

A Study on the Time Spirit of Li Bai's Poetry from the Perspective of Culture in the Tang Dynasty

Yongsheng Duan

College of Literature and Communication, Xianyang Normal University, Xianyang, Shaanxi, 712000, China
duanysxy@163.com

Keywords: Tang Culture, Tang Poetry Research, Li Bai Research, Cultural Horizon, Spiritual Research

Abstract: As Lu Xun said, all good poems have been finished by Tang Dynasty. Tang poetry is the most dazzling pearl in Chinese poetry and the unparalleled treasure in Chinese literature. Li Bai is the unique genius and wizards in the world of Tang poetry. To understand Tang poetry, we must deeply analyze Li Bai, and better analyze the cultural characteristics of the prosperous Tang Dynasty by studying the spirit of the times contained in Li Bai's poems. Li bai, the great poet of genius, is one of the cultural endorsements of china's greatest feudal dynasty. The study of li bai and his poems is of great benefit to the deep understanding of the charismatic tang empire.

1. Introduction

To this day, countless Chinese still miss the great Tang dynasty. The Tang Dynasty was the Chinese people's unparalleled dream of unwilling to wake up, representing the Chinese feudal period of the highest political and cultural achievements[1]Tang poetry is the cultural card of the Tang Dynasty, Li Bai is the most dazzling name on this cultural card, and this dazzling light continues to this day. Therefore, anyone who wants to study the Tang Dynasty should seriously study Li Bai, one of the representative figures of Tang Dynasty culture. However, no matter how great Li Bai is, he is not a name produced out of thin air, and his appearance is closely related to the times at that time.

2. An Analysis and Introduction to the Culture of the Tang Dynasty

If the whole history of China is a magnificent picture of the mountains and rivers, then the Tang Dynasty is the most brilliant part of this picture, no one who loves China and cares about Chinese history can not ignore this history. Although many Chinese cultural scholars prefer to live in the Song Dynasty, the most glorious period in China is after all the Tang Dynasty. Tang Dynasty is a continuation of 289 years of feudal dynasty, its prosperous stage opened by Li Shimin, known as the rule of chastity. After the succession of Wu Zetian, in the era of Li Longji, the Tang Dynasty reached its peak. According to the analysis and research of historians, from the beginning of Tang Gaozong to Li Longji, the Tang Dynasty reached an unprecedented height, and the Tang Dynasty in this period of time, can be called the prosperous Tang Dynasty. The so-called prosperous Tang Dynasty, is not a self-made title, but has the inner strength as the guarantee and the basis praise. In the prosperous Tang Dynasty, the national strength of the Tang Dynasty, the influence of the world, the advanced nature of the political system, the degree of national affluence, the natural growth rate of the population, the comprehensive development appearance, the degree of clarity of the administration of officials and so on were all worthy of the first place in the world. Politics, economy and culture influence each other. When the political system and cultural system of the Tang Dynasty all developed to a high level, the appearance of great literary works and poets will also become an unexpected thing. As Table 1 analyzes, most Chinese higher students think that the Tang Dynasty of China is the highest peak of Chinese feudal period, representing the highest achievement of ancient China.

Table 1 Questionnaire

Which feudal dynasty did you think was the greatest in China	
Han Dynasty	23.45%
Tang Dynasty	45.57%
Song Dynasty	10.18%
Ming Dynasty	11.09%
Qing Dynasty	9.71%

3. An Analysis of the Influence of Tang Culture on Li Bai's Poetry

Mr. Qian Zhongshu mentioned a concept in his "Talking about Art Records ": poetry is divided into Tang and Song dynasties. Obviously, the writing style and achievement of Tang poetry and Song poetry are completely different, and it is also one of the common methods for literary researchers to distinguish the style differences between literary works through the different dynasties and ages. On the internal analysis of Tang poetry, literary researchers usually divide Tang poetry into four stages: early Tang poetry, prosperous Tang poetry, middle Tang poetry, late Tang poetry. Obviously, Li Bai is the representative figure of the prosperous Tang Dynasty, and also the great success of the whole Tang poetry development history, even the highest achievement of the Tang Dynasty, the greatest talent, the most famous poet. However, the problem that must be analyzed is that Li Bai's poems are rich in content, exquisite in artistic skills and extremely expressive in poetry, and have made achievements beyond the reach of future generations. However, Li Bai's talent, self-confidence, creative personality and way of life are not born out of thin air or out of nothing. Li Bai's talent and the prosperous times of the Tang Dynasty constitute a kind of intermingling relationship. As Carl Jung put forward the "collective unconscious ", Li Bai is a representative of the " collective unconscious "in the Tang Dynasty. Goethe and his assistant, Eckmann, discussed in depth the question of Shakespeare's literary status in the Goethe Conversation Book. They believed that Shakespeare was certainly the greatest dramatist in the history of English literature, but if Shakespeare were placed in the background of the times, it would be found that the true level of many playwrights was actually kept close to that of Shakespeare, so Shakespeare's appearance had inherent inevitability. In fact, the appearance of Li Bai, the truth is the same. The emergence of no genius requires no soil. The prosperity, progress and strength of the prosperous Tang Dynasty were the root causes of Li Bai's appearance. As shown in Table 2, most Chinese liberal arts students attribute the emergence of Li Bai to the dual role of time and personal talent, as shown in Table 2:

Table 2 Questionnaire

What do you think Li Bai's literary achievements mainly come from?	
Natural talent	34.56%
Time Opportunity	12.33%
The dual role of one's own talent and the opportunity of the times	53.12%

Not only Li Bai, any great writer in the history of world literature, in fact, has the contingency and inevitability of emergence. If the seed sown by the time fails to find a suitable soil for its germination, then the brilliant flower will not be able to appear[2]But for Li Bai, he didn't waste his talents and talents. He realized himself and illuminated Chinese literature. Therefore, later scholars should put his achievements in the coordinates of the times to seriously analyze, so as to draw a relatively thorough and rigorous understanding, which is of great benefit to Li Bai's research and even the study of the whole Tang poetry.

4. Li Bai's Poetry Style Contains the Spirit of the Times and the Culture of the Prosperous Tang Dynasty

Li Bai has a strong romantic style in his youth, learning swordsmanship from an early age, loving Taoist doctrine, and eager to become an immortal man. In the young and middle-aged, but also adhere to the style of life, this style of life to help Li Bai in poetry creation has made a major success and breakthrough, but also brought him a lot of disputes and troubles, so that his career aspirations have been repeatedly interrupted, in the political world in a great deal of indignation and ambition to make Li Bai more loose, unrestrained, unrestrained. The so-called "life in the world does not mean, the Ming Dynasty sent out the boat" for him is not only a poem, but also put into action a sentence. For the prosperous Tang Dynasty, the greatest cultural advantage of this stage lies in the strong inclusiveness and acceptance, so the pressure of public opinion is relatively small, the space for cultural discussion is relatively large, can tolerate such talented people as Li Bai. As Lu Xun put it, the Tang Dynasty was a dynasty with great Hu Qi. What's a big gas? That is to say, the Tang Dynasty is not a closed-door, cautious, meticulous dynasty, but uphold the "sea all rivers, there is tolerance is big" bold and free, confident and fearless to absorb the culture from other regions. In fact, Li Bai himself has a foreign lineage. In other words, if the genius like Li Bai survives in an era of extremely strict supervision of public opinion, such as the Song Dynasty or the Ming Dynasty, then Li Bai's genius light is largely blinded, therefore, Li Bai naturally can not present the most original character, at the same time, the history of Chinese literature will certainly lack an unparalleled genius. Li Bai can enjoy the freedom, should be grateful for the convenience and prosperity of his time, so he is able to land Shu Road, sleepwalking days, chivalrous walk or climb the Yellow Crane Tower, are unobstructed. In fact, as a great poet, it is not enough to have unlimited imagination and creativity, at the same time, there should be a lot of free space, this free space is a prerequisite for an artist to have the necessary artistic creation. The premise he needs can not be realized in many dark, oppressive and ugly times. However, both Chinese literature and Li Bai are lucky, because Li Bai appeared in the Tang Dynasty after all, and appeared in the prosperous Tang Dynasty, which is most suitable for him to spread his talent, so Li Bai will certainly become the son of the times. As Cao Pi presented in the paper on the classic theory: the main text is qi, qi clear turbid body, can not be strong. After all, Li Bai is not Du Fu, he can never become Du Fu, he can only become a "Yangtian laugh out of the door, my generation is not the wormwood people" of the "Chu Mad Man", if let him "long to cover the tears, sad people's livelihood so much difficult", then his poetry power will immediately be too much inferior, because, he lost his literary character and literary power. According to the analysis of most readers, what is most suitable for Li Bai is still the romantic writing style, because in this style he can look for the real self, see Table 3:

Table 3 Questionnaire

What literary style do you think is most suitable for Li Bai?	
Romantic Style	69.71%
Realistic style	7.54%
A style of blending romanticism and realism	22.75%

The Tang Dynasty was a glorious time, the prosperous Tang Dynasty was the peak of the Tang Dynasty, and the poet who wrote the prosperous Tang Dynasty was Li Bai. Li Bai, like a great sculptor in the age of sculpture, made a master's work with a great pen like a rafter. Although Li Bai was a personalist from beginning to end, he had the sincerity of an artist, and he touched the soul of the times with a sincere and moving stroke.

5. Concluding Remarks

Li Bai is one of the greatest names in the history of Chinese poetry. However, if we want to really study Li Bai and his poems, we should rely closely on his time. The leading political system of the Tang Dynasty inspired the prosperity of culture, the prosperous appearance of cultural development and the tolerant public opinion environment, which made Li Bai find the support of himself and the space to release his talent in his poetry creation career, and also made Li Bai finally achieve immortal fame.[3].

Fund Project

Shaanxi Provincial Social Science Fund Project “research on Yongguanzhong poetry in the Tang Dynasty” (2015J045).

References

- [1] Yang, Haibo. A Profound Influence of Cultural Atmosphere in the prosperous Tang Dynasty on Li Bai's Thought and Character. *Journal of Wuxi Nanyang University*, no. 02, 2018.
- [2] Chuxin. Read Li Bai. *Yan Huang Longheng*, no. 01, 2018.
- [3] Be, slow. Li Bai's Footprint —— Looking back through 1300 Years. *Industrial Audit and Accounting*, no. 01, 2018.