

An Exploration on the Chinese Character *Qi* 器

- Module Code: SICH4005
- Module Tutor: Prof. Sei-Tong Kang
- Student Name: Siyao Zeng
- Student Number: 1804385
- Date: 27 January 2021

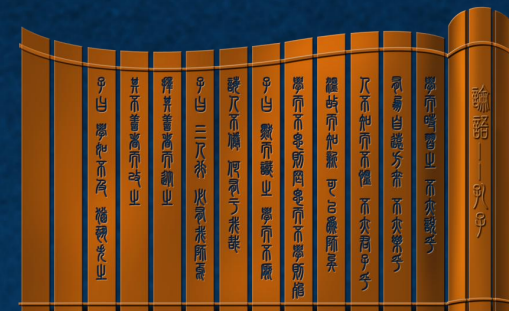


Outline:

- Motivation
- Original and Extended Meanings
- Personal Understanding
- Conclusion



● Motivation



Confucius stated, 'An exemplary man, *junzi*, is
no vessel.'

—— *The Analects*

子曰：「君子不器。」



● 1. Original Meanings of *qi*

The character *qi* means utensils.

器，皿也。——*Shuowen jiezi zhu* 說文解字注



Household
utensils



Utensils
Implements

Equipment
Appliance



min 皿

qi 器



象器之口，犬所以守之。

—— *Shuowen jiezi zhu* 說文解字注

品



ji 品 Utensils

qi 器 Implements

● 2. Extended Meanings of *qi*

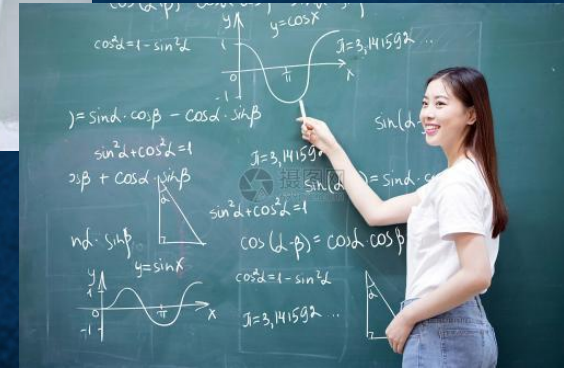
No limited



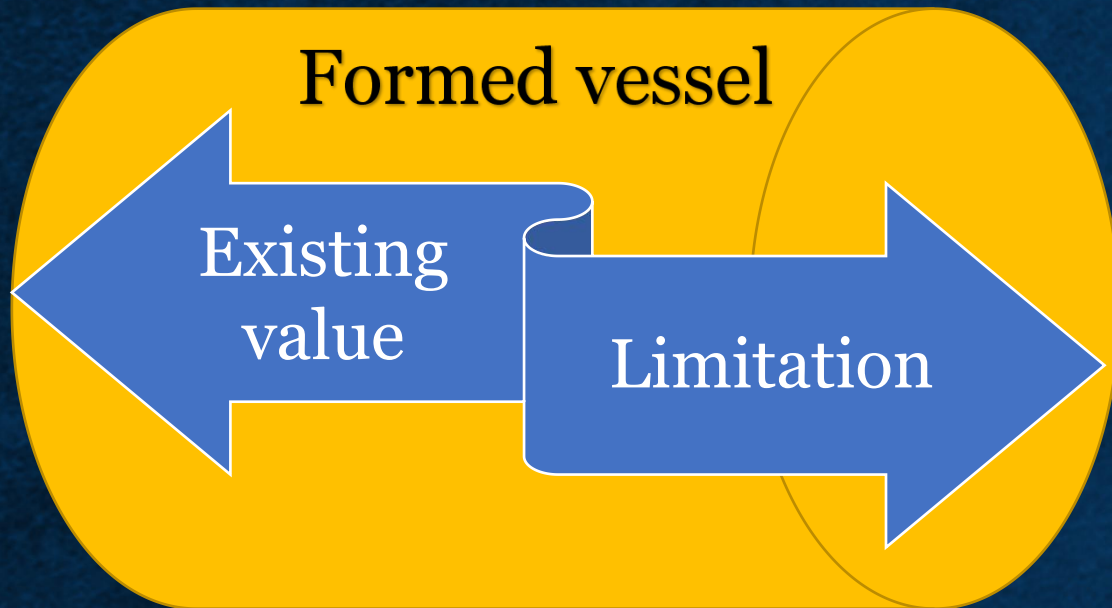
Narrow

Broad

The breadth of a person's mind

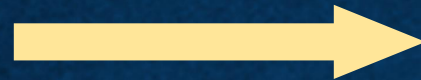


● 3. The Definition of *buqi* 不器

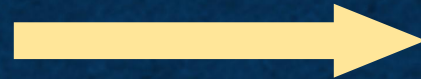


Buqi usually refers to a talented person, who, unlike the implements with limited use, is versatile and all-round.

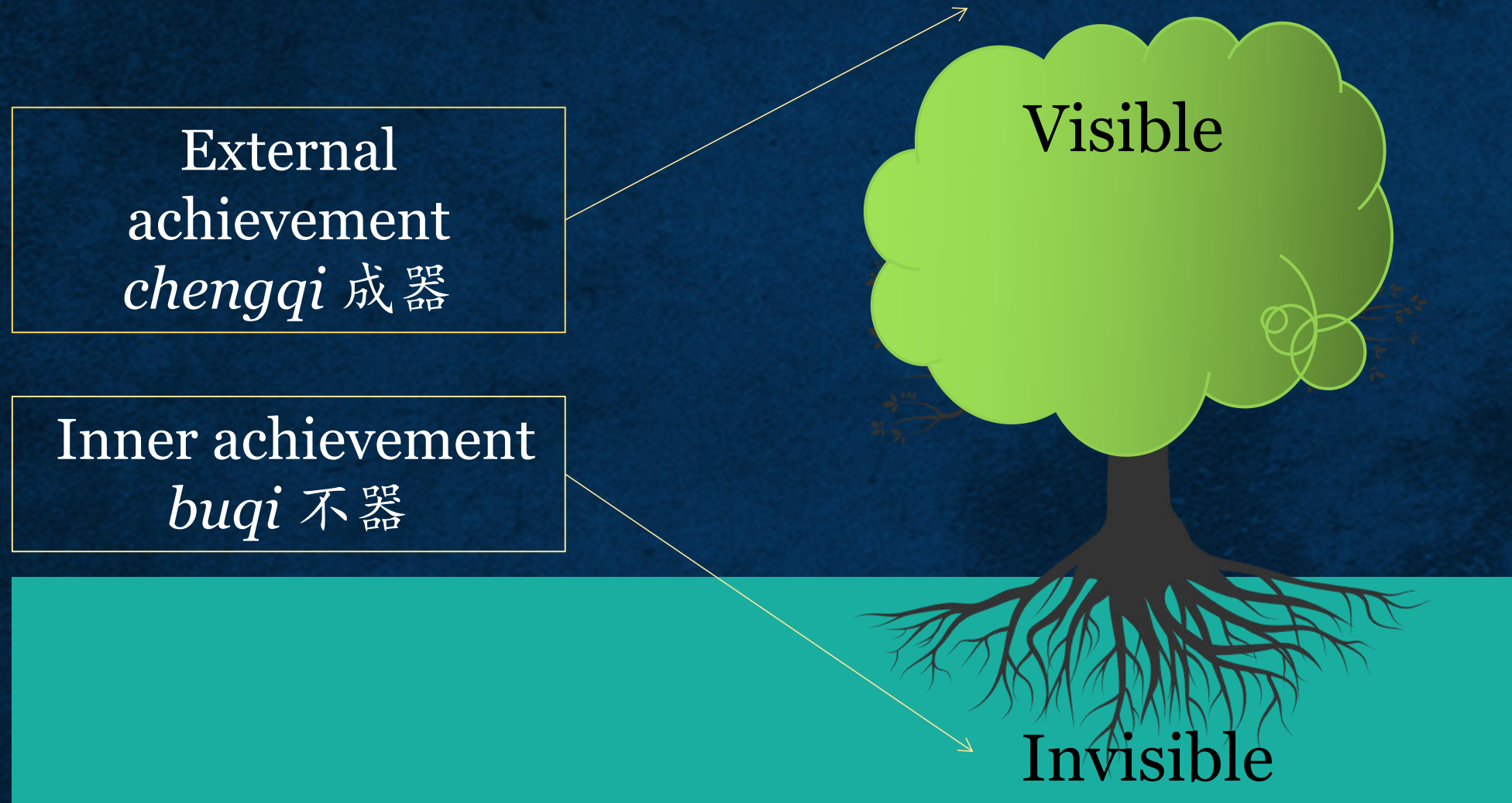
● 4. The Annotation of *Junzi buqi* 君子不器



only
apply
on



● Personal Understanding



● 1. External Achievement *chengqi*

Jade cannot be made into any item or utensil without being cut and polished - one cannot become useful and knowledgeable without being educated.

—— *The Book of Rites*

玉不琢，不成器，人不學，不知道。

—— 《禮記·學記》



● 2. Inner Achievement *buqi*



Never stop
Never content
Keep learning
Keep responding



Unscrambling
and complying
with the *Tao*

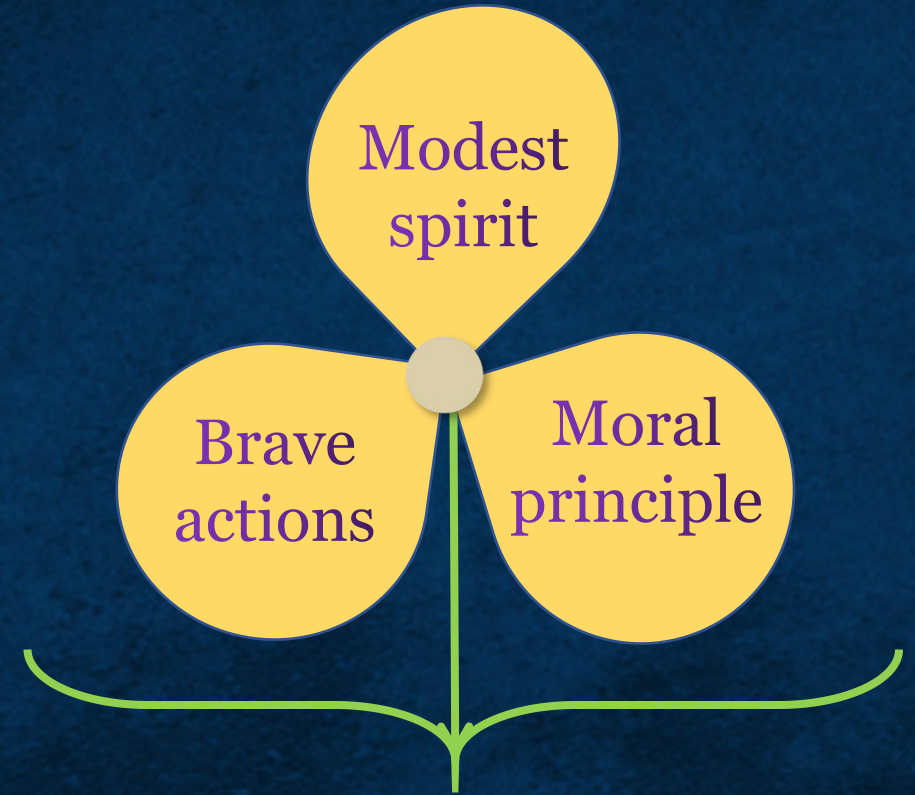


● Conclusion



My dear boy, they are not contradictory, but complementary.

Master, does *buqi* conflicts with my parents' expectations on me?



Wisdom from
ancient sages

Thank you for listening.

