

Cognate Han

Raise Arm Fit Join Weave Fine Skill

Putting together and creating what was
already there by what is already here

Art

Lay Hands Read New Source

Joining together and putting in order what
is already here by what has always been there

Ordain

Joint Shared Points

Ordinary articulate articles in a reasonable
ratio of order

Harmony

Words from the same derivation Cognates

Author's early journal entries, May 1977 - exploring cognates

[arm] [Middle English, from Old English: arm, earm;

akin to Old High German: aram: arm, Old Norse: armr, Gothic: arms, Latin: armus: shoulder, Greek: harmos: joint, Sanskrit: irma: arm, Latin: arma: tools, weapons, art-, ars: skill, Greek: arariskein: to fit
basic meaning: joining, fitting] - Webster's Third New International Dictionary - Unabridged 1966

[Art] [ME fr OF fr L art-, ars] [ar < base IE ar- To join or fit] (174 New Word Dict.)

[harmony] [ME armonye, fr MF armonie, fr OF, fr L harmonia, fr Gk, joint, concord, harmony, fr harmos: joint, fastening - more at arm]

[order] [MF ordne, orden, fr OF ordene, ordne, ordne, fr ML + L; ML ordin-, ordo: order (ecclesiastical sense), fr L (in other senses); akin to L ordini: to lay the warp, to begin to weave, begin, and perhaps to Gk arariskein]

[ordain] [ME ordeinen, fr OF ordener, fr L + L; LL ordinare to ordain, fr L, to put in order, arrange, appoint, fr ordin- ordo: order]

[ordinary] [artifact]

[ordinance]

websters
New World Dictionary
1974

[reason] [ME reison < OFr < L ratio: a reckoning, reason, plan < ratus p.p. of rexi: to think < IE. base re-, re-, ar- to fit, to join.]

ratio rational

* read: [ME. reden, to explain, hence to read < OE.

rædan: to counsel, interpret; < base (a)rē- to join, fit]

Note Webster's 1974 New Word Dictionary traces words back to hypothetical Indo-European roots

article [ME. & OF. < L. articulus, dim. of artus: a joint]

articulate [L. articulatus, pp. of articulare: to separate into joints, utter distinctly < articulus: a joint]

~~Join~~
~~Fit~~

Fit

Join

IT

Weave

This

Joint

Arms

Putting Together and creating what was already there by what is already here: #

Art

1
2
3
4
5

artisan

inert

inertia

coarctate

anarthrous

arthro-

dianthrosis

enarthrosis

synarthrosis

aristocracy

coordination

inordinate

exordium

primordial

ornate

adorn

suborn

arraign

hatred

kindred

artifice

artisan

artillery

ratify

rate

ration

Alarm

Armada

ARMADILLO

Armature

Armoire

Army

Disarm

armillary sphere

Harmonie

Typed version by the author, 1985 - with explanatory note

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Explanatory Note (1985):

Cognates, of course, are words related to each other by their derivation from a common word or concept in an ancestral language.

The han, though, is less well known and requires explanation because the poem is based on its pattern. It is a traditional instrument – a wooden block – that is used in all three of the residential practice centers of the San Francisco Zen Center. The Zen Center uses it, in keeping with the established Japanese Soto Zen tradition, as a time signal for various parts of the monastic schedule, particularly for announcing periods of zazen (zen meditation)

The block is struck over a period of time, usually fifteen minutes, in a specific pattern. There are four short introductory hits close to each other, struck as loud, soft, softest, loud, followed by seven evenly spaced hits about a minute apart. Then there is a "roll down" where a number of hits are made, each a little faster, until it is very rapid and fades out. This is the end of the first "round" which is marked by one loud hit.

The second round consists of five hits evenly spaced followed by another roll down, then two hits—soft and loud—to mark the end of the second round. Then round three with three hits a minute apart, a roll down, and then three hits—loud, soft, and loud.

When living in a monastery this pattern becomes a major part of one's life.

- Ted Howell, 1985
Green Gulch Farm Zen Center
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