



**Undergraduate assignment feedback form**  
(to be completed by marker)

|                                                                                                                   |                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Student Name:</i> Yujie Chen                                                                                   |                                |
| <i>Module Code:</i> SICH5007<br><br><i>Module title:</i> Sinological English II: Translation of Daoist Literature | <i>Student number:</i> 2006724 |
| <i>For completion by marker:</i><br><i>Comments:</i>                                                              |                                |
| <i>Marker's signature:</i>                                                                                        | <i>Date:</i>                   |
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# The Three Levels of Craftsmanship Spirit

Module code: SICH5007

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Student ID: 2304995, 2006724

Date: 09 April 2025

# *‘Spirit of Craftsmanship’*



Cambridge  
Dictionary

a person who is skilled in a particular craft:

The professional spiritual qualities and value  
process of working.

**craft** *noun* (SKILL)

**B2** [ C or U ] plural **crafts**

**skill and experience, especially in relation to making objects;**

# Why has it become so popular and widely discussed by the public?

Is it truly valuable for individuals?

- **ECONOMY**
- **MANUFACTURING**
- **HIGH-QUALITY GOODS**
- **PEOPLE WITH CRAFTSMANSHIP SPIRIT**



Why has it become so popular and widely discussed by the public?

## Is it truly valuable for individuals?

- More competitive in job markets
- Cultivating life attitude



# 列子



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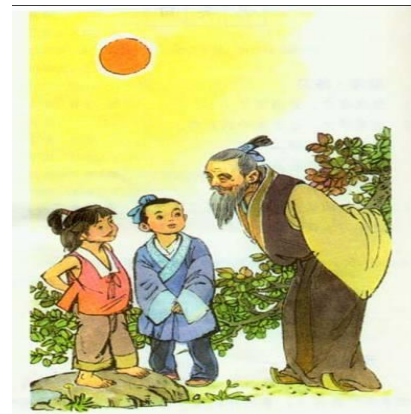
## Master Lie

- A Daoist classic from the pre-Qin period
- Stories, sayings and short essays

### 愚公移山



Mr. Fool Wants to Move the Mountain  
(Yugongyishan 愚公移山)



Two Little Boys Argued About Sun  
(liangxiaoerbianri 兩小兒辯日)



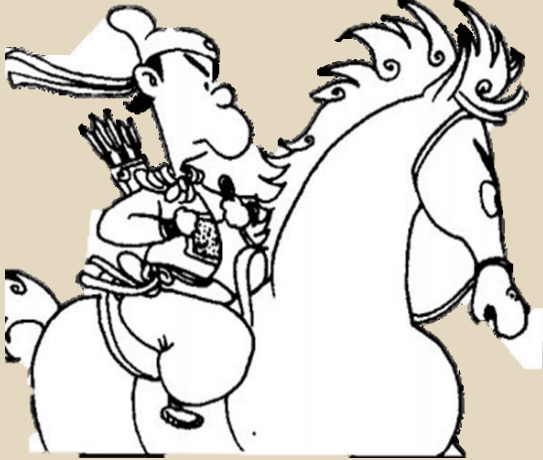
# *01* *Concentration*

— The First Level of Craftsmanship Spirit



# Questions of Tang (*Tangwen* 湯問)

Ji Chang 紀昌



Fei Wei 飛衛



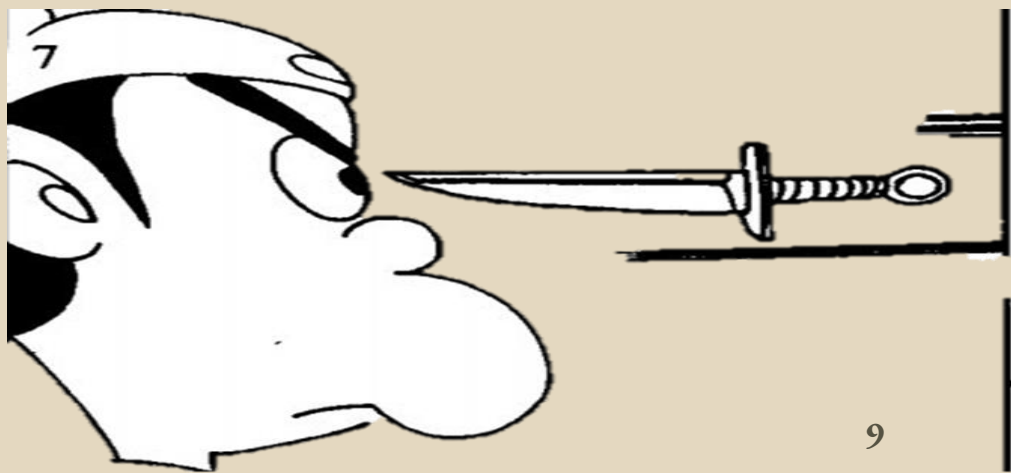
Gan Ying 甘蠅



First you must  
learn how to not  
blink.

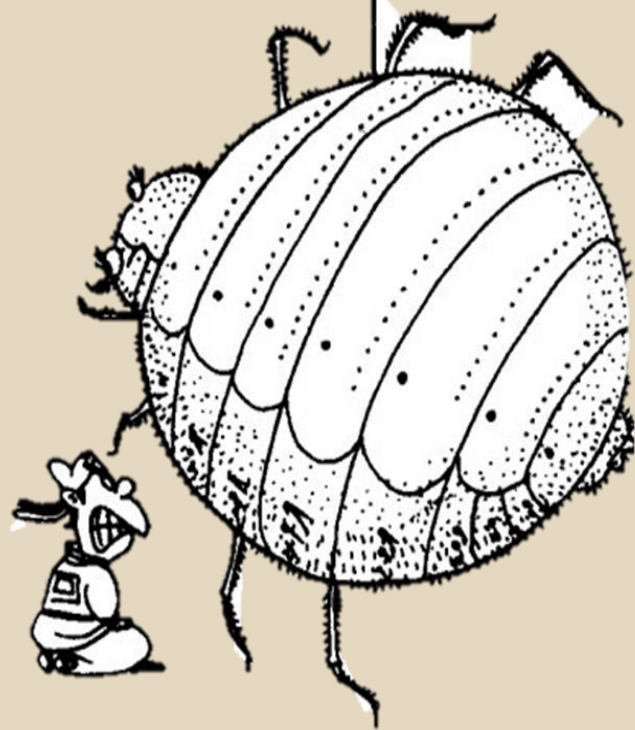
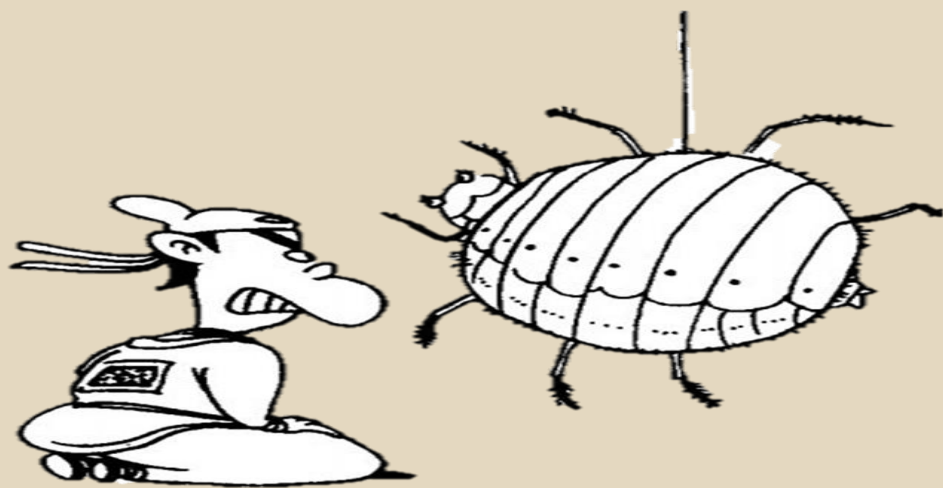


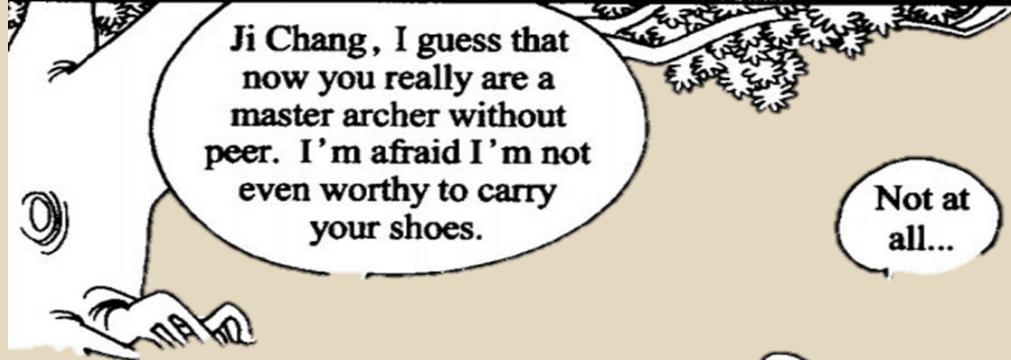
Gan Ying was a legendary archer in ancient China and he was a master of archery during the Spring and Autumn (770 — 476 BCE) and Warring States ( 475 — 221 BCE) periods.



The next step is to learn  
how to see things. When  
you can see the small as big  
and the distant as near,  
come back to see me.

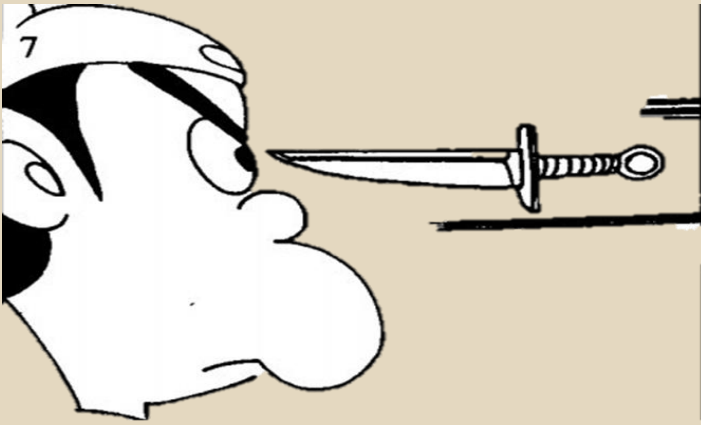
Yes,  
master.





Ji Chang, I guess that now you really are a master archer without peer. I'm afraid I'm not even worthy to carry your shoes.

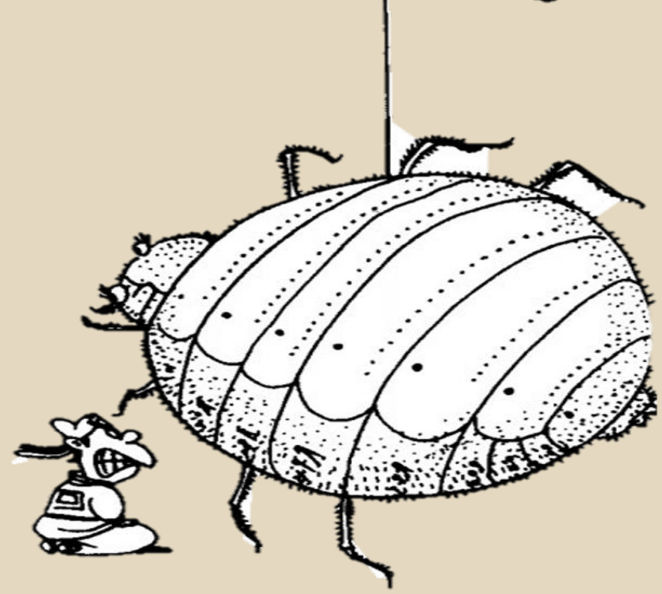
Not at all...



## 'Not Blinking'

Two goals:

1. to overcome the fear of sudden danger
2. to minimize extraneous interference factors that are unrelated to the target.



## 'Not Seeing'

# *Comprehension* 02

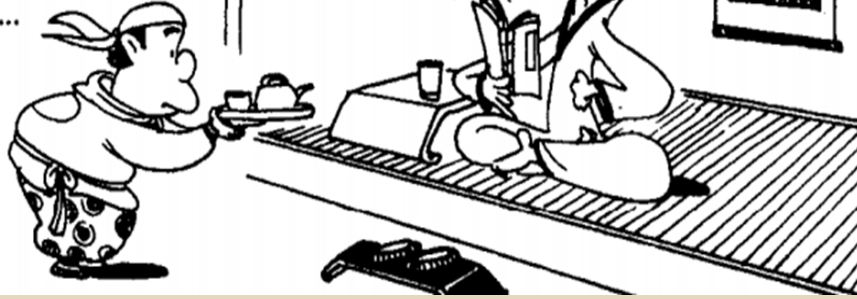
— The Second Level of the Craftsmanship Spirit





## Questions of Tang (*Tangwen* 湯問)

Zao Fu studied carriage driving under the master Tai Dou, but after three years, Tai Dou hadn't taught him a single secret of the trade...



## Tai Dou 泰斗

First I want you to observe everything about this profession, because not until you understand everything as I do will you be able to use six reigns to control six horses.

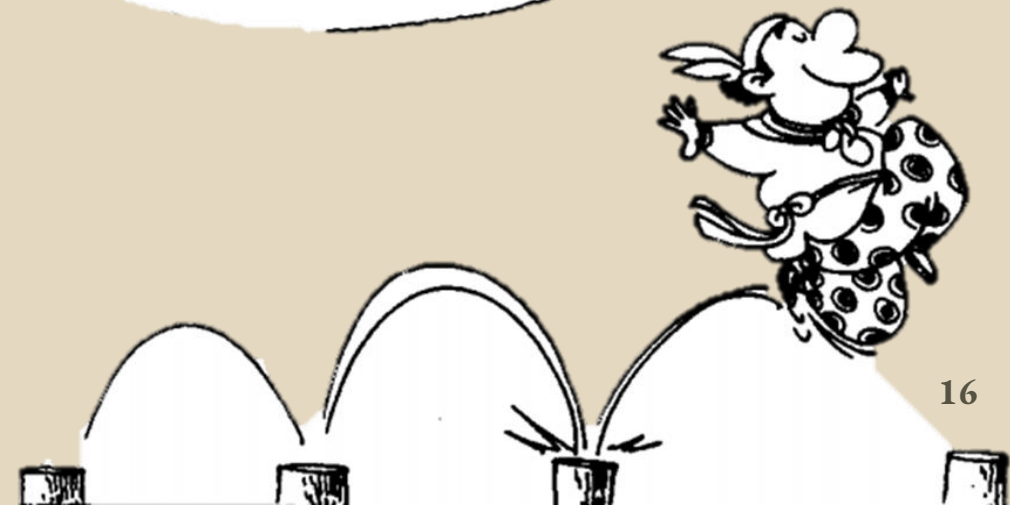
Yes, master.

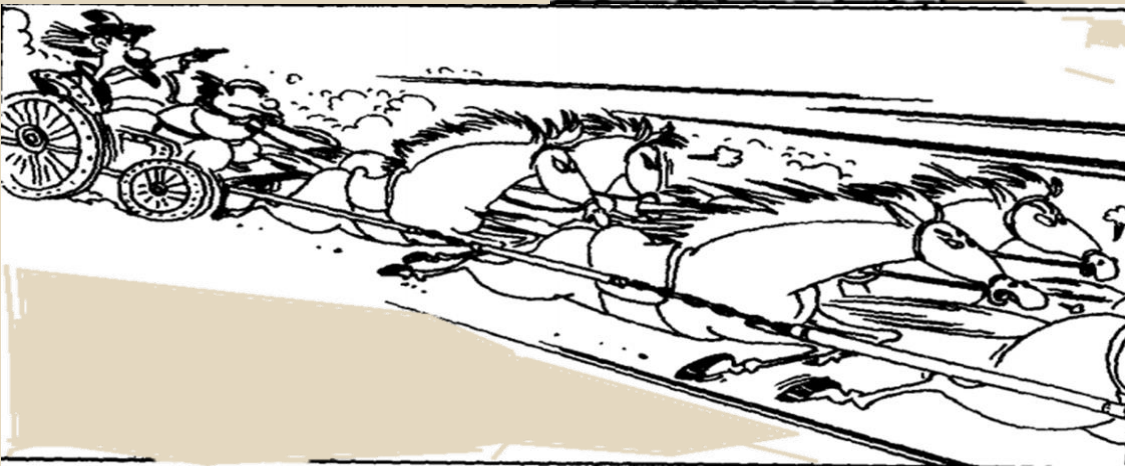
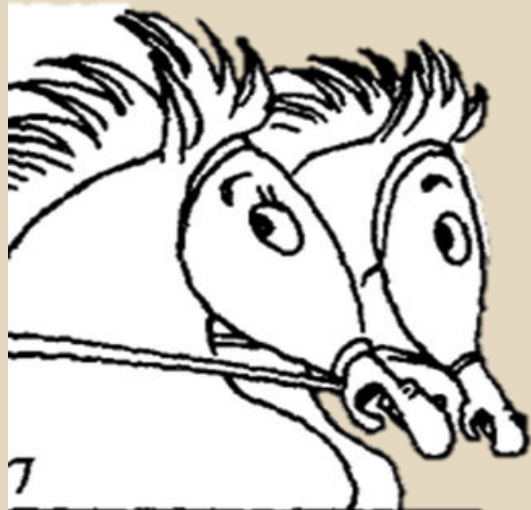


## Zao Fu 造父

Zaofu was a renowned charioteer during the Western Zhou period, he also was the founding ancestor of the State of Zhao during the Warring States ( 475 — 221 BCE) period.

When you run along the stumps, although you move with your legs, you are really using your mind. And it is this that you must extend to carriage-driving.







- All high-level skills are a melding of the mind and the body. To have "the hands in sync with the mind" is the most accomplished realm of carriage driving.
- Contemplate the underlying logic and abstract theories be distilled from concrete practices.



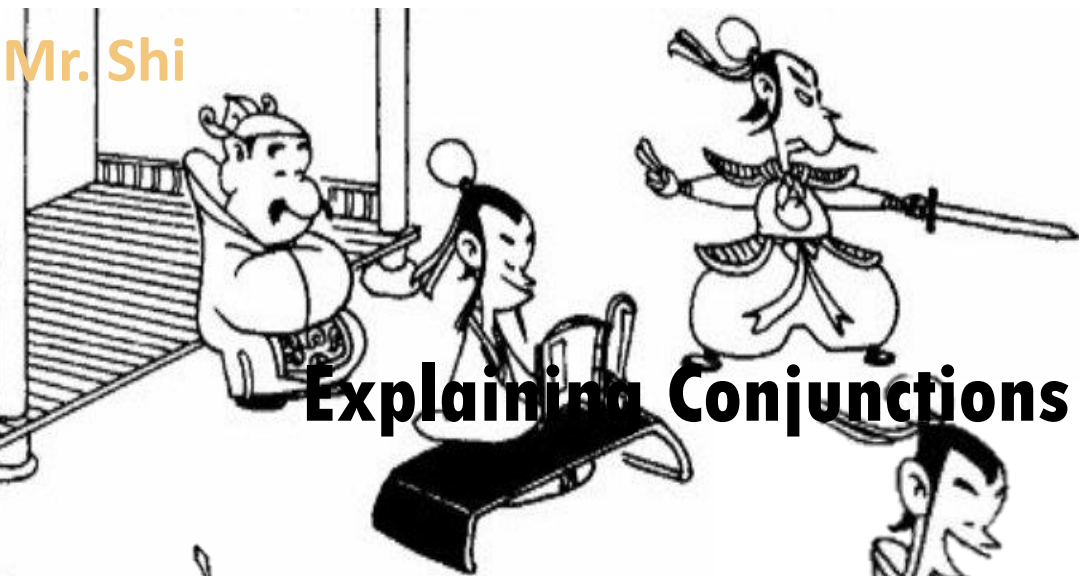
Photo by Jesse Bowser on Unsplash

# *03 Flexibility*

—The Third Level of Craftsmanship Spirit

The Spring and Autumn (770–476 BCE) Period and the  
Warring States (475–221 BCE) Period

Mr. Shi



Explaining Conjunctions (*Shuofu* 說符)

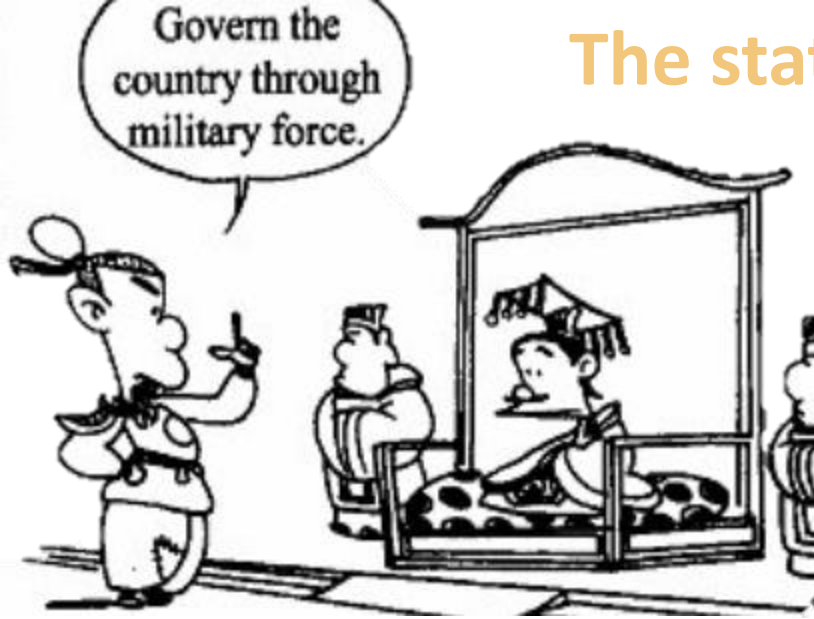


Mr. Meng

# The state of Qin



## The state of Wei



Why did Mr. Meng end up with  
the opposite results from Mr. Shi?



Those whose timing is right flourish, while  
those whose timing is off perish.

No principle in the world is always right,  
and nothing is always wrong.

We should rely on our observation and  
judgment to seize opportunities, adjust to  
the situation, and handle matters with  
flexibility.

(Cleary 2009, with modification)



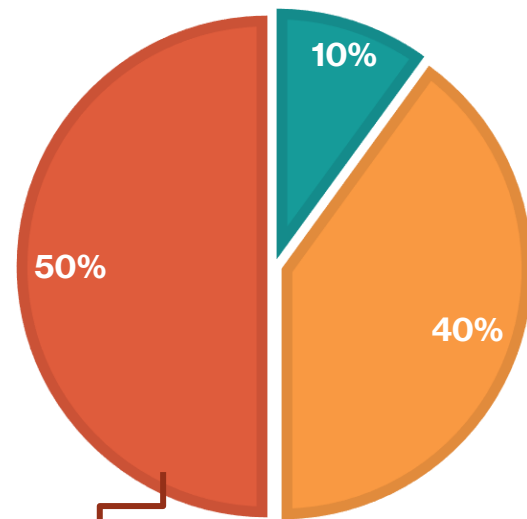
# 1. Timing is important.

- Yidege (一得閣), a century-old enterprise specializing in ink production in China.



## CENTURY-OLD ENTERPRISES IN CHINA

■ Flourish ■ struggling to survive ■ fall down



focus on inheritance  
neglect of innovation



# *Flexibility*

The ability to effectively apply theories we have learned to concrete practice, and to innovate while building upon tradition.

The first level is concentration, which means focusing on one thing and continuously practicing it for a long time.

The second level is comprehension, where one not only focuses on doing the work, but also reflects on and grasps the essence behind it.

The third and highest level is flexibility, which is the ability to apply the essence with adaptability in different situations.

## Books

- Cai Zhizhong 蔡志忠, *Liezi Speaks: Thoughts to Ride the Wind* 列子說：御風而行的哲思 (Beijing: Xiandai chubanshe, 2005)
- *The Book of Master Lie* translated and annotated by Thomas Cleary.

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- YU'E WANG, 'Thoughts on the Cultivation of Innovative and Entrepreneurial Talents in Colleges and Universities Based on the "Craftsman Spirit" Based on Big Data Analysis', *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1648. 3 (2020), PP1–4.<DOI:10.1088/1742-6596/1648/3/032196>

## Conference

- PINYAN ZHONG, YUNFEI LIB and QIUYING YANG, 'Editorial Craftsman Spirit: Contemporary Connotation, Value Implication and Cultivation Path', 2019 3rd International Conference on Economics, Management Engineering and Education Technology, (Francis Academic Press, 2019) pp. 610–613.

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Cambridge dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/>



***THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING***