

An Analysis of Si Zuo's Literary Achievements

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Abstract

Si Zuo is an outstanding writer in the Western Jin Dynasty. His masterpieces are "Ode of Three Capitals", "Chanting History Poems", and "Two Charming Daughters' Poems". "Ode of Three Capitals" is rich in materials and ingenious in conception. It was so widely copied by people at the time which made paper expensive in Luoyang City. With Si Zuo's keen understanding and profound experience of social issues, the eight poems of "Chanting History Poems" expressed strong dissatisfaction with the clan system, and were hailed as the "masterpiece through the ages". "Young girls' Poems" writes about his pair of daughters who are innocent, lively, coquettish and willful, with a strong taste for family life. Si Zuo's work influenced the time and is well-known for future generations.

Keywords

Si Zuo, Ode of Three Capitals, Chanting History Poems, Two Charming Daughters' Poems.

1. About Si Zuo

Si Zuo (about 250 A.D- 305 A.D) was from Linzi, and was born in poverty. Si Zuo was a representative writer in the Western Jin Dynasty and is hailed as "a generation of writers." [1] by Deqian Shen.

Si Zuo looked bad and bad in words, and he didn't like to socialize. But he was diligent and studious. He read many books when he was young, and was brilliant in literary style and splendid rhetoric. In about 272 A.D., Si Zuo wrote "Ode of Capital Qi" in about one year, which laid the foundation for his later creation of "Ode of Three Capitals".

As a representative writer in literary world of the Western Jin, Si Zuo's main works include "Ode of Capital Qi", "Ode of Three Capitals", "Ode of White Hair", "Chanting History Poems", "Two Charming Daughters' Poems", etc. Among them, "Ode of Three Capitals", "Chanting History Poems", "Two Charming Daughters' Poems" are Si Zuo's masterpieces, which were well-known at that time and influenced posterity deeply.

2. "Ode of Three Capitals", Which Was Conceived Carefully and Caused Paper Expensive in Luoyang City

"Ode of Three Capitals" is Si Zuo's enamoured work, and it is also his famous work. This ode was written before and after the extermination of Country Wu, and the specific time is difficult to determine. "Ode of Three Capitals" is composed of three parts: "Ode of Capital Wei", "Ode of Capital Shu" and "Ode of Capital Wu". The three characters, Mr. Wei Guo, Xi Shu Gongzi, and Dongwu Wangsun were entrusted with each other to express their exaggeration. The rigorous brushwork comprehensively covers the capital construction, historical deeds, geographical situation, local products, characters and customs of the three major regions of the Central Plains, Southeast, and Southwest. It reflected the social life of the Three Kingdoms period broadly, and also involved the ruling and opposition parties at that time. The political content of common

concern, such as marching into Dongwu and the desire for reunification, had certain practical significance.

Faithfulness and evidence is the creative principle of "Ode of Three Capitals". In order to implement this principle, Si Zuo investigated carefully and collected information extensively. He visited the Zai Zhang and Lu Ji, who were officials of Country Shu and Country Wu, he tried his best to search for relevant information. Si Zuo devoted himself to the creation of "Ode of Three Capitals" and abandoned all irrelevant affairs. It took him ten years to complete this well-known ode.

When "Ode of Three Capitals" was first written, it did not quickly arouse people's attention, nor was it widely disseminated. Later, thanks to the reputation and annotations of celebrities such as Mi Huangfu, Zai Zhang, and Kui Liu, etc., "Ode of Three Capitals" began to rise to fame. Then families of wealthy competed for writing, and the paper also increased in price in Luoyang city, The idiom "paper expensive in Luoyang city" has been passed down to this day.

3. "Chanting History Poems" Against the Family System

Si Zuo's "Chanting History Poems", called chanting history, is actually chanting mind. He used historical figures and historical events to express his unwilling distress and resentment, and expressed his strong dissatisfaction with the system of the clan and clansmen, which has important epochal significance.

The gentry and noble family system began in the late Eastern Han Dynasty and was a unique social phenomenon during the Wei, Jin and Southern and Northern Dynasties. The gentry refers to a special class that enjoys privileges in the political, economic, and cultural fields. The children of this class, no matter how virtuous or foolish, can sit down to the public just by their rank. Even if the underachievers who are opposite to the gentry have both ability and political integrity, society will not provide them with opportunities to display their talents. Even if he embarks on an official career, he can only be a low-level official, and it is difficult to enter the core of power. There is a clear separation between the scholars and the heavens, which led to the conflict and opposition between the scholars and the culture of that period. Si Zuo, as a representative of the Han nationality literati, used his deep personal perception and keen insight ability to form this cultural phenomenon into songs and poems, which truly reflected the specific mentality of the Han literati under a specific social background.

The eight poems of "Song History" vividly and comprehensively show Si Zuo's thought process from active entry into the world to passive retreat. The first poem to write about my talents and desires kicked off the whole set of poems. Si Zuo said that he has both civil and military skills and aspirations. As an essayist, he can write poems and essays at the age of twenty, read many books, and write articles comparable to Jia Yi and Sima; on martial arts, although he is not a soldier in armor, he has also read Sima Rangju's Art of War. Even if his talents are poor, he is willing to try his skills. Once there is a war with Soochow and Qianghu, he is willing to go to the side generously and serve the country. In this poem, Si Zuo also clearly expressed his life value orientation of accomplishment and retreat. This shows Si Zuo's strong desire to make meritorious deeds and his calm mentality to retreat.

The eight poems of "Song History" highlight the cultural phenomenon of conflict and opposition between scholars and concubines, reveal profound social problems, and have typical significance of the times. In terms of style, it breaks through the traditional writing method of chanting historical events since Ban Gu. It satisfies the past and satirizes the present. It is a great innovation in historical poems. The whole poem is powerful, bold, simple and natural, which is close to the generosity of Jian'an literature, which Zhong Rong called "Zuo si's literary styles". "Zuo si's literary styles" and "Jian'an Style" are in the same line. They are unique in the literary world of the early Jin Dynasty, where the style is magnificent. It represents the highest

achievement in poetry creation in the Western Jin Dynasty. It has a direct impact on Yuanming Tao, Zhao Bao, Ziang Chen, etc. Deqian Shen called it "Eternal swan songs"[2].

4. Three, a passionate, vivid and unique "Two Charming Daughters' Poems"

"Two Charming Daughters' Poems" is the first one in the history of poetry to describe children. The poet cut a few scenes from daily life, and portrayed the innocent, lively, playful, cute, novel and unique, real and vivid of the two little daughters with affection.

There are 56 sentences in this poem, which can be divided into three paragraphs. The first paragraph is 16 sentences for the little daughter Wansu, the second paragraph is 16 sentences for the elder daughter Huifang, and the third paragraph is 24 sentences for the two girls together. The whole article is well divided and well structured. The poem says that the two women have a Susu and Huifang, which are consistent with the records in the "Fen Zuo's Epitaph" and should be true and credible.

Si Zuo started with her appearance and praised her two daughters for their fair skin and beauty: "I have a charming girl in my family, who is quite fair." The little girl is very articulate and naughty. She combed the mirror, painted eyebrows like a broom sweep, and painted too much lipstick. Wan Su has already started to learn to write. He uses beautiful pens, but writes bluntly. She feels complacent when she has some gains in reading, showing the fearless attitude of a newborn calf.

The eldest daughter, Huifang, has a picturesque face and loves beauty very much. She draws her eyebrows carefully and modifies them carefully. After dressing and dressing, instead of learning to weave, she practiced Zhao Wu, who she likes. When she opens her sleeves, she spreads her wings like a bird and dances gracefully. Huifang has been able to put forward some of his own opinions on the vague calligraphy and painting on the screen.

The third paragraph is about the common activities of the two daughters, depicting the happy and carefree childhood life of the sisters through a few typical details: in the garden, they ran around, folds off the stalked flowers, and plucks the immature fruits, And played fruit-throwing games; in the wind and rain, they did not hesitate to shuttle back and forth hundreds of times in order to fold flowers; in winter, they stepped on the snow, frolicking, and unrestrained; usually, they sometimes sit upright and seem to help adults prepare food. Actually it is fun; pen and ink are often idle on the desk, they rarely practice writing, but the lively musical instruments on the street often attract them to drag their shoes and follow the sound; they want to do it like an adult Rice and tea are often greasy and embarrassed; I heard that I was going to be beaten, so I cried first. These details are vivid and full of life.

"Two Charming Daughters' Poems" used line-drawing techniques and surrounds the character "Jiao" to write the two women's looks, charming, charming, charming, verbal, charming, natural, and lifelike. From the description of the whole poem, it can be seen that Si Zuo did not use feudal morals to restrain his daughters, but allowed them to grow up freely and willfully; Si Zuo did not have the traditional concept of patriarchal patriarchy, and devoted infinite love and affection to his two daughters. It is Si Zuo's enlightened thinking and progressive concept of parenting that give this poem a permanent artistic charm. After that, Yuanming Tao, Juyi Bai, Fu Du, Shangyin Li etc. also wrote about the various moods of their children. They were all influenced by Si Zuo to a certain extent, but their thoughts were inferior to Si Zuo. Mr. Difei Xiao called "Two Charming Daughters' Poems" as "a jewel in the history of Chinese poetry" [3], and it is indeed a fair evaluation of seeking truth from facts.

References

- [1] [Qing] Deqian Shen. "The Source of Ancient Poems" [M], Beijing: Zhonghua Book Company, 1998. Page 163.
- [2] [Qing] Deqian Shen. "The Source of Ancient Poems" [M], Beijing: Zhonghua Book Company, 1998. Page 166.
- [3] Difei Xiao. "A Collection of Poetry Appreciation in the Han, Wei and Six Dynasties•A Pearl in the History of Chinese Poetry——Reading Si Zuo's "The Poems of Women". Beijing: People's Literature Publishing House, 1985. p.269.