



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code: SICH4010</i> <i>Module title: Selected Readings from the Canon of Poetry</i>	<i>Student number: 2304057</i>
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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AI Acknowledgement

☐ I have not used AI in my assignment

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.

☒ I have used AI in my assignment

I acknowledge the use of Deepseek on 20 October to proofread some words. I used the prompt(s):

1. What is the conservative mindset? (什麼是守成意識?)
2. What is the innovative thinking? (什麼是創造性思維?)
3. How to say “天命觀”、“敬天保民”、“鞏固統治”、“前車之鑒” in English? (如何用英語表達“天命觀”、“敬天保民”、“鞏固統治”、“前車之鑒”。)

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

An Analysis of the Conservative Mindset and Creative Thinking in the *Book of Odes* (*shijing* 詩經)

——The chapter of ‘King Wen (*wen wang* 文王)’

Module code: SICH4010

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Date: 28 October 2025

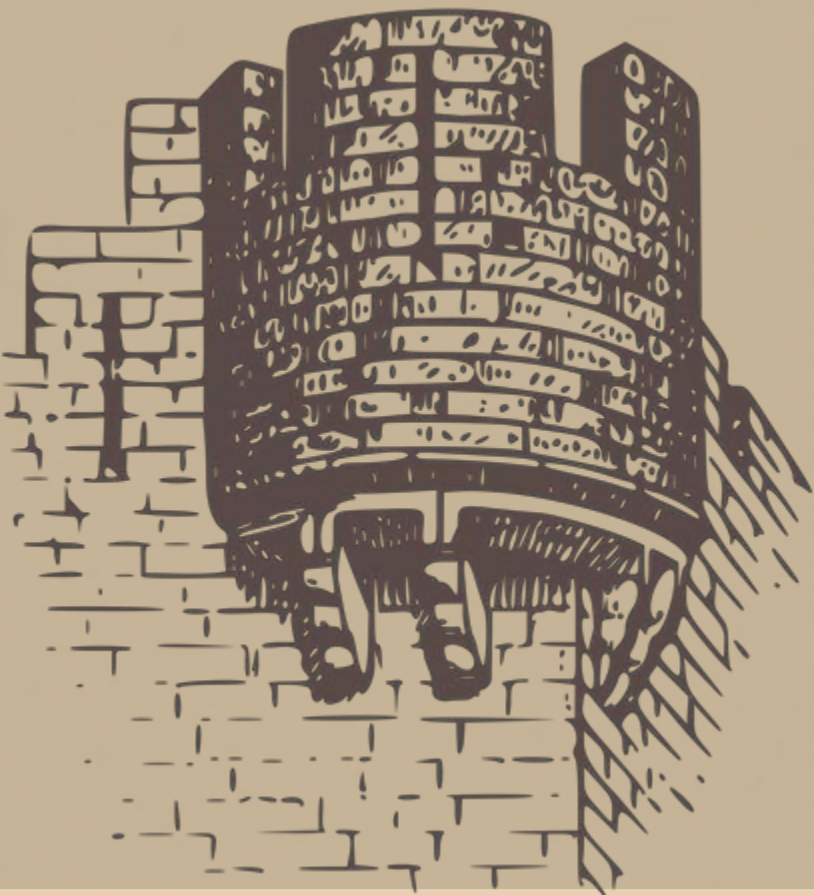
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The *Zhou* Concept of the Mandate of Heaven (天命觀)

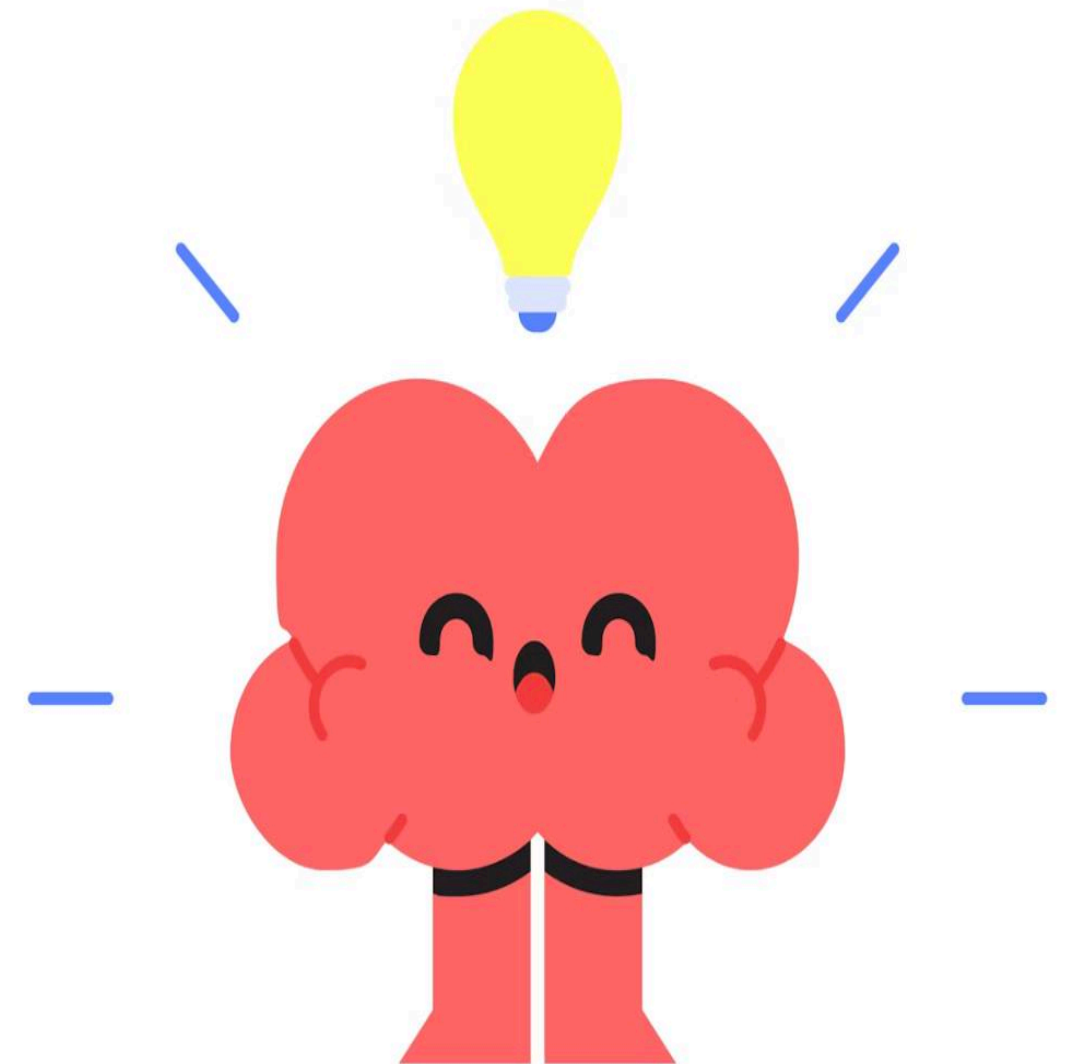


1.The conservative mindset (守成意識) in the chapter of ‘King Wen’

1.1 Introduction

●What is the conservative mindset?

The conservative mindset is the concept of preserving and strengthen existing achievements to lay the foundation for subsequent development.

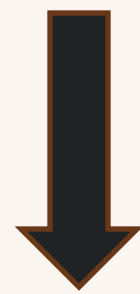


1.2 Verse

1) ● King Wen is on high;
Oh! Bright is he in heaven.

文王在上，
於昭于天。

The political position of the *Shang* dynasty.



Divine right of kings (君權神授)

Mandate of Heaven (天命觀)

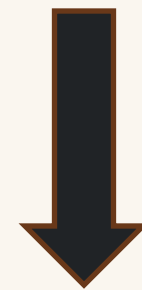


- 1.Tao Rubiao 陶儒彪， 'Zhouren tianmingguan chutan' 周人天命觀初探， *Culture Journal* 文化學刊， 10(2021), 124-126 (p.125).
- 2.Jiang Chongyue 蔣重躍， 'Cong shu、shi de tianminglun kan gudaizhongguo de zhengtongguan' 從《書》、《詩》的天命論看古代中國的正統觀， *Qishi xuekan* 求是學刊， (2007)， 128-131(p.130).
- 3.James Legge, *The Chinese Classics* 中國經典 (Shanghai: Huadongshifandaxue chubanshe, 2011),p.427.

2) ● Look to Yin as a beacon;
The great appointment is not easily preserved.

宜鑒于殷，
駿命不易。

Learn from the mistakes of the *Shang* dynasty.



To consolidate *Zhou*'s role



3) ● **Take your pattern from King Wen;** 儀刑文王，
And the myriad regions will repose confidence in you. 萬邦作孚。

Indicating that follow the example of the *King Wen*.
Follow his statutes and institutions.



Preserve the rule of the ***Zhou*** royal house.

2.The innovative thinking (創新思維) in this poem

2.1 Introduction

●What is the innovative thinking?

Innovative thinking is a concept of developing new ways of thinking by breaking established cognitive models, in order to achieve unique results.

2.2 Verse

1) ● Although Chow was an old country,
The appointment lighted on it recently.

周雖舊邦，
其命維新。



Different: The *Zhou* people introducing the human element into the framework of the Mandate of Heaven. They placed greater emphasis on human moral character, giving rise to concepts such as 'Respect for Heaven and Care for the people'.

1. Tao Rubiao , 'Zhouren tianmingguan chutan' , p.125.
2. Jiang Chongyue , 'Cong shu 、 shi de tianminglun kan gudaizhongguo de zhengtongguan' p.129.
3. James Legge, *The Chinese* , p.430.

2) ● They became subject to Chow. 侯服于周，
The appointment of Heaven is not constant. 天命靡常。

Heaven commissioned the swallow, (天命玄鳥)
To descend and give birth to (the father of our) Shang. (降而生商)
Unique to the *Shang* dynasty



The appointment of Heaven is not constant. (天命靡長)
The Mandate of Heaven is not constant (天命無常)

Different: The *Zhou* people redefined the concept of the Mandate of Heaven from the *Shang* dynasty, deepening their understanding of it. They Introduced the concept of the changeable Mandate of Heaven.

3. My perspective - the influence of this poem on me

3.1 The importance of virtue



Virtue is the foundation of our lives. We can not say the competence and power are unimportant. They are not very important compared with virtue. Although the heaven gives emperor the Mandate of Heaven, it will not be permanent without virtue.

3.2 Learn from the previous failures

- The beacon of Yin is not far-distant;
It is in the age of the (last) sovereign of Hëa. 殷鑒不遠
在夏後之世
- Look to Yin as a beacon;
The great appointment is not easily preserved. 宜鑒于殷
駿命不易

Learn from past experience to better deal with the present.
Nothing lasts forever, so we should constantly strive to
improve ourselves, which is essential for keeping up with
society.



3.3 The two mindsets

Conservative mindset

Inheritance and development

Creative thinking

There is no contradiction between the two of the mindsets.
Conservative mindset is an inheritance of the previous culture and innovative thinking is a development of the culture.

4. Conclusion



- 1) The brief explanation of the conservative mindset and innovative thinking in this poem.
- 2) Comparison of the concepts of the Mandate of Heaven in the *Shang* dynasty and the *Zhou* dynasty.
- 3) My perspective of this poem and concept.

THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING

Bibliography

Tao Rubiao 陶儒彪, 'Zhouren tianmingguan chutan' 周人天命觀初探, *Culture Journal* 文化學刊, 10(2021), 124-126

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James Legge, *The Chinese Classics* 中國經典 (Shanghai: Huadongshifan daxue chubanshe, 2011)

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