In this academic exercise, it is hoped that through an analysis of the concept of 'Tian Ming', the misconceptions that this concept is fatalistic and that it is free of religious value in Confucianism would be dispelled. Owing to the fact that Confucianism seeks to expound the 'Tian Ming' concept in religious and moralistic terms, it may also be deemed a moralistic religion. In order that an accurate picture of the two philosophers 'Tian Ming' concept might be presented, this academic exercise will analyse separately the two philosophers' views on this concept and its historical connection.

According to the two great philosophers, Confucius and Mencius, every individual is endowed with the same Human Nature (性) by 'Tian' (天). The Principle in a moral situation. However, as time elapses, the Human Nature of each individual undergoes changes and it is ultimately related to one's 'Ming' (名). The area of physical impossibility. The philosophers believed that the 'Ming' of an individual is not synonymous with the 'Tian Ming' (天命). The former refers to the subjective restriction which is endowed by 'Tian' in Human Nature; the latter, on the other hand, refers to what 'Tian' endows on man the objective restriction. As regards the philosophers strongly recommended that one should confront moral practices, it is possible for the 'Tian Ming' to set as motivating forces.
Since the Analects "论语" and Mencius "孟子" are widely accepted as the best guides of the teachings of these two philosophers, these two volumes, together with other materials are used in this academic exercise to expound the essence of the two great masters' 'Tian Ming' concept. In order that a more objective evaluation of their thinking may be presented, the views and critiques of other writers on the same concept are also included and criticized. This academic exercise included the following chapters:

Chapter I Introduction
II The Careers of Confucius and Mencius
III The Historical Origin of the 'Tian Ming' Concept
IV Confucius' Concept of 'Tian Ming'
V Mencius' Concept of 'Tian Ming'
VI An Evaluation of the Two Philosophers' 'Tian Ming' Concept
VII Conclusion