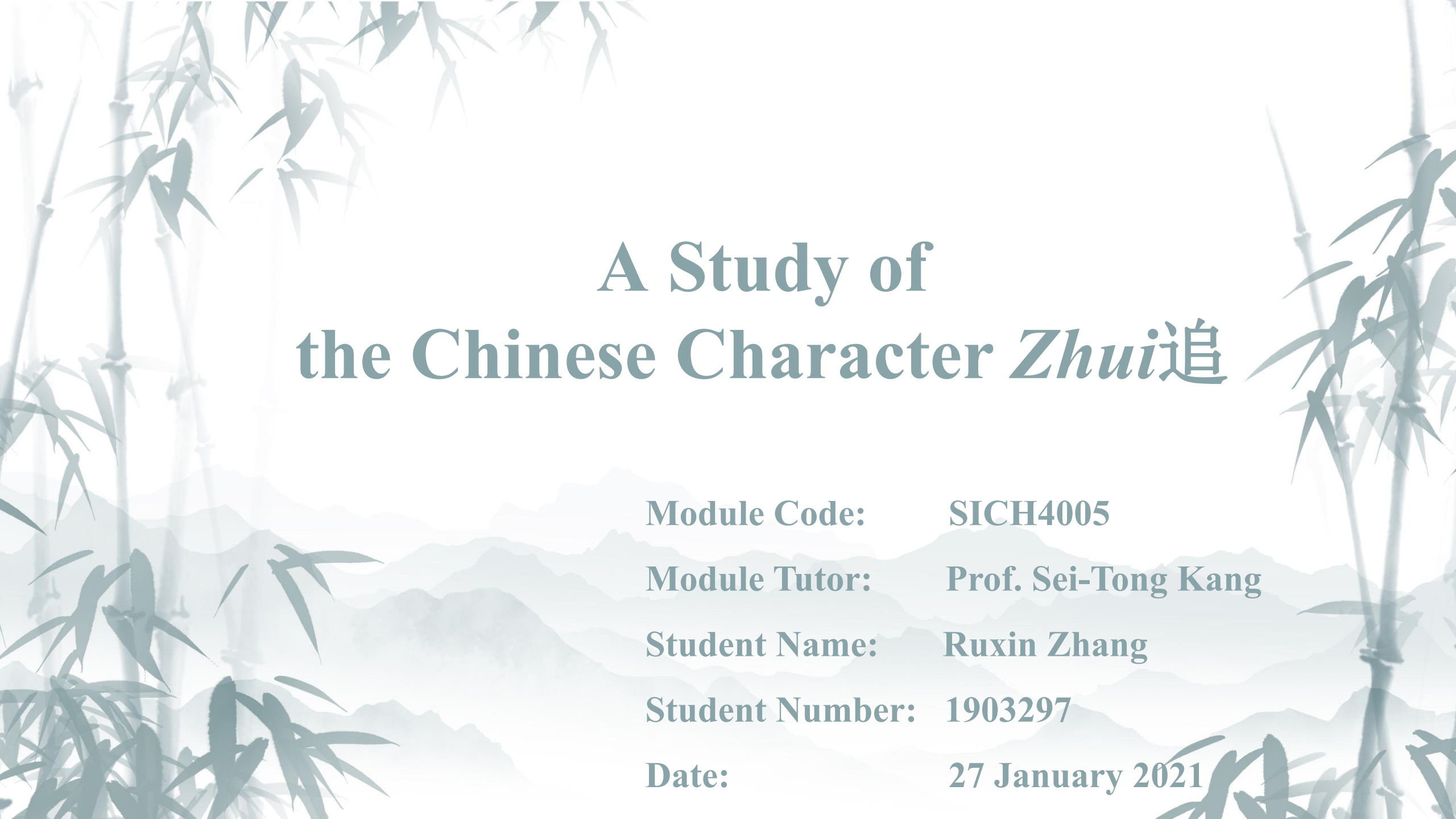




A Study of the Chinese Character *Zhui* 追

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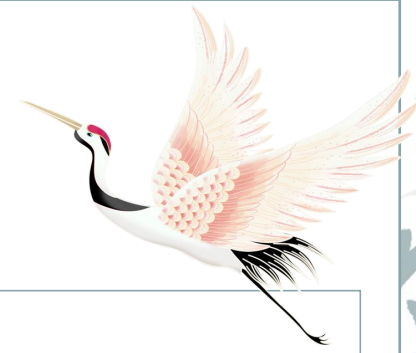
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PART 01

Motivation



01 Motivation



*The
Analects*

SAYINGS
OF
CONFUCIUS

TRANSLATED
BY
D. C. LAU

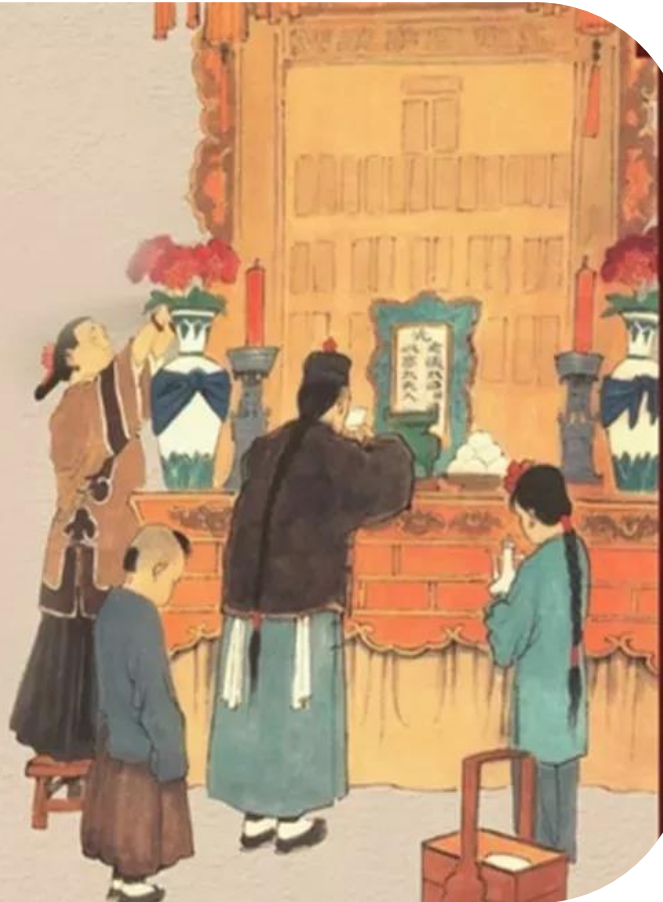
Tseng Tzu said, 'Conduct the funeral of your parents with meticulous care and let not sacrifices to your remote ancestors be forgotten, and the virtue of the common people will incline towards fullness.'

「曾子曰：慎終追遠，民德歸厚矣」

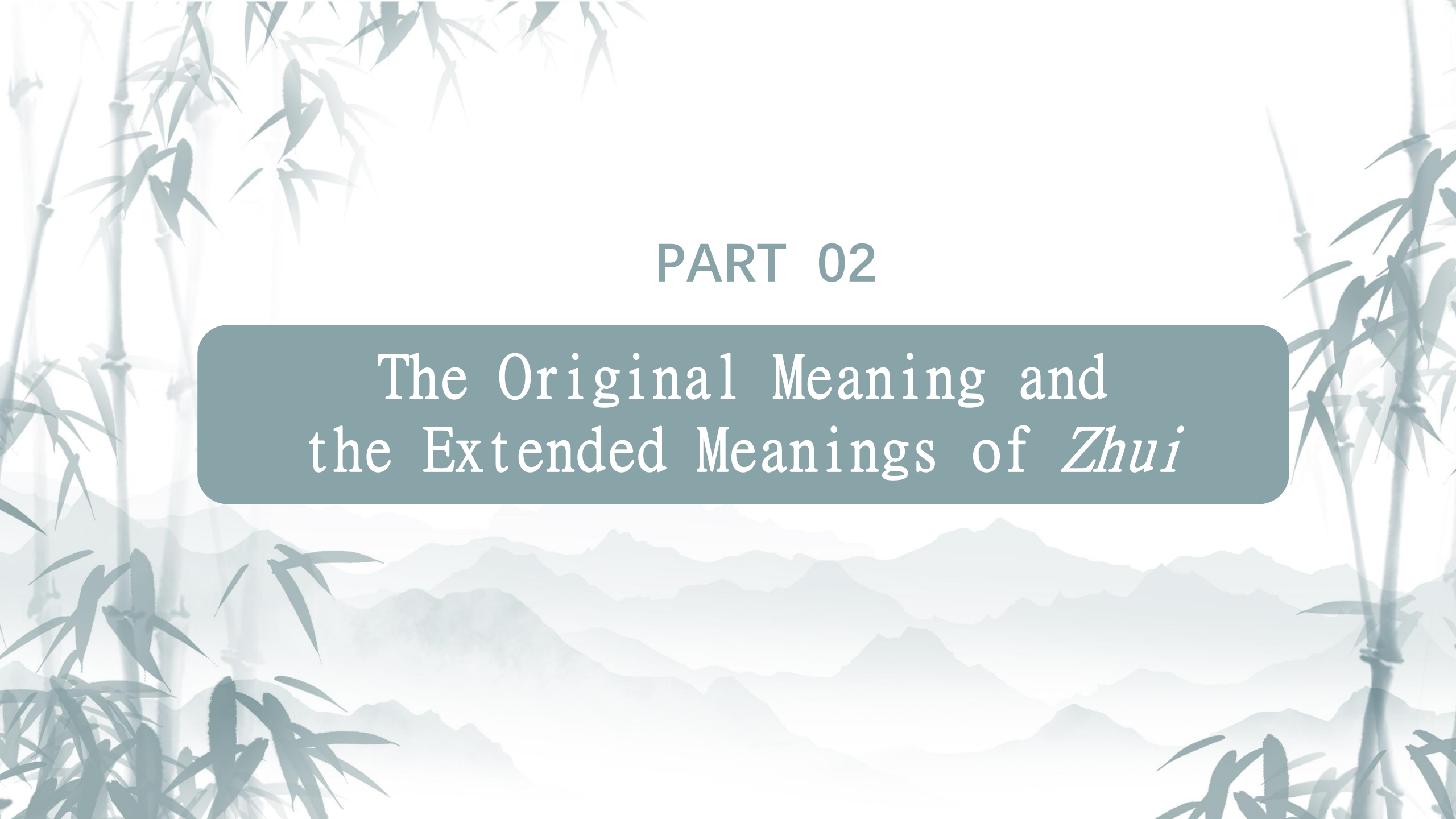


01 Motivation

冬至
祭祖
慎终追远
民德归厚



The Winter Solstice

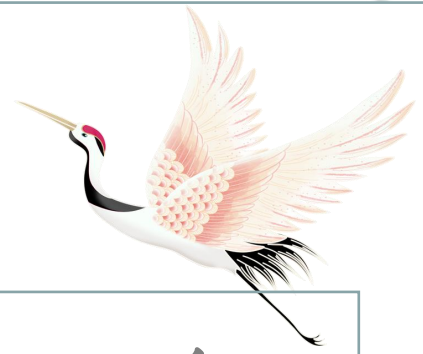
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PART 02

The Original Meaning and the Extended Meanings of *Zhui*



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



汉典

追

zhui 追
(small seal script 小篆)

The character *zhui* has the *chuo* 辵 radical as a semantic constituent and *dui* 白 as a phonetic constituent.

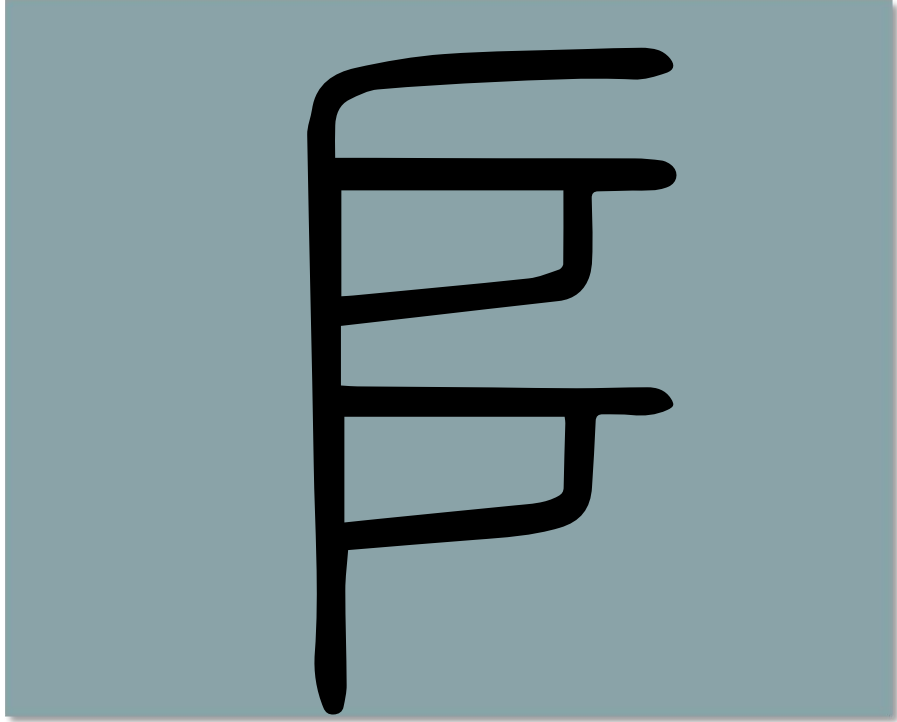
——*The Shuowen jiezi zhu*

「从辵，白聲。」

——《說文解字注》



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



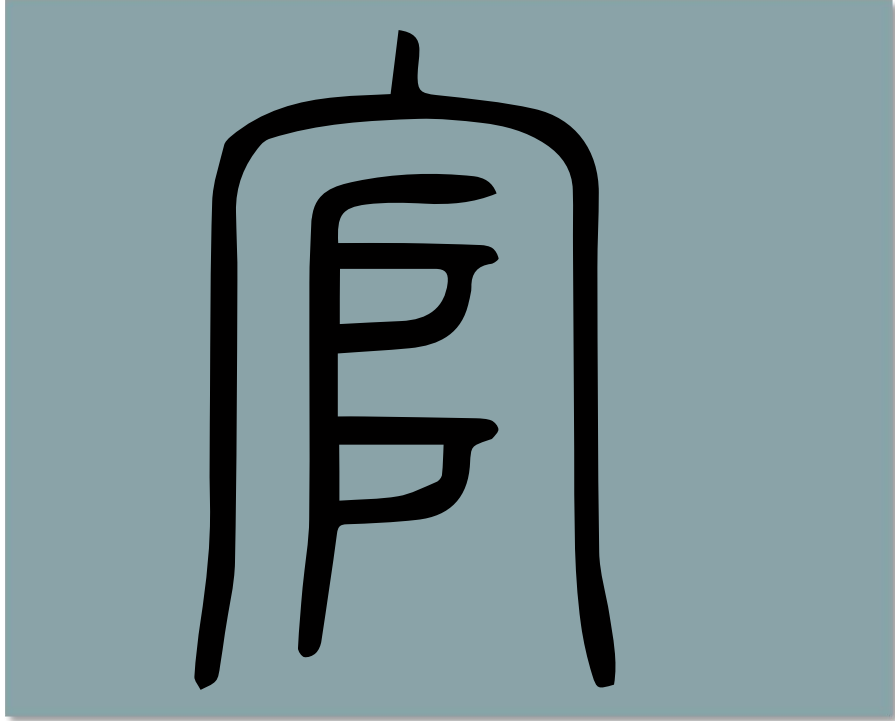
dui 自
(small seal script 小篆)

The phonetic component of
phonograms can represent the
root of words.

The common words *guan* 官
and *shi* 師 both come from the
root of *dui*.



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



guan 官
(small seal script 小篆)

Guan means to govern the public.

——*The Shuowen jiezi zhu*



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



Shi means that 2500 people
constitute a *shi*.

——*The Shuowen jiezi zhu*

shi 師

(small seal script 小篆)



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



chuo 𨔵
(small seal script 小篆)

Chuo means to go suddenly and stop suddenly.

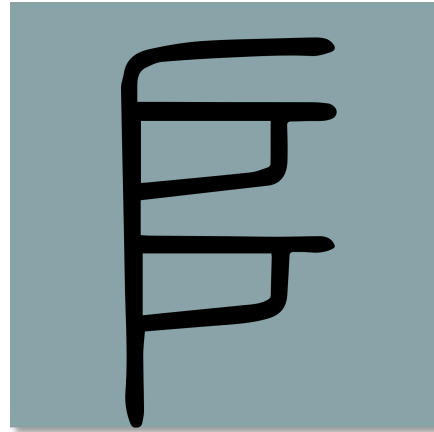
——*The Shuowen jiezi zhu*

「𨔵，乍行乍止也。」

——《說文解字注》



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



**walk one
moment and
stop the next**



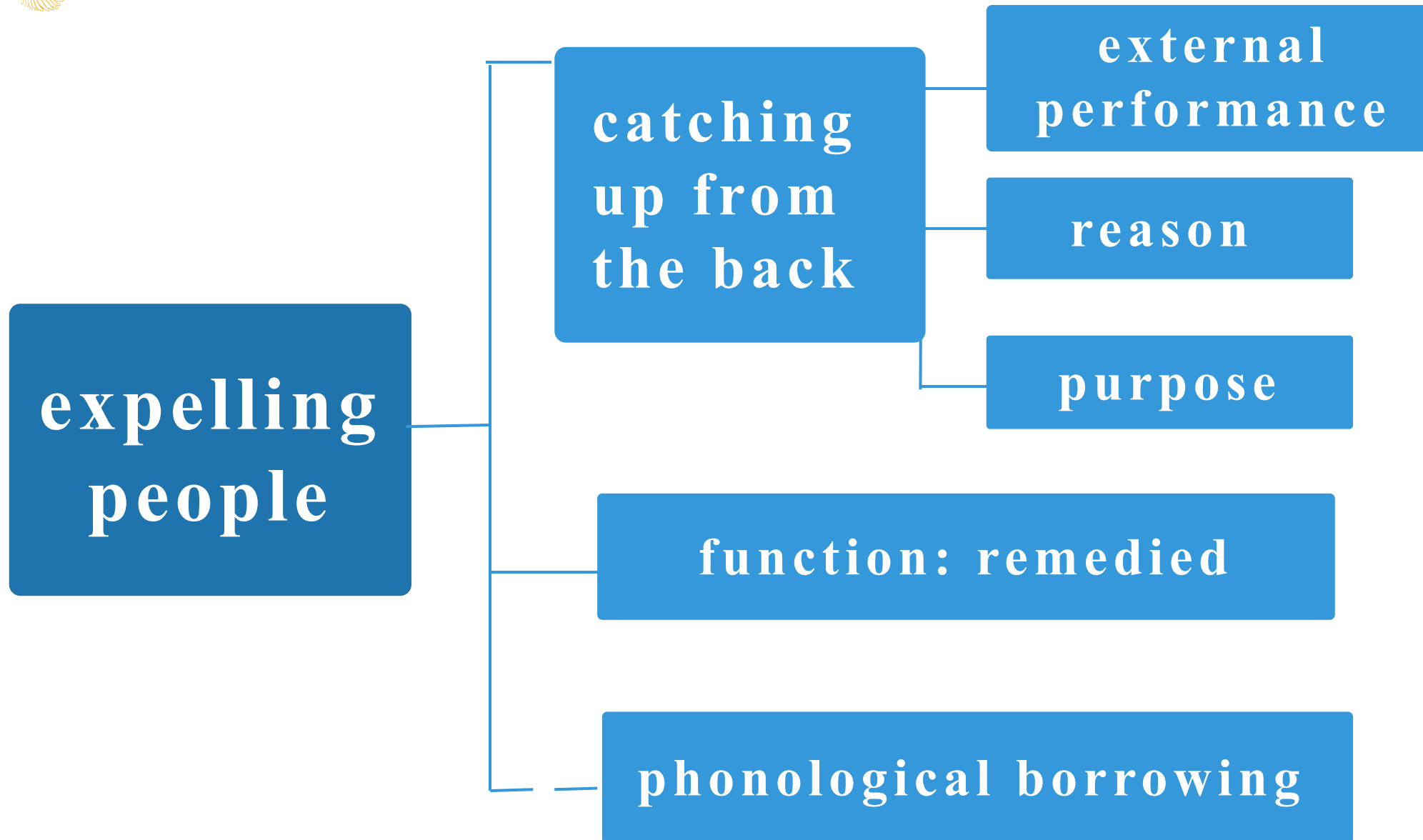
public



**expelling
people**



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*





02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



expelling people
→catching up from the back

Kua Fu did not measure his strength and wanted to pursue the shadow of the sun.



02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



catching up from the back

→ following → action tracking

→ tailing

The Huns had hundreds of cavalry chasing Li Guang, he took the Hun youth's bow and arrow while he ran away, and use it to kill the cavalry who tailing him. For this reason, he was able to escape.



02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



following → action tracking
→ see off

When the guest is about to leave, the host will give a banquet to see him off.



02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



following → spiritual tracking
→ remembrance

Although the parents have passed away and were buried, and a long time has passed. The filial children still remember them, and show reverence to ancestors with sincerity.





02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



catching up from the back
→ seeking something



Zhuigen jiudi 追根究底 has the meaning
of investigating the roots of things.



02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



catching up from the back
→clawback and collection

Those who are rich have already paid their taxes, and the poor can only be recovered.



02 The Extended Meaning of *Zhui*



catching up from the back
→remedied

*Laizhe kezhu*來者可追 means catching
up and in time.



02 The Original Meaning of *Zhui*



鎚

zhui 鎚

(regular script 楷書)

*In The Book of Songs and The Book of Rites, the word *zhui*鎚 is borrowed as a tool for carving gold and jade.*

——The Shuowen jiezi zhu

「詩禮假為治金玉之鎚」

——《說文解字注》

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PART 03

Self-Reflection



03 Self-Reflection



The past has no beginning, and the future has no end. We are an inseparable whole with our ancestors and the future generation.



03 Self-Reflection



I will serve my departed parents
as if they were still alive.

—*The Dizigui*

「事死者，如事生。」

——《弟子規》



03 Self-Reflection



When people are careful to offer sacrifices to their ancestors, the virtues of the people will increase.
慎終追遠德歸厚，

This fine tradition has been adhered to for generations.
世代承傳皆恪守。



03 Self-Reflection



It's people's true nature to think about
the source when drinking water.

飲水思源本真性，

It's all natural for people to do it, what
reason is needed?

自然流露何須由？

The background features a traditional East Asian ink wash style illustration. In the foreground, bamboo stalks and leaves are depicted in various shades of green and grey, some in sharp focus and others blurred. Behind the bamboo, a series of misty, layered mountains are visible, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall color palette is muted and naturalistic.

Thank you for listening