**heart/心(Xīn)**

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Both Xin and heart are very complex concepts in Chinese and Western cultural traditions, and their using always involve very different contexts. Strictly speaking, each word is related to a series of concepts, which together form a word-family, and Xin or heart is the core concept in each word-family.

Generally, Xin is used to translate mind and heart in Chinese. Xin and heart have more in common. Regardless of Chinese or Western language, Xin or heart is first and foremost a human organ, and both of them are related to the sphere of feelings and intuitions in human life, which are also associated with the basic emotions of love. In this sense, there is no problem in the mutual translation between them.

In Western contexts the idea of a non-material being bringing life to the body in expressed by the concepts of spirit and soul, which have several meanings in common among them and some also with heart, but with a strong theological connotation. Since there is no Chinese concept of transcendence in the Western sense, Xin plays a role in connecting with the universe or heaven in Chinese philosophy.

So Xin and spirit have certain transcendent dimension in their respective cultures. But in modern Chinese, in order to highlight the particularity of spirit in Western sense, people generally do not use Xin to translate spirit, but create modern Chinese "Jingshen”（精神）or "shuling"（属灵）to translate spirit. The former refers to individual or collective spirit in its secular sense, while the latter refers to gods or the Holy Spirit.

In Chinese, Xin is also not used to translate soul, which refers to a non-material substance. In the Chinese cultural tradition, there is no concept which refers to substance, but there is a distinction between body-shape and breath. Modern Chinese created "Linghun"（灵魂） to translate the concept of soul, "Hun"（魂）emphasizes the existence of something while the body is dead, so the meaning of "Hun" is more similar to soul.