

Postgraduate Assignment coversheet & feedback form

THIS SHEET MUST BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ASSIGNMENT YOU ARE SUBMITTING
(DO NOT SEND AS A SEPARATE FILE)

For completion by the student:		
Student Name: Ruisi Wang		
Module code: SICH7019 Module title: Readings from The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles	Student ID number: 2000458	Educational support needs: Yes / No
Module tutor: Dr. Chen Sufan Assignment due date: 3/8/2026		
If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is. 1 st ☐ 2 nd ☐ 3 rd ☐ 4 th ☐ 5 th ☐ 6 th ☐		
Word count:		
I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism. Signed <i>Ruisi Wang</i>		
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Assignment Mark	
1st Marker's Provisional mark	
2nd Marker's/Moderator's provisional mark	
Agreed Internal Mark:	
External Examiner's mark (if relevant)	
Final Mark	
NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the Final Examination Board.	

For completion by Marker 1:

Comments:

Marker's signature:

Date:

For completion by Marker 2/Moderator:

Comments:

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Comment on process on arriving at agreed mark:

External Examiner's comments (if relevant)

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I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

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The Heavenly Mechanism and the Small & Great Distinction

Text 「 Kui envies Xian 」 ,From Chapter *Qiushui*

Module code: SICH7019

Module tutor: Dr. Chen,Sufan

Student name: Wang Ruisi

Student ID number: 2000458

Date: 31 July 2026





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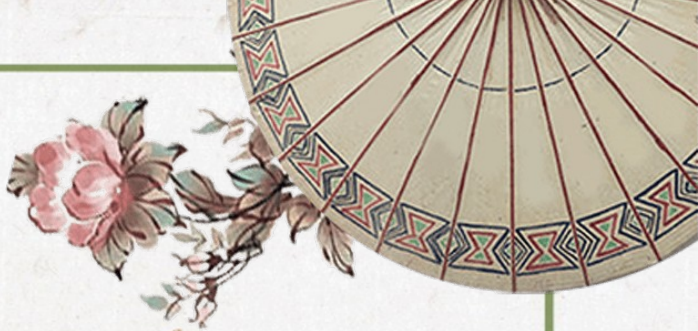


① Introduction

② Translation & The Omission

③ Analysis Through Commentaries

④ Conclusion



PART.01

Introduction



小大之辯

**Distinction between
Small and Great**



蜩與學鳩笑之曰.....

The cicada and the little dove laugh at the
great roc Peng.....

——Chapter *Xiaoyaoyou*

河伯「以天下之美為盡在己」

All beauty is contained in his area.....

——Chapter *Qiushui*



此篇因《逍遥游》《齐物论》而衍之。

This Chapter takes the Chapter Xiaoyaoyou and Qiwulun, and extends them.

——王夫之《莊子解》

Wang Fuzhi, *Zhuangzi Jie*

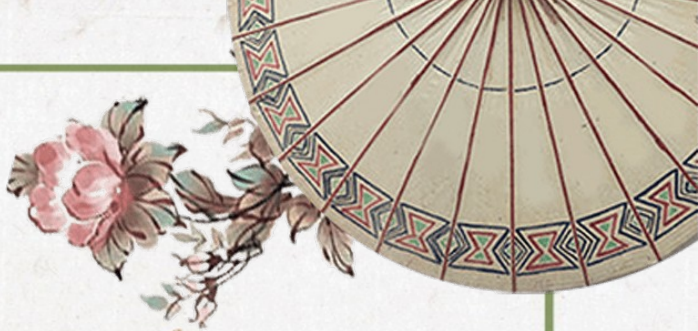


Envy

Heavenly Mechanism 天機

The natural, spontaneous functioning inherent in each thing.





PART.02

Translation & The Omission



夔憐𧈧，𧈧憐蛇，蛇憐風，風憐目，目憐心。

夔謂𧈧曰：「吾以一足踳踳而行，予无如矣。今子之使萬足，獨奈何？」
𧈧曰：「不然。子不見夫唾者乎？噴則大者如珠，小者如霧，雜而下者不可勝數也。今予動吾天機，而不知其所以然。」

𧈧謂蛇曰：「吾以眾足行，而不及子之無足，何也？」蛇曰：「夫天機之所動，何可易邪？吾安用足哉！」

蛇謂風曰：「予動吾脊脊而行，則有似也。今子蓬蓬然起於北海，蓬蓬然入於南海，而似無有，何也？」風曰：「然。予蓬蓬然起於北海而入於南海也，然而指我則勝我，鱗我亦勝我。雖然，夫折大木，蜚大屋者，唯我能也，故以眾小不勝為大勝也。為大勝者，唯聖人能之。」



夔憐𧈧，𧈧憐蛇，蛇憐風，風憐目，目憐心。

The one-footed creature Kui envies the countless-footed creature Xian. Xian envies the footless snake. The snake envies the formless wind. The wind envies the clear-seeing eyes. The eyes envies the inner mind.

——*Zhuangzi, Chapter Qiushui*



Translation & The Omission

夔謂蜥曰：「吾以一足踳踳而行，予无如矣。今子之使萬足，獨奈何？」蜥曰：「不然。子不見夫唾者乎？噴則大者如珠，小者如霧，雜而下者不可勝數也。今予動吾天機，而不知其所以然。」

Kui said to Xian: "I hop along on my single foot, stumbling and halting — I am utterly helpless. And you, who move with ten thousand feet — how do you manage it?" Xian replied: "Not at all. Have you not seen someone spitting? The drops come out — the large ones like pearls, the small ones like mist. Everything in between is uncountable. Now I simply move my heavenly Mechanism , and I do not know why it happens."



趑趄，跛者行一前一卻，不定之意也。
——王念孫

Means the unsteady gait of a lame person
moving forward and backward unevenly.

予无如矣——I am utterly helpless

今予動吾天機，而不知其所以然。



Translation & The Omission

夔謂蜥曰：「吾以一足踳踳而行，予无如矣。今子之使萬足，獨奈何？」蜥曰：「不然。子不見夫唾者乎？噴則大者如珠，小者如霧，雜而下者不可勝數也。今予動吾天機，而不知其所以然。」

Kui said to Xian: "I hop along on my single foot, stumbling and halting — I am utterly helpless. And you, who move with ten thousand feet — how do you manage it?" Xian replied: "Not at all. Have you not seen someone spitting? The drops come out — the large ones like pearls, the small ones like mist. Everything in between is uncountable. Now I simply move my heavenly Mechanism , and I do not know why it happens."



夫唾而噴者實無心於大小，而大小之...
自然如此。

——成玄英

今予動吾天機，而不知其所以然。



Translation & The Omission

螭謂蛇曰：「吾以眾足行，而不及子之無足，何也？」蛇曰：「夫天機之所動，何可易邪？吾安用足哉！」

Xian said to the snake: "I move with countless feet, yet I cannot compare to you who have no feet at all — why is that?" The snake replied: "What is set in motion by the heavenly Mechanism — how can it be changed? What use do I have for feet?"



天然機關，有此動用，遲速有無，不可
改易，無心任運，何用足哉？

——成玄英

天機之所動，何可易邪？吾安用足哉！



Translation & The Omission

蛇謂風曰：「予動吾脊脅而行，則有似也。今子蓬蓬然起於北海，蓬蓬然入於南海，而似無有，何也？」風曰：「然。予蓬蓬然起於北海而入於南海也，然而指我則勝我，鱗我亦勝我。雖然，夫折大木，蜚大屋者，唯我能也，故以眾小不勝為大勝也。為大勝者，唯聖人能之。」

The snake said to the wind: "I move by activating my spine and ribs — and there is still a trace of form. Yet you rise with a roar from the Northern Sea and enter the Southern Sea with a roar, appearing to have nothing at all — why is that?"

The wind replied: "Yes. I rise from the Northern Sea and enter the Southern Sea. But if you point at me, you overcome me; if you tread on me, you also overcome me. Yet, though this is so, what can break great trees and send great houses flying? Only I can do it. Therefore, from the many small 'not-overcomings' comes the great 'overcoming.' And people who achieves the great overcoming — only the sage can do it."



「風憐目，目憐心。」

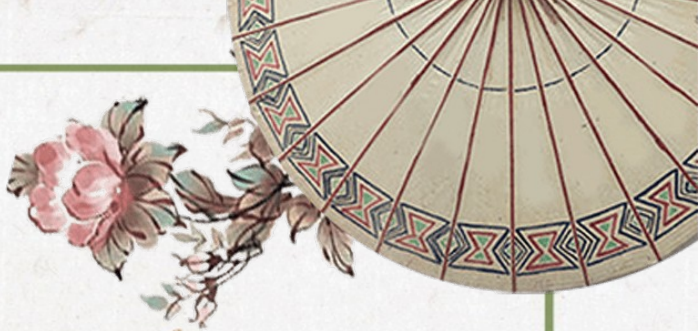
**The wind envies the clear-seeing eyes.
The eyes envies the inner mind.**



「風憐目，目憐心。」

1. Textual losing
2. Deliberately Omitted
3. Leaving blank

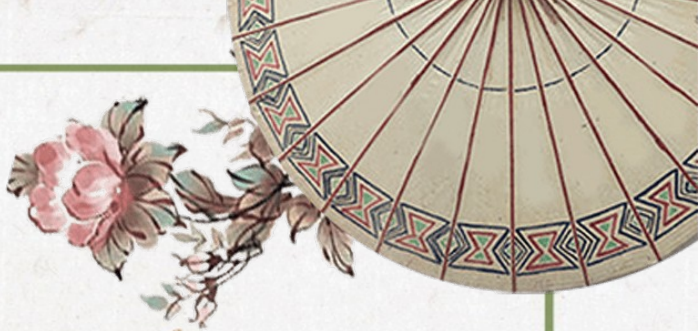




PART.03

Analysis Through Commentaries





PART.03

3.1 The Heavenly Mechanism of the Wind



Analysis Through Commentaries



「今子蓬蓬然起於北海，
蓬蓬然入於南海，而似
無有，何也？」

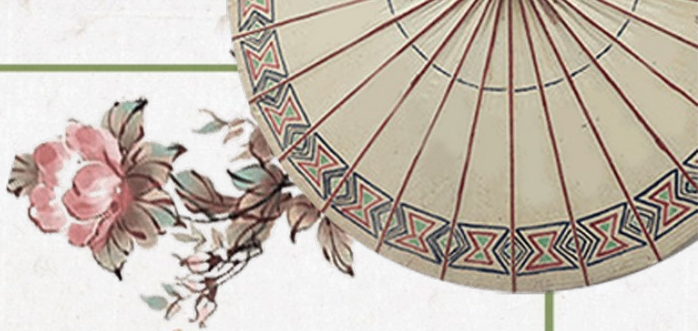


Analysis Through Commentaries



王夫之：「风其愈矣
——以小不胜为大胜故
也。」





PART.03

3.2 Connect with the *Xiaoyaoyou* and the *Qiwulun*



Analysis Through Commentaries



Analysis Through Commentaries



The number of
feet

Analysis Through Commentaries



have feet or
not



Analysis Through Commentaries



have form or
not



**The Heavenly Mechanism is not a
standard for comparison**

萬物各自位其得。

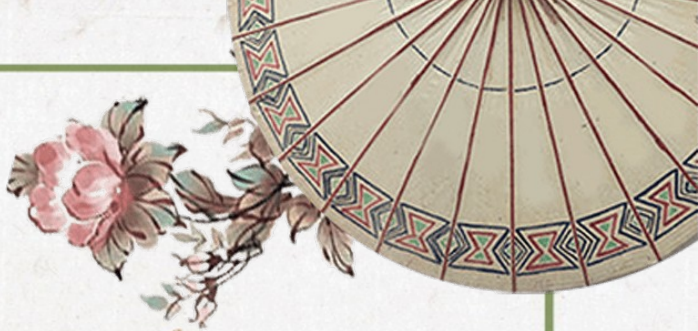


「是非之彰也，道之所以虧也。」

——Chapter *Qiwulun*

The *Qiwulun* says: “When right and wrong appear, the Dao is diminished.





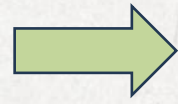
PART.04

Conclusion



Conclusion

夔憐𧈧



𧈧憐蛇



蛇憐風

1 foot

Countless
feet

Without
feet

Without
form

天機

Heavenly Mechanism



Conclusion



Conclusion





Thank you for Listening.