

The Analysis of the Multiple Human Nature of Fa Hai

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Abstract

It is well known that Li Bihua's *Green Snake* bears high reputation at home and abroad. It has attracted the attention of the public because of its unique writing perspectives and various writing themes. The character Fa Hai in this novel is also an indispensable segment. Meanwhile, the description of characters is closely related to the elaboration of the themes, therefore, this paper mainly analyzes the multiple characters of Fa Hai from the tragic, subversive and feminist subjects of *Green Snake*.

Keywords

Human nature; Fa Hai; Freedom; Green snake; Feminism.

1. Introduction

As we all know, there are many works released by the name of White Snake in film and television, but Li Bihua breaks the routine and entitles *Green Snake*, which emphasizes the story from the standpoint of Xiao Qing. It starts from a uniquely female perspective with a very romantic atmosphere. From the perspective of popularization, the novel gives the story a good wish for love, freedom and other advanced ideas about feminism.

In *Green Snake*, the writer gives the ancient legends a new symbolic meaning and breaks the traditional concept, both in writing techniques and story settings. There is no doubt that the portrayal of characters in the novel is particularly exquisite, among which, the shaping of the character Fa Hai is also indispensable. Meanwhile, the description of characters goes hand in hand with the elaboration of the subjects. Therefore, this paper aims to make an analysis of the multiple characters of Fa Hai on the basis of the subjects of this novel.

2. The Multiple Characters of Fa Hai

2.1. The Tragic Human Nature

Green Snake is a tragic novel, and its tragic implication lies in the tragedy of the characters. The sorrow of Fa Hai lies in the conflict of keeping the law and destroying man's desire. On the one hand, Fa Hai makes every effort to crush human nature but fails to suppress his own desire and becomes angry and extremely painful when facing the seduction of Xiao Qing. On the other hand, he throws himself into enforcing God's law and tries to exorcise the two serpents. However, the dragon tattooed on the body of himself does not make us feel the righteousness of enforcing the God's law. On the contrary, we see the mutilation of the so-called religious belief on the human body, the imprisonment of thought and the complete alienation of human nature. After seeing Bai Suzhen gives birth to a baby, and only then did he realize that Bai Suzhen is no longer a snake demon, who has fought with himself all the time. In fact, his so-called way to enforce God's law is a big mistake, and finally he goes to destruction.

From the above, it can be clearly seen that the ideal pursuit of Fa Hai in Green Snake has all gone to destruction, which are related to human nature, love, life and belief. However, the destruction of them has become an indispensable element of the tragic implication of Fa Hai.

2.2. The Subversive Human Nature

The relationship between Li Bihua's novels and Chinese traditional culture is profound and complex. On the one hand, Li Bihua is based on the stories or legends of Chinese classical lecture. On the other hand, each of them is a subversion of the traditional classics to varying degree. Therefore, subversion has become another important subject of Li Bihua's novels. Green Snake is not an exception.

It is obvious that Li Bihua adopts irony in Green Snake for the expression subversion. In the first place, Xiao Qing, after satirizing Bai Suzhen's greed for Xu Xian, she also falls into it and tries to seduce him. In the second place, Bai Suzhen, after hundreds of years of suffering for Xu Xian, when seeing the reincarnation of Xu Xian, completely forgets those pain. Last but not least, it is Fa Hai, the embodiment of so-called justice, that does dignified things all the time.

It is ridiculous that the demon like Xiao Qing and Bai Suzhen, that stay at the lowest level of the creature actually show us the kindness of human nature. Whereas the highly respected monk in the highest level show us the most alienated and dehumanized aspect of human nature. In fact, I think the author here is intentionally or unintentionally expressed a view, that is, the indoctrination and alienation of secular for good human nature. For or thing, it makes human beings live in order, which is the meaning of indoctrination. For another thing, it dispels the primitive and free aspect of human nature, which is called alienation.

In the work, it seems that Fa Hai, the highly respected monk is actually the most ruthless and the man without human nature. He boasts that the world has its own laws, which is called the God's law. It is not a right method to enforce God's law, but a way to conquer others, conquer two snake demons and conquer Xu Xian. He let himself dominate the fate of others and let everything surrender to his own feet ruthlessly in the name of enforcing the God's law.

2.3. The Analysis of the Human Nature of Fa Hai from Feminism

The protagonists of Li Bihua's novels are all women, but the writer does not have a clear feminist position. Just like a bystander, with a severe and indifferent attitude, she tells the images of women who struggle and despair for love. From the perspective of women, she reveals the miserable fate of them and the confusion of their inner world. It is not only the praise for the unyielding quality of women, but also the helplessness which women can not control their own destiny, that has caused reflection on women and even human beings.

However, Li Bihua's writing about feminism is more tolerant and inclusive than which with a clear viewpoint. From the perspective of new feminism, the author makes a profound thinking on the relationship between the sexes and human nature through the reconstruction of the roles of men and women in her works. Unquestionably, Green Snake is a typical example of it. Through the transformation of the female demons or ghosts like Xiao Qing and Bai Suzhen, Green Snake aims to construct a healthy and wholesome female image which is relatively scarce in the real life, and thus show the pursuit of gender equality of the new feminism with a character of independent and freedom.

In Green Snake, Xiao Qing is successfully portrayed as a model of an awakened woman. The existence of Xiao Qing plays a vital role in the character description of Fa Hai. Therefore, the character description of Fa Hai is closely related to the theme and the feminist elaboration of this novel. With an almost perverted fortitude and persistence, Fa Hai is to pursue the so-called beliefs and ideals. However, it constrains the full development of every free human nature, especially for traditional women since ancient times. For example, the deformed feet and chastity is the suffocation of love, the suppression of sexual desire and the violation of free

human nature. From this point of view, Fa Hai is the representative of the oppression of feminism.

3. Summary

In the brief exploration about the subjects of Green Snake and the analysis of the relationship between the characters, it is straightforward to acquire the multiple human nature of Fa Hai. In a word, Fa Hai is a man with tragic and subversive human nature and to some extent, he is the representative of the oppression of feminism.

References

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