

The Special Appeal of Micius: The Scientific Spirit and the Heritage of Traditional Chinese Culture

“墨子号”：科学精神与传统文化的传承





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On August 16, 2016, China successfully launched Micius, the world's first quantum-based scientific experiment satellite, which will make it possible to facilitate quantum



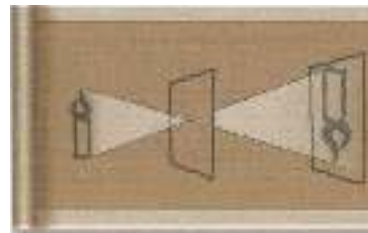
communication between a satellite and the ground for the very first time. Reportedly, it took a long time to decide to name the satellite after the great ancient Chinese philosopher Micius (Mozi).



In ancient China, the Chinese character *zi* was a respectful title for a scholar. People are quite familiar with Confucius (Kongzi) and Laozi, the respective founders of Confucianism and Daoism, but Micius is relatively less known. He was a great thinker, philosopher, and scientist in ancient China, and he lived in an era marked by an unprecedented explosion of ideas and culture. During this time, various schools of thought coexisted and competed against each other. Micius himself founded the school of Mohism, which was characterized by an enterprising spirit and artisanship. His followers were mainly farmers and handicraftsmen from the lower rungs of society.



Micius was a strong advocate of science. He promoted the notion of “sticking to science and practicality”. Over 2,000 years ago, he discovered that light travels in a straight line, and he was likely the first person to record an image with a pinhole, which, to a certain extent, laid the foundation for visible light communication and quantum communication. The “eight principles of optics”, as proposed in Mohism’s classic work *Mozi*, are consistent with modern science. Such advanced wisdom and scientific achievements inspire amazement and admiration even for us today.





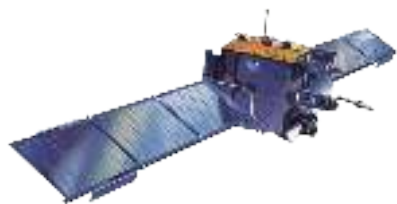
However, during the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC – AD 8), Emperor Wudi upheld Confucianism alone and banned all other schools, which reduced the school of Mohism from prominence to near extinction. Luckily, the spirit of Micius, characterized by the Chinese people's enterprising spirit and diligence, has been passed down and become an inspiration and source of power for the Chinese nation's sustained development.

Satellite Micius not only brought to the world knowledge of electronic data, but it also came to serve as a symbol of China's enduring culture.



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mò zǐ hào kē xué jīng shén yǔ chuán tǒng
“墨子号”：科学精神与传统
 wén huà de chuán chéng
文化的传承

2016 nián 8 yuè 16 hào , zhōng guó chéng
 gōng fā shè le quán qiú shǒu kē liàng zǐ kē xué shí yàn wèi
 xīng —— “mò zǐ hào” 。 tā jiāng shǒu cì shí xiàn
 wèi xīng hé dì miàn zhī jiān de liàng zǐ tōng xìn 。
 2016年8月16号，中国成功发射了全球首颗量子科学实验卫星——“墨子号”。它将首次实现卫星和地面之间的量子通信。





jù shuō , dāng chū wèi le gěi zhè kē wèi xīng qǐ
据说，当初为了给这颗卫星起
míng , zhōng guó de kē xué jiā men sī kǎo le hěn jiǔ ,
名，中国的科学家们思考了很久，
zuì zhōng jué dìng yǐ zhōng guó de wèi dà xiān xián mò zǐ de
最终决定以中国的伟大先贤墨子的
míng zì mìng míng 。
名字命名。

zài zhōng guó gǔ dài , “ zǐ ” shì duì yǒu xué
在中国古代，“子”是对有学
wèn de rén de zūn chēng 。 dà jiā shú zhī de “ zǐ ”
问的人的尊称。大家熟知的“子”
yǒu kāi chuàng rú jiā xué shuō de kǒng zǐ , kāi chuàng dào
有开创儒家学说的孔子、开创道
jiā sī xiǎng de lǎo zǐ , děng děng , dàn duì mò zǐ què
家思想的老子，等等，但对墨子却
liǎo jiě de bù duō 。
了解得不多。



mò zǐ shì zhōng guó gǔ dài zhù míng de sī xiǎng
墨子是中国古代著名的思想
jiā , zhé xué jiā hé kē xué jiā , tā suǒ shēng huó de
家、哲学家和科学家，他所生活的



shí dài shì zhōng guó gǔ dài lì shǐ shàng sī xiǎng wén huà kōng
时 代 是 中 国 古 代 历 史 上 思 想 文 化 空
qián fán róng de shí qī , gè xué shù liú pài bǎi jiā zhēng
前 繁 荣 的 时 期 ， 各 学 术 流 派 百 家 争
míng 。 ér mò zǐ kāi chuàng de mò jiā shì zuì jù yǒu shí
鸣 。 而 墨 子 开 创 的 墨 家 是 最 具 有 实
gān jīng shén hé “ gōng jiàng jīng shén ” de xué pài , tā
干 精 神 和 “ 工 匠 精 神 ” 的 学 派 ， 他
de xué sheng dà duō shì lái zì shè huì dǐ céng de nóng mǐn
的 学 生 大 多 是 来 自 社 会 底 层 的 农 民
hé shǒu gōng yè zhě 。
和 手 工 业 者 。

mò zǐ fēi cháng chóng shàng kē xué , tí chàng “ jiǎng
墨 子 非 常 崇 尚 科 学 ， 提 倡 “ 讲
jiū kē xué , jiǎng jiū shí jì ” 。 zǎo zài liǎng qiān duō
究 科 学 ， 讲 究 实 际 ” 。 早 在 两 千 多

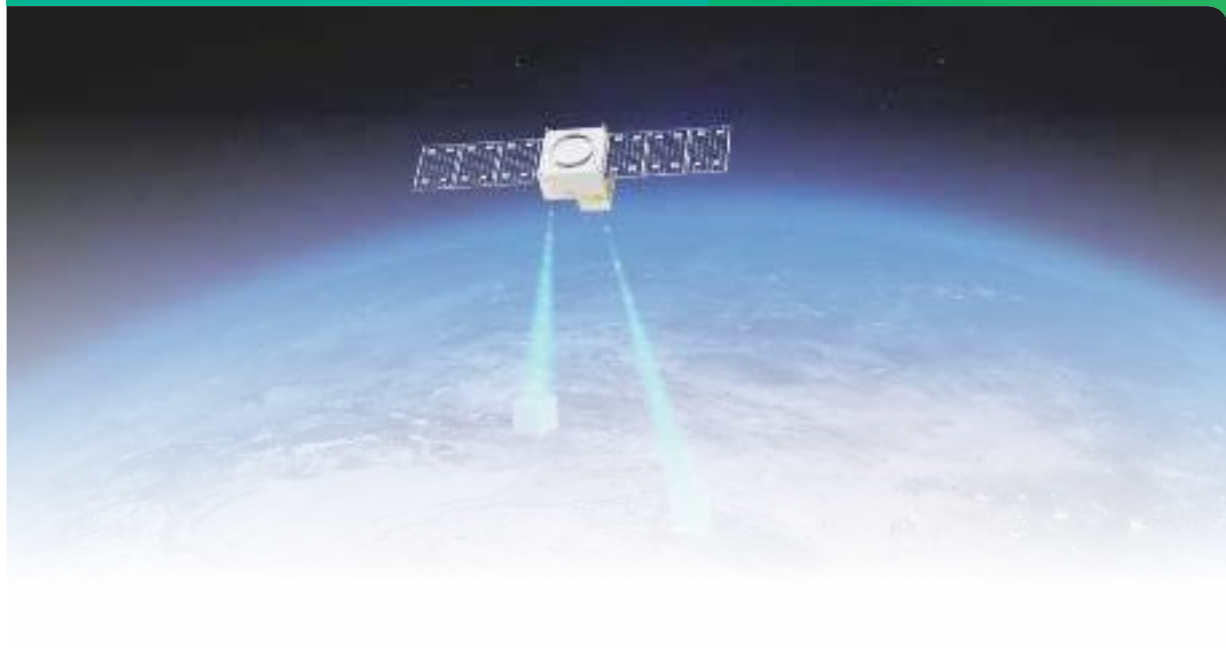




nián qián tā jiù fā xiàn le guāng yán zhí xiàn chuán bō , bìng
 qiě shè jì le xiǎo kǒng chéng xiàng shí yàn , zài yí dìng chéng
 dù shàng wéi guāng tōng xìn hé liàng zǐ tōng xìn de fā zhǎn dǎ
 xià le jī chǔ 。 mò jiā jīng diǎn zhù zuò 《 mò jīng 》
 zhōng tí chū de “ guāng xué bā tiáo ” yě shì yǔ xiàn dài
 kē xué zhī shi xiāng tōng de 。 zhè xiē chāo qián de zhì huì
 hé kē xué chéng jiù zài jīn tiān kàn lái , yě shì ràng rén
 jīng yà hé tàn fú de 。

rán ér , dào xī hàn shí , hàn wǔ dì “ bà
 chù bǎi jiā , dú zūn rú shù ” , mò jiā zāo shòu dǎ
 yā , bù zài shì “ xiǎn xué ” , zhú jiàn yīn mò 。
 dàn zuì néng tǐ xiàn zhōng guó rén shí gàn , qín fèn de mò
 jiā jīng shén què liú chuán xià lái , chéng wéi zhōng huá mín zú





shēngshēng bù xī bú duàn fā zhǎn de jīng shén dòng lì hé
生生不息、不断发展的精神动力和
yuán quán
源泉。

mò zǐ hào chuán dì gěi shì jiè de bù jǐn jǐn
“墨子号”传递给世界的不仅仅
shì diàn zǐ xìn xī hái yǒu fù zhuó zài tā míng zì shàng de
是电子信息，还有附着在它名字上的
yōu jiǔ mián cháng de zhōng huá wén huà fú hào hé yìn jì
悠久绵长的中华文化符号和印记。



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