

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: Xinyu Zhang		
Module code: SICH7004 Module title: : Classical Chinese Texts in English	Student ID number: 2016173	Educational support needs: Yes / No
Module tutor: Assignment due date:		
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: 2817 words		
I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism. Signed <i>Xinyu Zhang</i>		
Email submission: if you are submitting this form via email, please tick this box ☐ (as a substitute for your signature) to confirm that you agree to the above declaration.		

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:

Marker's Signature:

Date:

AGREED INTERNAL MARK (where necessary):

Comment on process on arriving at agreed mark:

External Examiner's comments (if relevant)

External Examiner's Signature:

Date:

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 [AI Tool 1] [(AI Tool 1 url)] on [Date] to [Purpose my work: (e.g. support my research/proofread/edit photographic material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

1. [Prompt]
2. [Prompt]
3. [Prompt]

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.

(Delete or continue list as required)

I acknowledge the use of [AI Tool 2] [(AI Tool 2 url)] on [Date] to [Purpose my work (e.g. support my research/proofread/edit photographic material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

1. [Prompt]
2. [Prompt]
3. [Prompt]

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.

To Begin Well and End Well :

On Consistent Virtue in Rulership

(The Qin Airs from the *Maoshi* in *Qunshu Zhiyao*)

Module code : SICH7004

Module tutor: Dr. Xiaowei Wang

Student name: Xinyu Zhang

Student ID : 2016173

Date : 27th March 2026

An abstract background featuring vibrant blue and green brushstrokes. A small, realistic globe of the Earth is positioned in the upper center. The overall composition is dynamic and artistic.

1

Introduction

1. Introduction

Maoshi ----- 毛亨 & 毛萇

The *Maoshi* is one of the most important early versions of *the Canon of Poetry*. It was passed down by two scholars, Mao Heng and Mao Chang, during the Han Dynasty. Over time, it became the main version that people studied for centuries.



1. Introduction

- State Airs (Guo feng 國風)---**folk songs**
- Court Songs (Ya 雅)
- Hymns (Song 頌)



1. Introduction

Wei Yang, Qin Airs

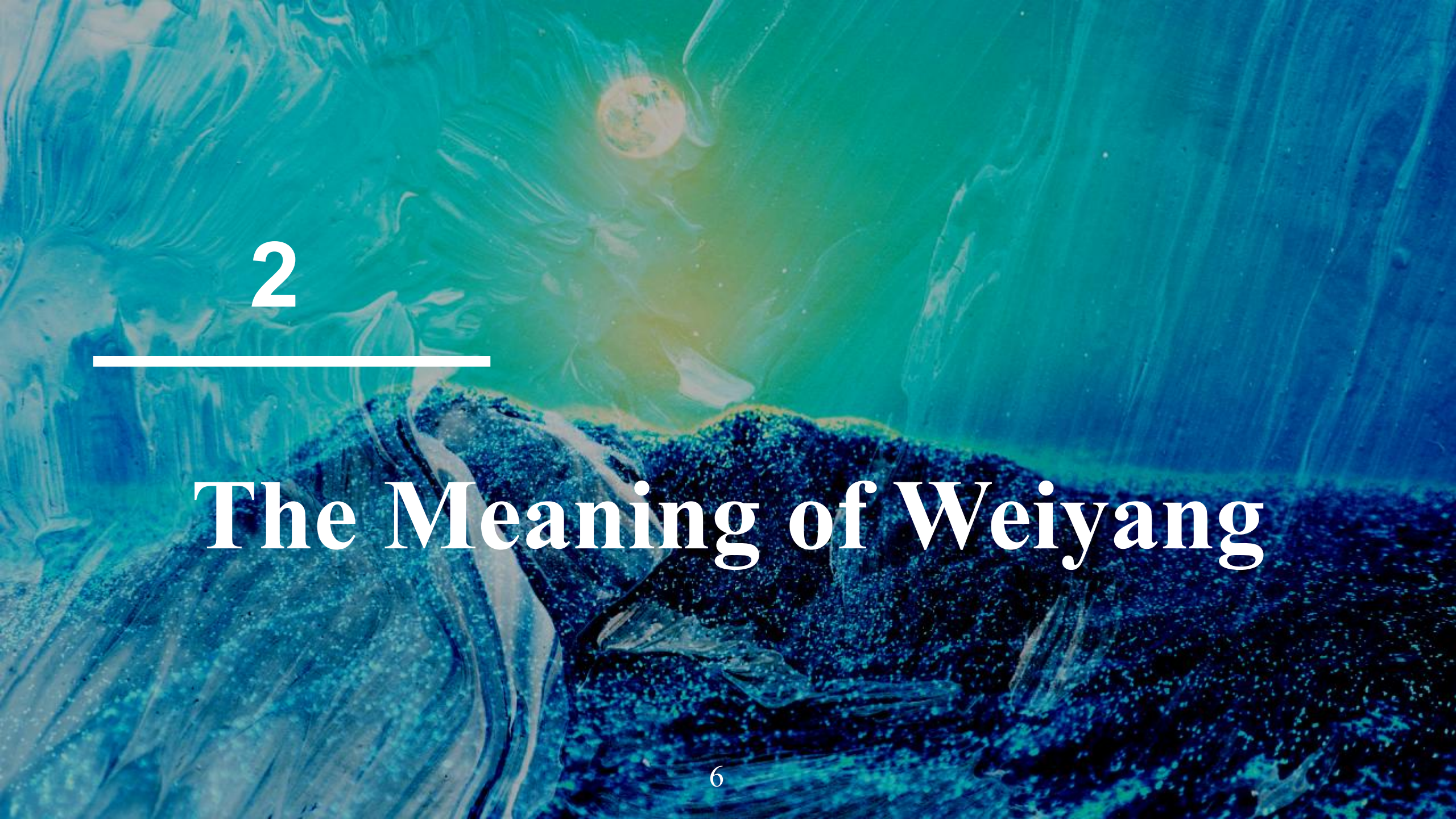
我送舅氏，曰至渭陽。
何以贈之，路車乘黃。

我送舅氏，悠悠我思。
何以贈之，瓊瑰玉佩。

I escorted my mother's nephew,
To the north of the Wei,
What did I present to him?
Four bay horses for his carriage of state.

I escorted my mother's nephew,
Long, long did I think of her.
What did I present to him?
A precious jasper, and gems for his girdle-pendant.

-----James Legge

An abstract background featuring vibrant teal and blue brushstrokes. A small, detailed globe of the Earth is positioned in the upper center, appearing to glow. The overall texture is painterly and dynamic.

2

The Meaning of Weiyang

2. The meaning of Weiyang

This poem expresses Duke Kang's love and memory of his mother.

渭陽，康公念母也。 ---Preface, *Maoshi* 毛詩序

■ Main character: Duke Kang of Qin (秦康公)



2. The meaning of Weiyang



- Duke Mu of Qin (秦穆公), Duke Kang's **father**



- Lady Mu of Qin (穆姬), Duke Kang's **mother**



- Duke Wen of Jin (晉文公 重耳), Duke Kang's **maternal uncle**



2. The meaning of Weiyang

the northern bank of the Wei River



The background is an abstract composition of teal and blue brushstrokes. A small, textured globe is visible in the upper center. The overall style is painterly and textured.

3

Deeper Message behind the Selection

2. Deeper message behind the selection

- Satirizing Duke Kang

晨風，刺康公也。

權輿，刺康公也。

---Preface, *Maoshi* 毛詩序



3.1

The Importance of Beginning Well and Ending Well

2. Deeper message behind the selection

- 《史記·秦本紀》：
(康公)二年，秦伐晉，取武城……四年，晉伐秦，取少梁。
六年，秦伐晉，取羈馬。
- In the sceond year of Duck Kang's reign, Qin attacked Jin and took Wucheng……In the fourth year, Jin attacked Qin and took Shaoliang. In the sixth year, Qin attacked Jin and took Jima.

2. Deeper message behind the selection

康公即位，猶能作是詩。既而遂脩晉怨，有令狐之役。所謂念母之良心安在哉！竊意康公爲太子，贈送晉文公，見舅而念母，有不可誣者。即位未幾而脩怨，則私欲既勝，良心遂喪……使康公終能念母，釋舊怨而脩新好，則秦晉之兵可息矣。

——范處義《詩補傳》

康公爲太子，送舅氏而念母之不見，是固良心也。而卒不能自克於令狐之役，怨欲害乎良心也。使康公知循是心，養其端而充之、則怨欲可消矣。

——朱熹《詩集傳》

Both commentaries acknowledge that Duke Kang's early filial piety and good conscience were truly beyond reproach. However, his later cruelty and loss of moral integrity cannot be ignored. This is why both works strongly emphasize that it is not enough just to have a good heart at the beginning, it's important to preserve and maintain this kindness consistently, and never let it disappear.

2. Deeper message behind the selection

莫不殷憂而道著……有善始者實繁，能克終者蓋寡。

—— 魏徵 〈諫太宗十思疏〉

All rulers achieve greatness through deep concern and vigilance.

Many do well at the beginning, but few can persist until the end.



2. Deeper message behind the selection

魏徵：自古帝王**初即位**者，皆欲勵精為政，比迹於堯舜。

及其安樂也，則**驕奢放逸**，**莫能終其善**。

——《貞觀政要·貞觀十二年》

Since ancient times, when emperors first gained the throne, they all wanted to govern with great diligence and follow the examples of Yao and Shun. **But once the country is stable**, they become proud and careless. Few can maintain their good start to the very end.

2. Deeper message behind the selection

非行之難，終之斯難。

—— 魏徵 <十漸不克終疏>

It is not difficult to put it into practice;
but difficult to stick with it till the end.



The background is an abstract composition of teal and blue brushstrokes. A small, textured globe is visible in the upper center. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

3.2

Appointing the Virtuous

2. Deeper message behind the selection

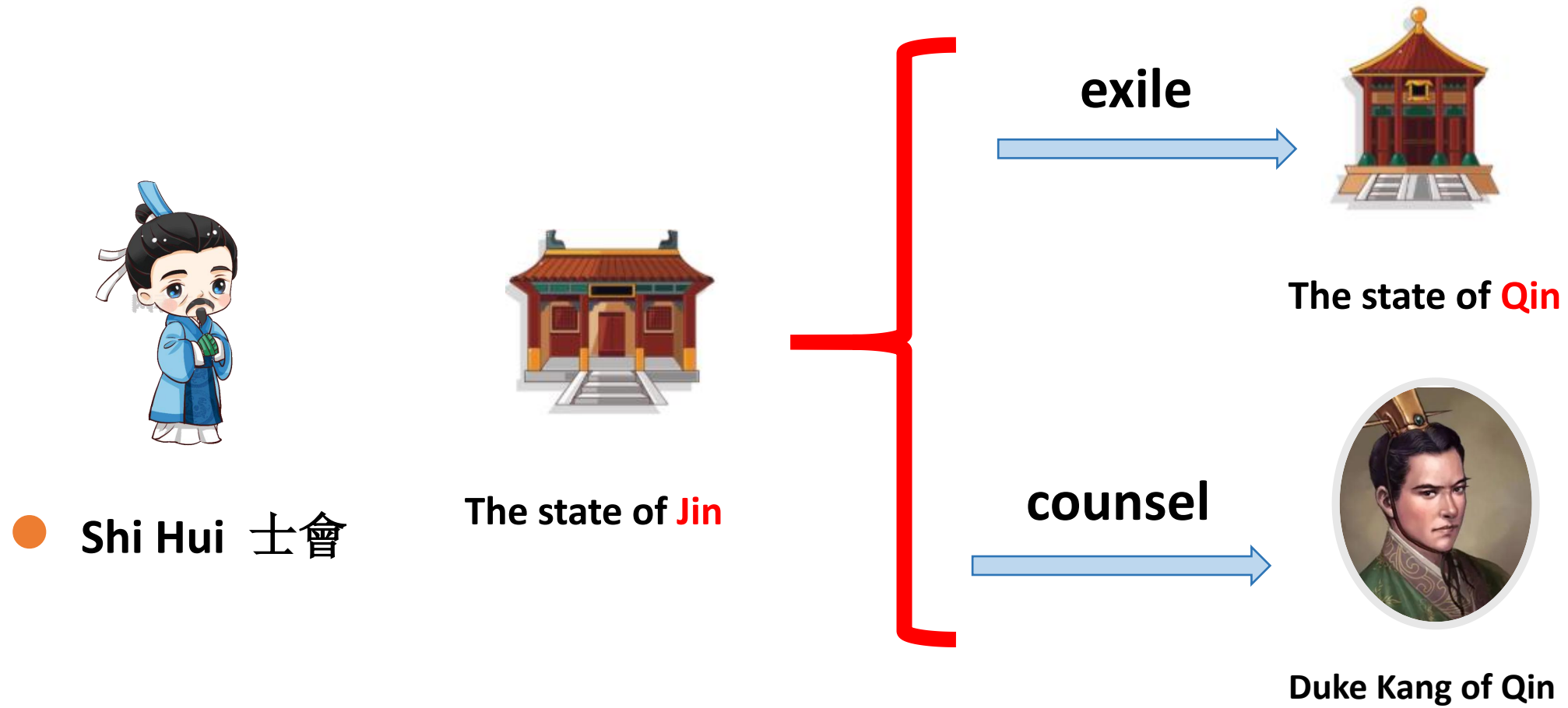
晨風，刺康公也。忘穆公之業，始棄其賢臣焉。；

權輿，刺康公也。忘先君之舊臣，與賢者有始而無終也。

---Preface, *Maoshi* 毛詩序

- Chen Feng, it criticizes Duke Kang for abandoning the worthy ministers of the Duke Mu.
- Quan Yu, it criticizes Duke Kang for treating old ministers and talented men well at the beginning but not consistently in the end.

2. Deeper message behind the selection

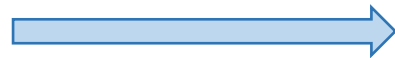


2. Deeper message behind the selection



Duke Kang of Qin

agree

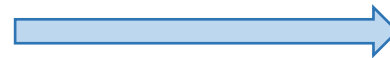


got tricked



● Shi Hui 士會

return to Jin



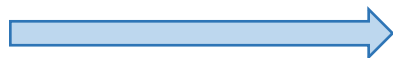
(diplomatic task)



The state of **Jin**



exhort



● Rao Chao 繞朝 **Qin** minister

2. Deeper message behind the selection



● Rao Chao 繞朝 **Qin** minister



● Shi Hui 士會

繞朝：子無謂秦無人，**吾謀適不用也**。《左傳·文公十三年》

Do not think Qin has no wise people. My suggestion is just not accepted by the ruler.

2. Deeper message behind the selection

- Only by appointing the worthy and talented can one bring stability to the state.

能安天下者，惟在用得賢才。---《貞觀政要》

- Even you are wise and intelligent, you still need appoint worthy ministers to govern the state well.

君雖明哲，必藉股肱以致治。---《貞觀政要》



4

Conclusion

4. Conclusion

- 渭陽 — positive example — showing Duke Kang's filial heart at the beginning.
- 晨風 and 權輿 — negative examples — satirizing what Duke Kang did later.



sharp contrast



two deeper meanings

4. Conclusion

Two deeper meanings



- highlight the importance of beginning well and ending well
- emphasize the importance of appointing worthy ministers

**keep the kindness
all the time**



**appoint virtuous and
worthy ministers**

The background is a solid teal color with a complex, organic pattern of white and light blue lines and swirls, resembling marbled paper or a textured surface. The text is centered and reads "THANK YOU FOR LISTENING." in a white, serif, all-caps font.

THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING.