

The Artistic Presentation of Modern Culture and Traditional Culture in “The Story of a Noble Family”

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Abstract: “The Story of a Noble Family” is a modern literary work in which the description of the confrontation between modern culture and traditional culture fusing with the historical background is even more penetrating. This paper explores the cultural values and artistic expressions in the works of Mr. Zhang Henshui through the discussion on the historical background of “The Story of a Noble Family”, the family culture of modern culture and traditional culture and the image of characters.

1. Introduction

In the long course of art, literary works has always been a special existence. It can even be said that it is an existence that can not be ignored in the whole literary field. The main reason is that literature provides us with an “objective” mirror. It not only records the text, but also records the contemporary humanities, history and culture. I still remember reading “A Dream of Red Mansions” when I was a child. I only felt that it was nothing more than recording the daily life of the nobility. There was a scene with jewels lavishly and exquisite flashing in the mind. Looking back now, however, there are other feelings. All of those descriptions of historical advancement, local conditions, human nature and the ups and downs of the affairs are epitomes and precious heritage of our splendid culture.

After the May 4th Movement, great changes have taken place in China. In that era, the entire society and culture have been greatly affected due to the influence of the big environment, and the acceptance and integration of western culture is very complicated. While, such a book with a sense of the times “The Story of a Noble Family” was born at that time. It truthfully records that Chinese culture is in a special period of alternation between the old and the new, and makes a comprehensive and profound record and elaboration of the current situation and background of the whole Chinese old society. It has made great contributions to the inheritance of Chinese traditional culture and modern culture.

2. The connotation and background of “The Story of a Noble Family”.

“The Story of a Noble Family” was written by Mr. Zhang Henshui on February 14, 1927. It was not completed until May 22, 1932. In the meantime, it cost efforts of Mr. Zhang Henshui for more than five years to finally complete this stunning novel.

“The Story of a Noble Family” mainly describes the Prime minister Jin family with three generations in the capital of the country. It takes the marriage tragedy between the seventh young master Jin Yanxi and Leng Qingqiu as its main thread, intersperses with more than 100 characters related to the Jin family to write the story of the crash collapse of a powerful family and then the whole family collapsed. It is not difficult to understand the relationship between them.

The so-called “Jin” is both a the Jin family and the symbol of the nobility. It can be seen in TV play that all characters are related to the thing between men and women. The main thread is the development of love between Yanxi and Qingqiu. And “pink” is a metaphor for love. “Aristocratic family” means that the political status of the fathers has always been the background. While, the word “golden powder” means fragility and luxury, and it can give people a sense of desolation of the gorgeous disillusionment. This is the exact tragedy of black sheep that the author

wants to express through the destruction of love. This book is the wisdom of ancient Chinese culture. "The Story of a Noble Family" was the period ruling by the Northern Warlords. At that time, the feudal ideology had just faded away, and the new culture was still in learning and accommodating. Because of the replacement of old and new cultures, the whole social culture was in a complex and dynamic background.

3. The artistic expression of the family's traditional culture and modern culture in "The Story of a Noble Family".

The family has always been the most important component in the blood of the Chinese nation. While, the traditional culture of the family has always been complex and profound. "The Story of a Noble Family" describes a traditional society with family as the main body. That is an extremely complex cultural feature. For example, foreigners often have a name comes first, and the surname comes last. And the Chinese often have a surname comes first, and the name comes last. The first thing we tell people is not who we are, but who our family is. This tradition has exerted a subtle influence on the Chinese people for thousands of years. The family is focused on the whole, focusing on continuity and harmony. And it is cultural system that the family is dominated by people who are of noble character and high prestige and obeyed by the other people. The true description of the family in "The Story of a Noble Family" provides a very important cultural background for today's literature.

In that era, the Jin family in "The Story of a Noble Family" was impacted by modern culture, which inevitably changed the family. Jinquan and his wife, Mrs. Jin, in "The Story of a Noble Family" are both high intellectuals who once studied abroad. They accepted the edification of new culture and can naturally accept the arrival of new culture such as democracy, freedom and science. So their attitude toward their children is relatively free and seem to be equal. For example, the maidservant is even allowed to be in love freely. This has never been heard before in that traditional cultural society. This shows how valuable the Jinquan couple's thoughts are. That is why the marriage between Jin Yanxi and Leng Qingqiu was founded.

However, it does not mean that the traditional culture disappears completely as soon as the new culture arrives. For example, after Jin Quanmin, the Prime Minister of "The Story of a Noble Family" fell ill, so many different types of doctors have been invited to treat him. There were herbalist doctors, western style doctors, quack doctors, warlock, and non-Buddhist ascetics. It's a gathering of all kinds of people. The illness of the Prime Minister of the Republic of China even has provoked so many various people to come. It can be known from this that the phenomenon of the mutual impact, integration and exclusion between old and new cultures is very serious. Especially in the Jin family, the cultural background projected by the whole society has changed the whole family culture. Mr. Zhang Henshui was keenly aware of the complex problems in that era. He used his pen to translate his writing them in "The Story of a Noble Family" and described the culture of the Jin Family in modern culture and traditional culture in detail.

This artistic expression of modern culture and traditional culture is also the most profound literary significance of "The Story of a Noble Family". When reading "The Story of a Noble Family", we can not only understand the traditional Chinese family culture, but also see the various processes of a big family in the process of gradually modernization. Meanwhile, we can also witness the whole process of Chinese cultural change.

4. The cultural characteristics of the characters in "The Story of a Noble Family", the opposition of the female image between modern culture and traditional culture.

The main character in "The Story of a Noble Family" is Leng Qingqiu. On the female image, Mr. Zhang Henshui once said that he wanted to create a perfect female image in traditional culture. While, the image of Leng Qingqiu before and after marriage was totally different. Before marriage, she liked to read, to be alone and to write poems besides confused with love and material. This is a complete traditional female image. But after marriage, she is a sober and independent woman with

independent personality and resistance spirit.

Before marriage: We first need to clarify a question. Does Jin Yanxi really love Leng Qingqiu? Maybe he doesn't. Why? To clarify this problem, we must first explain another main character in "The Story of a Noble Family", Jin Yanxi. What is he most afraid of as the seventh young master of the Jin family and a dandy? It was the "constraints" of a woman. The word "constraints" occurs repeatedly throughout the novel. As a figure of new cultural thought, he likes to communicate, go to cinema, go to dances, and highly praise the western thought. There is no doubt that he and Leng Qingqiu are two opposites. Their cultural pursuit is totally different.

Jin Yanxi meets Leng Qingqiu occasionally. What the background is when he want to woo Qingqiu? At that time, he and first love Bai Xiuzhu had reached the point of marriage. The Jin family all regard Bai Xiuzhu as the future seventh young mistress. At this time, Leng Qingqiu appeared. Of course, Qingqi at this time has made Yanxi feel a good impression whether it is the shape conditions or the internals. But the good impression is based on two points. One is that the clean and chilly temperament of the Qing Dynasty is different from the women that Yanxi usually encounters in society(The novelty of traditional culture to him who in pursuit of modern cultural thought). The second is that the emergence of the Qingqiu made him can temporarily free from the constraints of Bai Xiuzhu.

Even the In the fact is so obvious, many people still think that Qingqiu is not married to Jin Yanxi because of money. But this is not the case. The original texts in the excerpts are as follows: He rented a house in the Luohua Lane. It was so a fastidious ostentation. It was really lavish with his money. On that day, she did not think that he was wasting, but that he was hospitable. At last he won her heart. Thinks about this, Qingqiu who is a woman with literary and enrich common sense find that she married Yanxi due to the lure of material and vanity. Speaking of women in the field of communication, they make friends unscrupulously. As long as Yanxi spends money, the women who is not tempted by him is afraid to be rare. Qingqiu looks at the mirror, once she thought about the sadness, she would think about the previous year. She felt that her thoughts at that time were totally wrong. At that time, she thought that it was happiness to dress well, eat well and live in a good house, even go out by car and use more servants. I only knew too powerful to be a partner in marriage at that time and fear of being looked down. Actually, I am really lured by the vanity of money and let a dandy to display his artifice. This has been the contempt of myself. After ten years of school, and there are some new and old knowledge in the mind. The result is that I sold my body and am degraded by others.

These are the contents of Qingqiu's own thinking in the book. No one forced her. And more than once expressed the same meaning. It can be considered as the real thought of Leng Qingqiu in the book. These ideas were the introspection when she found that she and Yanxi were not suitable in all aspects after she married Jin Yanxi. She also knew that she was "too young at that time to know all the gifts given by fate had already been priced secretly".

After marriage: Yanxi is still dandy as always and plays around in social occasions. In addition, the cold personality of QingQiu, as well as the manifestation of male superiority and female inferiority in traditional culture, made she ignored Yanxi's actions was also a reason that Yanxi become more rampant. Moreover, Yanxi is still unwilling to be "restrained" after marriage. This is the daily quarrels between Yanxi and Qingqiu.

Fortunately, Qingqiu is a woman with awakening consciousness after marriage. She is a semi-new and semi-old woman in the turbulent situation with a certain spirit of resistance. After realizing that her combination with Yanxi and the Jin family was totally wrong and that the rift between herself and Yanxi could not be repaired, she resolutely proposed divorce when she fully saw the deep-rooted bad habits of Yanxi's and was completely disappointed with him. Of course, for various reasons, she was not divorced. However, the fire at the end of the article and Qingqiu left the Jin family with her children made her independent female image finally stood up. It can be seen from her farewell letter to Yanxi.

In fact, most of the descriptions in the book indicate that Leng Qingqiu is a person who is especially influenced by traditional culture. But under the impact of the new culture, many

traditional ideas can not help but be shocked. And then there was her subsequent awakening. Even though the main fault in their marriage was caused by Jin Yanxi, Leng Qingqiu did not say a bad word about Jin Yanxi in front of others. After reading the full text and looking back at the wedge again, people can't help crying. Later, Yanxi had remarried and the object was Qiu Xizhen. And what about Qingqiu? Despite the divorce, she is always his Mrs. Jin.

In fact, Leng Qingqiu and Jin Yanxi are undoubtedly the opposite impact on the thought of traditional culture and modern culture. But Mr. Zhang Henshui did not criticize traditional and modern cultures, but described them objectively and rationally. This artistic expression is undoubtedly of great benefit to our thinking.

The book has a tragic charm and a traditional fatalistic tone from the beginning to the end. Every step seems to be inevitable, and there will be no change if it comes back again. Leng Qingqiu has no reason not to marry Jin Yanxi like that. Jin Yanxi has no reason not to grow tired of Leng Qingqiu gradually and to live a restrained life. Eventually he went abroad to study. It is also inevitable that the rich and honorable princes will still degenerate into opera players.

Portraying the extravagance of the big family while portraying the rise and fall of each character. The final outcome seems to be a matter of course with non-human deliberate. It is a good book worth reading.

5. Conclusion

“The Story of a Noble Family” is like an all-encompassing historical treasure. It shows the reader all round of the custom culture which is excluded from the integration of traditional culture and modern culture. It is hoped to play a role in the development of literature Through the artistic expression of traditional culture and modern culture in “The Story of a Noble Family” in this paper.

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