

## TO TREAT 治 ZHI

To treat, to cure, to heal. To govern, to regulate, to direct. To put in order.

The character for to treat or to govern 治 is made with, on the left the image of the water:  
氵 = 水.

On the right, a phonetic part which is also present in several others characters, including shi 始 : to begin, beginning, and tai 胎 : fetus, the fetus being the best image for the beginning of life, the starting of a development.

Of Yu the Great, one of the main important legendary figures of China, it is said that he "treat" (zhi shui 治水) the water to express that he was able to deal efficiently with the floods, digging canals to channel the water to the sea. He understood the proper nature of water which is to go down and help it to follow its natural tendency. He was then worth to be given the government of the Empire since he was able to conduct people by understanding their nature.

The ruler of men is the one who know the nature of things, the natural propencies of the beings. To govern (zhi 治) is to keep or to put back in the natural order.

The authentic practitioner is the one able to do the same with the qi of the patient : to treat (zhi 治) is to put them back in the natural flow of life.