

Study on the Symbol of Chinese Copper Pheasant in Court Painting in Song Dynasty

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Abstract: Chinese traditional painting is divided into palace painting, literati painting and painters painting according to class. In the Song Dynasty, the palace painting was mostly assigned by the emperor himself. In addition to the fine and beautiful royal aesthetic interest, the political meaning behind it was also the content of the palace painting. It is the most commonly used technique in Chinese literature and art, which is also a means to give political moral to court painting in Song Dynasty. Behind the symbols of the objects in the palace paintings of the Song Dynasty are the political meanings expressed by the rulers at that time. The emperor, for some reason, flaunted or warned them through paintings. The symbol of Chinese copper pheasant contains profound social culture and folk culture, which can fully reflect the cultural characteristics of Song Dynasty. This paper explores the meaning of Chinese copper pheasant symbol and better understands the deep meaning behind the image. It is helpful to study the flower and bird painting in Song Dynasty and provide a new perspective for the study of court flower and bird painting in Song Dynasty.

Keywords: Song Dynasty Painting; Chinese traditional painting; Color Chicken

Chinese traditional painting often carries the meaning other than painting, or moral preaching, ethical norms and so on. As a special painting symbol, Chinese copper pheasant frequently appeared in court painting, especially in Song Dynasty. This thesis is divided into three parts: the historical origin of the Chinese copper pheasant symbol, the political function of the Gong ting Academy of Song Dynasty and the moral of the Chinese copper pheasant symbol in the palace painting of Song Dynasty.

1. The connection between bird totem worship and Chinese copper pheasant

Bird totem worship can be traced back to the Neolithic Age, ancient ancestors thought that birds are angels of heaven and man, people can understand the information brought by birds to human beings from the species, calls, habitats, numbers and flying phenomena, and obtain the will of heaven, so as to complete witchcraft divination. Phoenix is the deification of bird totem. According to the records of relevant documents, it can be inferred that Brocade Chicken is probably a kind of embryonic form of Phoenix, because the alliance and merger between tribes gradually evolved into Phoenix totem. People's worship of chicken totem has a long history, but because of the long time, it is difficult to study the specific time of chicken as totem, but chicken is widely recognized by people's sense of peace and auspiciousness. And in the past dynasties for people to understand, explore and use.

2. Influence of the Development of Flower and Bird Painting in Song Dynasty on Chinese copper pheasant Painting

Song Dynasty emperors attached great importance to the role of painting, and flower and bird painting on the one hand in line with the royal aesthetic needs, on the other hand can express the concept of the royal. The importance of painting in the Song Dynasty was related to the talent of poetry and books in the emperors of the Song Dynasty, but more importantly, it was influenced by the tradition of Zhao Kuangyin. It is the accumulation of such a heavy literary style that produced an outstanding painter with talent and eyesight like Zhao Jian, and at the same time had a great influence on the politics and military affairs of the Song Dynasty. The reflection of this influence in painting is reflected in the royal family's attention and control of painting.

3. The moral of the symbol of the Chinese copper pheasant in the Song Dynasty.

On the one hand, under the influence of the royal aesthetic, the brocade chicken is more in line with the royal rich and noble weather, on the other hand, the brocade chicken can show more gorgeous and elegant. It can be seen that the Song people pay attention to the law, for the family chicken, pheasants do not belong to it.

3.1 Auspicious sign

Chinese copper pheasant has been stable and auspicious since ancient times. Brocade chicken has been stable and auspicious since ancient times, the Song Dynasty painting institute created a lot of Chinese copper pheasant painting, and Chinese copper pheasant auspicious meaning more related. According to historical records, court paintings in the Song Dynasty represent the highest aesthetic. In order to meet the specific purposes of the court, the painters had little freedom to speak of. Therefore, the subject matter and

materials of academy painting are auspicious. Lotus and golden chicken belong to the theme of wealth, in the picture conveyed the meaning of wealth auspicious. It embodies the nobility of royal demeanor.

3.2 Metaphor

Throughout the history of painting, it is not uncommon to use flowers and birds to describe themselves, such as “plum, orchid, bamboo, chrysanthemum” in literati paintings, to reflect the elegant integrity. In the last sentence of the postscript, “ease and victory accurately conveys Zhao’s self-metaphorical thought. He is a water bird, the five elements are in the north, and the attributes and positions are opposite to those of the brocade chicken. Pu Shang’s Preface to the poem explained: “Wei, Shou Cheng is also, the peace of the gentleman can hold Ying Shou Cheng, the ancestors of the gods also.” It is the symbol of keeping it. If the brocade chicken is a self-metaphor of Zhao, Zhao is a southern monarch, and he is a northern monarch, it implies that he is a conservative monarch, and the opposite southern monarch is a talented entrepreneurial monarch. As a generation of emperors, in order to consolidate the rule, it is necessary to shape the image of Ming Jun with both virtue and virtue.

3.3 State and religion

Song Dynasty flower and bird paintings often use symbolic expression techniques to serve those in power. For example, the Song Dynasty has a good cultural atmosphere and economic base, still faces aggression from ethnic minorities, sharp contradictions between the court and the people, and a turbulent society. In the Confucian classics, the author discusses the moral character symbolized by the chicken, and puts forward a similar explanation about the five virtues of the chicken in the “Five Virtues of the Chicken”. As the highest aesthetic of the ruling class, the main purpose of the flower and bird painting in the courtyard is mostly related to the praise of politics. Chinese copper pheasant Tu is naturally serving the powerful and noble, becoming a political tool of etiquette and education, and praising moral education.

3.4 Pray

In the Song Dynasty, not only advocated the emperor’s behavior, but also whitewashed the world peace phenomenon. During the more than 300 years of the rule of the Song Dynasty, disasters occurred frequently, and the causes of disasters were regarded as ominous. Song people regard some natural phenomena that can not resist, such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, or things that can not be explained as disasters. In the eyes of the Song people, the boundary between painting and reality is very weak, painting is a substitute for reality, the auspicious things painted in the painting, it also has a real effect, so in the picture of the golden chicken all contains the meaning of wealth and auspicious, the world stability. Although the worship of Xiangrui by the monarch and courtiers of the Song Dynasty would have a negative impact on the political economy, it stabilized the people’s hearts, satisfied the people’s yearning for peace in the spiritual level, and eased the contradictions of the strata to a certain extent. This is also the Song Dynasty court painting mainly flowers and birds, and material auspicious important reasons.

4. Conclusion

Under the complicated background of the cultural background of the Song Dynasty, Chinese copper pheasant has a profound political meaning as the symbol of the image in the palace painting institute: through Xiangrui’s “fool policy” to cover up the social unrest, ease the contradictions of the strata, and safeguard the rule of the Song Dynasty. The emperor had the loss of governing the country, molded the image of Ming Jun with brocade chicken, which was based on the Song people’s worship of Xiangrui, stabilized the people’s hearts with auspicious things, whitewashed the world with auspicious images, and stabilized the rule of Song Dynasty through self-metaphor of Chinese copper pheasant.

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