Exploring the Artistic Characteristics of Dazu Rock Carvings Statue Clothing

Zhou Qifeng

Chongqing Normal University, Chongqing, China

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Abstract: As the world intangible cultural heritage, Dazu Rock Carvings' art value and significance have gone beyond the religious belief field of pure Buddhist esoteric Taoism to a large extent, and has melted the ideological and cultural essence of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. Dazu Rock Carvings is an outstanding representative of the grotto art of the Song Dynasty in China and the “last glory” of the grotto art of China. The design of the statue costumes in Dazu Rock Carvings is exquisite and unique. Its artistic features are mainly reflected in three aspects: pattern design, the organic combination of realism and decoration; In terms of color matching, the clever use of stone cyan and stone green; On the whole, it fully displays the beauty of tailoring and body. Through the study of Dazu Rock Carvings Buddhist statues and costumes, we can see the way people dress and the aesthetic taste of costumes through thousands of years. Dazu Rock Carvings' Buddhist statues are also a combination of human nature, region, Dynasty and Buddhism in one of the fine works of art.

1. Introduction

Dazu Rock Carvings art, as a world intangible cultural heritage, has its value and significance to a great extent beyond the religious belief field of the simple Buddhist Tantrism Dojo, casting the essence of the ideological and cultural spirit of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism [1]. Dazu Rock Carvings is located in Dazu county, Chongqing today. The era of sculpture spanned the middle and late Tang Dynasty to the Yuan, Ming, Qing and Republic of China, lasting more than 1270 years. Among them, the statues with the largest number and the highest artistic achievements are mainly concentrated in the Song Dynasty. The social and cultural activities of the people of Bayu over 400 years from Tang Dynasty to Song Dynasty have been hidden in stone carvings [2]. The dynastic changes and cultural changes over the past 400 years have exerted a great influence on the construction of Dazu Rock Carvings. Although the costume art of statues has been discussed in the existing research results, it is mostly placed in the overall background of plastic beauty, with few independent and specialized discussions. Therefore, this paper tries to make a relatively thorough and meticulous discussion and Research on the head statue of Dazu Rock Carvings, and further explores the secularization, humanization and popularization of Dazu Rock Carvings' art through the head statue of Guanyin, which is also the significance of this paper.

2. The Art Beauty of Dazu Rock Carvings Buddhist Statue Dress

2.1 The beauty of ease and ease

People often regard “aesthetic feeling” as synonymous with “relaxed”, “comfortable” and “pleasant”. From the perspective of “aesthetic feeling”, aesthetic feeling is a free experience that confirms the essential state of human being and is harmonious in body and mind. It can also be said that free experience is a kind of aesthetic feeling [3]. The cultural environment of a place plays a decisive role in its cultural achievements. It is difficult to detect a deeper spiritual core by studying only a single image (graph). In the Dazu time of the Song Dynasty, the vivid and rich secular beauty was shaped far more than the grottoes of any previous period. It can be said that many creations are simply the refinement and reappearance of real life, making the good men and the faithful women feel more cordial. On the one hand, in the minds of sculptors, although Buddha or Bodhisattva is in a state of magnificence and dignity, out of respect for Buddha and Bodhisattva, sculptors and
craftsmen show their Buddha and Bodhisattva in their hearts in a “people-friendly” way [4]. The custom of worshipping and loving flowers prevailed in all social strata of Song Dynasty, and the traditional flower-and-bird painting reached maturity at this time, which made exquisite and exquisite flower patterns permeate into daily life, including clothing design. The unique feature of Dazu Rock Carvings' statue art is that it infuses the religious rituals of Buddhist statues with a life style, ideal and desire of Bashu people. Thus it presents a vivid and flesh-and-blood picture of secular life.

2.2 The beauty of contrast

Artistic works are the existence of the author’s spiritual connotation, aesthetic interest and accomplishment by using material existence as a carrier. It can also be said to be a kind of metaphysical existence [5]. Under the social conditions at that time, the main way of cultural dissemination was to rely on oral and personal instruction, and the “cultural man” who played an important role in the social structure played an extremely important role in the collection, exchange and dissemination of culture [6]. It is absolutely impossible to show Buddha statues to people without making them, let alone to offer sacrifices. Making half-length statues of Buddha and Bodhisattva will be regarded as the greatest blasphemy and disrespect for the supreme and holy of Buddhism. This constant instantaneous shape reflects the vitality of life and has the tension effect of seeing movement in silence [7]. This kind of treatment forms a decorative feeling, and at the same time, it is also largely consistent with the objective growth of luxuriant branches and leaves. However, it is in the religious pattern in which the evolution of Buddha's ritual pedigree has not taken place that the human meaning, life meaning, mass meaning and secularization meaning of Dazu Rock Carvings become more and more intense, more and more universal and more profound and subtle. Patterns directly drawn from various flowers and plants also follow the objective laws of plant growth to a certain extent, thus showing the beauty of nature.

2.3 Beauty of neatness and refinement

Concise, is concise and not extravagant. “Condensation” is the last word of ice, the original meaning is ice, extended to condensation, condensation, concentration. “Practice” is extended to multiple operations, repeated exercises, and then to sophistication and proficiency [8]. Sakyamuni Buddha Nirvana chart No. 11, Dazu Baoding Dafowan, only half of the body of Sakyamuni Buddha is carved to facilitate the integration of the whole mountain. Bodhisattva disciples carved busts from the ground, which can be described as a very bold artistic creation. As the political and cultural center of South Sichuan at that time, Dazu clearly provided a platform for such exchanges. The arrival of these cultural talents not only brought advanced culture and technology, but also accumulated many valuable artistic experiences and techniques between generations. The statues in the grottoes are relatively well preserved among Dazu Rock Carvings because they are protected from the wind, sun and rain [9]. The treasure basket on the left wall of Cave 180 in Beishan Buddha Bay and the treasure crown worn by Baoyin Guanyin are decorated with a sitting Buddha statue and a bodhisattva statue standing on the front respectively. From Dazu Rock Carvings' statue art with Buddhism as its main subject, behind its religious images, there has been a gradual visual aesthetic transformation and evolution from pure religious sanctity to secularization, humanization, popularization and living in the world.

3. The Artistic Features of Dazu Rock Carvings

3.1 Age characteristic

Clothing is a barometer showing the social and political climate, economy and culture. Dazu Rock Carvings were mainly carved in the early Tang Dynasty to the 5th generation and flourished in the Song Dynasty. The specific carving work of Dazu Rock Carvings is done by craftsmen, but craftsmen cannot finish this work on rocks with bare hands, they must use tools. City industry and commerce and economy were very prosperous in the Song Dynasty. Under the living requirements
of the common emerging landlords, businessmen and city residents, the secular culture of the Song Dynasty was greatly developed. The selection and use of colors in costume designs of past dynasties are often very particular, and there are relatively independent standards and taboos in different times and social environments. The Bashu area has been an important military area which is easy to defend and difficult to attack since ancient times. Compared with the war-torn north, it is relatively stable, so its economic situation is better than that of the north. The rulers and craftsmen of the north have come here to take refuge and bring Buddhism there to the southwest. Its fundamental significance can never deviate from the value track of religion, but in Dazu Rock Carvings' statue art, ancient craftsmen have included the spiritual feelings of the world in shaping these gods, making these gods show a full and warm glory of human nature.

3.2 Thematic features

Dazu Rock Carvings, 31 meters long, is the largest outdoor stone-carved recumbent Buddha in China and the only half-length recumbent Buddha in Dongyan, Fowan, Baoding Mountain. Using the method of intentional strokes, the lower limbs of Buddha's knees are hidden into rocks, which makes people have infinite reverie, indicating that Buddha is immeasurable. During the 400-year construction of Dazu Rock Carvings, monks and Taoists served as organizers and designers. The shaping of these busts invisibly enlarges the volume and momentum of the whole statue, sets off the atmosphere of the whole pavilion, and gives people unlimited reverie. Under the carving of skillful craftsman in Bashu area, the shape proportion is accurate and appropriate, the figure is rich and strong, the semi-three-dimensional relief method is adopted, and the yang carving method is used to carve, so the overall line of reclining Buddha looks very soft. Craftsmen still distinguish the images of different classes through the colors of clothing, which also reflects from the side that the division of hierarchy in the society at that time was still distinct. It is worth mentioning that the color design of Dazu Rock Carvings also distinguishes clothing with different senses to some extent. These gods have shown a warm glory of human nature. In the stone carvings of Baoding Mountain in Dazu, many Buddha statues still use religious ritual structure, but the contents of the ritual of Buddha statues have been widely involved in the real world of Wangan scene.

3.3 Secular characteristics

The secularization of Dazu Rock Carvings Buddhist statues can not only be evidenced by the combination of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, but also by the sculpture of historical and supporting figures. The costume design of Dazu Rock Carvings Buddhist statues is close to the costume style of ordinary people at that time. The result of this Sinicization is mainly spread among monks and religious people. In order to further popularize Buddhism, it is more conducive to the dissemination of Buddhist doctrines to use comic strips to tell religious doctrines and stories such as Buddhism. In addition, Dazu Rock Carvings also placed more emphasis on diversity in the Guanyin statues of the Song Dynasty. From an artistic perspective, its creation techniques used a large number of contrast and foil, which greatly enhanced the aesthetic artistry of Guanyin statues. Although the standing and sitting images of Bodhisattva statues are not the absolute standard of secularization, the Guanyin statues of Dazu Rock Carvings all have slightly inclined postures, making the statues feel like stepping on the clouds to enter the world. What is different from this is that, except for those that are not colored and completely weathered, the clothing colors in Dazu Rock Carvings are mainly azurite and turquoise. The aesthetic orientation of popularization, secularization and humanization is shown incisively and vividly. You can touch the subtle secular life pulse of craftsmen from any sculpture scene in between, warm and lasting.

4. Value of Dazu Rock Carvings Buddhist statues and costumes

4.1 Cultural value

Culture, a very broad and humanistic concept, is the conciseness of human activities and wisdom. Culture is an invisible spirit and ideological art. Culture is the soft power of a country, which
provides power for social development and reflects the degree of social civilization of an era. The supporters of the statue of Dazu Rock Carvings are officials and gentry. Broadly speaking, the people of Dazu Rock Carvings are the biggest supporters of Dazu Rock Carvings’ continuous growth over 400 years. However, the Song Guanyin statue in Dazu Rock Carvings subverts this phenomenon. Its sculpture creation is not only greatly improved, but also varied. The use of lines is very complex and fluent, which makes Guanyin statue have a higher aesthetic value. With the complete rise of the literati and officialdom in the Song Dynasty, the multi-level cultural habits, including the choice and application of colors, were inevitably influenced by them, thus forming a “convergent” aesthetic attribute as a whole. Chinese traditional dress culture is not an isolated cultural phenomenon, but a unity of material and spirit. Buddhist clothing, which combines social material civilization and social spiritual civilization, is an important component of clothing culture, and is also an important element of grotto Buddhist statue art.

4.2 Artistic value

Art is the unity of image grasping and rational grasping, the unity of emotional experience and logical cognition, and the unity of aesthetic activities and ideology. From the series of Buddhist statues to the scenes of the real society, Dazu Rock Carvings show more and more popular and secular aesthetic images. Dazu Rock Carvings was built mainly for religion. In the eyes of anthropologists, the artistic creation of primitive artists is not the free creation of individuals at all. The aesthetic feature of art is the fundamental mark that distinguishes it from other social practice activities. Art is not only an aesthetic activity, but also an ideology of superstructure rather than a material basis with aesthetic features. Vision is the most direct and convenient medium for human to appreciate art, and intuition is the most basic aesthetic feature of visual art. From the perspective of aesthetic art, Dazu Rock Carvings' Guanyin statues in the Song Dynasty have a strong sense of humanity and intimacy, which is not so prominent in many previous Guanyin statues. In detail, the description of blooming flowers, different shapes of gold and jade jewelry is rich and exquisite, which makes the Abstract form and concrete objective description coexist, and also shows the organic combination of decorative beauty and realistic beauty. In a word, Dazu Rock Carvings has created a new form of grotto art in many ways, and become a model of grotto art with Chinese style and connotation of traditional Chinese culture, as well as reflecting Chinese traditional aesthetic ideas and aesthetic tastes.

4.3 Historical value

History, recording and explaining the course of human activities, is a summary of the past and a reflection of the present. History lies in the constant discovery of the real past in the present time and space. Speaking with realistic materials, people can discover how the past world may become a problem that can be discussed in reality. The aesthetic ideal and form of religious art serve religious content, but there are differences in the specific artistic form reflecting these contents. In the process of Sinicization of Buddhist art, the image of Guanyin is increasingly close to the female characteristics, because women have a more compassionate, gentle, kind and gentle side, closer to the believers' belief psychology, which is one of the reasons why Guanyin has become a female image. As a tiny speck of dust in the long river of history, the author will trace the magnificence of national culture from the perspective of history through Dazu Rock Carvings Buddhist statues and costumes, and confirm the steps of history by exploring the expression and characteristics of artistic noumenon. The Guanyin statues at that time inherited the characteristics of symmetrical body shape and graceful body shape in the late Tang dynasty and the five dynasties. they were more abundant and elegant in the shape and tailoring of clothing. at the same time, they greatly displayed the body beauty of bodhisattva and reflected the depth of feminization and localization of Guanyin images.

4.4 Social value

Dazu Rock Carvings is a group of stone carvings integrating Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. It is also very rare in the national stone carvings. It is the most prominent and typical example of the sinicization and secularization of Buddhism. This kind of multi-religion can be
expressed through artistic forms in the same grottoes, thanks to the recognition of several religions by the mainstream society and civil society at that time. Dazu Rock Carvings originated from life and sublimated into life. As for the Buddhist statues existing as material forms, it makes them closer to real life and reflects the solemn and solemn meaning of Buddhism with the vividness of real life. Dazu Rock Carvings are promoting the beautiful and precious value of life to the world. It is the best way and method to integrate Chinese culture into Chinese life. Throughout all the grotto art after Buddhism was introduced into China, it was the statue of Dazu Rock Carvings that did this. These artistic changes in Dazu Rock Carvings formally represented the changes in religious beliefs in the Song Dynasty, and also illustrated the wealth of the local scholar-bureaucrats and their positive attitude towards supporting these sculptures. This religious attitude is not only a local phenomenon, but also a reflection of the religious beliefs of the whole people in the Song Dynasty. The sculptors have achieved unconventional artistic creation. The spirit of pursuing change and wonder in artistic creation conforms to the psychological desire for magic and wonder in secular folk beliefs, and finally condenses into a brand-new artistic creative thinking.

5. Conclusion

Dazu Rock Carvings' outstanding artistic achievements shape the “final glory” in the history of Chinese grotto art. Dazu Rock Carvings art is a thorough manifestation of the localization and Sinicization of Chinese grotto art. Dazu Rock Carvings embodies the truth of religion with the supreme goodness and beauty of art. Buddhist statues are the carrier of Buddhist culture, social thought and political fashion. It can be said that they are the perfect combination of religion and art, which can not only meet people's spiritual pursuit, but also meet people's artistic aesthetic needs. Dazu Rock Carvings art has gradually formed the most unique anthropological aspect of the secularization of Dazu Rock Carvings art through a series of modeling changes and changes in the lineage of Buddhist statues, and the religious modeling images have continuously shifted towards the aesthetic orientation of real social life. Dazu Rock Carvings are exquisitely carved and well preserved. In the long river of history, they speak the secret language of life in a unique way. Art is a symbol way for people to express their language thoughts. Clothing is an important symbol of human civilization.

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References
