unit coherent.
Qián 乾	Reproduction	Multiplicative reproduction	Formation	Output	The focal whole brings forth further distinct continuations.

Keep the focal whole fixed. Allocation can name a role becoming discernible before any destination is assigned. In the Economy family a statement of purpose alone leaves the direction of activity open.

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