

Research on the influence of Tao Yuanming on Tang Dynasty poetry and wine culture

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Abstract: *This study aims to investigate the influence of Tao Yuanming on the poetry and wine culture of the Tang Dynasty, specifically analyzing various characteristics in his poetic creation related to wine, and exploring his complex role in the inheritance and development of Tang Dynasty's poetry and wine culture. This influence is concentrated in various aspects such as the creative style, imagery construction, and drinking concepts of poets during the Tang Dynasty. Tao Yuanming's key position and unique value within the Tang Dynasty's poetry and wine culture system are prominently displayed.*

Keywords: *Tao Yuanming; Tang Dynasty; Poetry and Wine Culture*

1. Introduction

In the Tang Dynasty, a towering peak in the river of Chinese poetry development, the culture of poetry and wine reached unprecedented prosperity, with poetry and wine inseparable. In the Tang Dynasty, the lives and creations of poets intertwined, giving rise to countless masterpieces. Tao Yuanming of the Eastern Jin Dynasty resembles a distant and brilliant star; his poetic and artistic creations transcend time, profoundly influencing the culture of poetry and wine in the Tang Dynasty. Tao Yuanming's unique experiences are reflected in his works, showcasing qualities of nature, simplicity, and richness. His drinking poetry is like pastoral songs, infused with the fragrance of earth and a yearning for freedom, quietly merging into the veins of Tang dynasty poetry and wine culture, thereby injecting inspiration into the creative works of Tang poets.

2. The connotation of Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture

The creative background of Tao Yuanming's drinking poetry.

At the end of Eastern Jin Dynasty, with social turmoil and prevailing political corruption casting a shadow over the land, Tao Yuanming, an idealistic scholar, found himself like a lone boat struggling in the midst of raging winds and towering waves. With a sense of social responsibility and expectations for their own worth, they entered the government service many times. However, the dark reality of officialdom greatly disappointed him; the backstabbing and deceitful nature of politics clashed with his longing for a pure world. After struggling multiple times between serving in the officialdom and seeking seclusion, he ultimately chose to retreat to the countryside. Rural life became his spiritual refuge, allowing him to engage in manual labor and fully experience the rhythms of nature, embracing a simple existence of working at sunrise and resting at sunset. Drinking and writing poetry is an important way for them to express their inner world and emotions. Most of the drinking poems are created in pastoral life, vividly depicting a love for rural life and profound insights into human existence.

3. The Theme of Tao Yuanming's Drinking Poetry

3.1. Aspiration for freedom

Tao Yuanming's drinking poems are like echoes of freedom, with a fervent and pure yearning for liberty. Drinking becomes a bridge to freedom, allowing the spirit to attain liberation after breaking free from worldly shackles. In "Drinking Alone Under the Moon - Part Five," such traces can be found, "I build my hut in a human settlement, but there is no noise of carriages and horses. Tell me, how could this be possible?" The heart is far from the self," The poet, although deep in the secular world,

transcends internally. After drinking alcohol, he isolates himself from external noise and seems to generate tranquility and freedom. This is not a trace of external environmental change but a pure form after surpassing the tumult of the world^[1].

3.2. Reflection on Life

Tao Yuanming's drinking poems are characterized by profound reflections on life, with wine serving as a medium to explore themes of human value and destiny. In "Drinking Wine-Part One," he writes, "Prosperity and decline have no fixed place; they share each other. Shao Sheng's melon fields are like those in Dongling. The cycle of cold and heat is inevitable, and people often follow this pattern. A wise man understands the cycle and will not doubt it; suddenly, a cup of wine is offered, and we share joy day and night." Through the phenomenon of the rise and fall of all things, the poet perceives the impermanence and unpredictability of life. Using Shao Ping's melon field as an example, the poet laments the ups and downs of life, akin to the changing seasons. In this deep reflection, the poet drinks to seek solace, expressing the helplessness of fate.

3.3. Love for pastoral life

The core theme of Tao Yuanming's drinking poems encompasses pastoral life, where he delicately depicts the countryside and expresses profound affection for it. In "Drinking Wine · Poem Seven," he writes, "Autumn chrysanthemums have beautiful colors, adorned with dew I pick their blooms." Forget about all worries, leave behind worldly emotions. Though I drink alone, the cup empties itself when the pot is tilted. "The sun rises as the group stirs, returning birds flock to sing in the forest; proudly howling beneath the eastern porch, I find joy once again in this life." It showcases the charming colors of autumn chrysanthemums under the dew, picking the chrysanthemums to make wine paste, and using drinking as a means to distance oneself from worldly troubles. The autumn chrysanthemum in the poem, along with returning birds and other rustic elements vividly express the tranquility, harmony, and beauty of pastoral life; the poet's endless love is fully conveyed through these depictions^[2].

4. The Artistic Characteristics of Tao Yuanming's Poetry on Drinking Wine

4.1. Natural and simple language

The language style of Tao Yuanming's drinking poems is like a cool breeze. Picking chrysanthemums at the eastern fence, I leisurely gaze upon the Southern Mountain. The mountain air is pleasant day and night, with flying birds returning together. The poet picks chrysanthemums by the eastern fence, and inadvertently looks up to see the scenery of Nanshan; mist swirls in the mountains at dusk as birds return home in flocks. This natural depiction immerses the reader in a sense of being present, allowing them to appreciate the beauty of rural life.

4.2. Profound and profound imagery

Tao Yuanming's drinking poetry creates a distant and ethereal scene, resembling a master painter who meticulously depicts natural landscapes, infusing his thoughts and feelings into them. In "Drinking Wine · Poem Seven," he writes, "The autumn chrysanthemum has beautiful colors; I gather its blossoms adorned with dew." "Forget the worldly concerns and let them drift away," in the poet's words, autumn chrysanthemums are drenched with dew, vibrant and alluring. By picking these flowers to brew wine, he seeks to distance himself from the clamor of life. The interplay between chrysanthemum and dew creates an atmosphere of tranquility; as readers immerse themselves in this imagery, they can almost see dewdrop-laden autumn chrysanthemums and feel the poet's transcendence over mundane matters.

4.3. Sincere and profound emotions

The emotions in Tao Yuanming's poem "Drinking Wine" are sincere and profound, like an ancient well with no bottom. The longing for freedom, reflections on life, and love for pastoral living can evoke strong resonance among readers. Taking "Drinking · One" as an example, "Decline and prosperity are uncertain; they take turns with each other. Shao Sheng in the melon field is no better than Dongling's time." In the poem, the expression of introspection on life's ups and downs and helplessness towards fate arises from genuine emotions deep within. There is no trace of affectation; it feels like an

old friend confiding their thoughts, capable of deeply moving the reader's heart.

The influence of Tao Yuanming on the poetry and wine culture of the Tang Dynasty.

5. Factors influencing the creative style of Tang Dynasty poets

5.1. Natural and fresh style

Tao Yuanming's poetry embodies the natural and fresh style, which is concretely expressed in his drinking poems. Tang Dynasty poets were deeply influenced by this kind of stylistic input when creating their own works. In Wang Wei's "Autumn Evening in the Mountain Residence," the lines "After a new rain in the empty mountains, autumn comes with late weather; The bright moon shines between the pines, and clear springs flow over stones" depict natural scenery. Through delicate descriptions of new rain, moonlight, pine forests, and flowing springs on stones, it creates an atmosphere of tranquility and serenity. This bears resemblance to Tao Yuanming's fresh and nature style found in his drinking poems.

5.2. Simple and pure style

The language style of Tao Yuanming's poem "Drinking Wine" is simple and profound. The Tang dynasty poet drew inspiration from these characteristics, as seen in Du Fu's poem "Gift to Li Bai": "In autumn we look at each other like floating leaves; I feel ashamed for not achieving immortality like Ge Hong." "Drinking heavily and singing wildly through the days, soaring arrogantly for whom to be heroic." This poem's language is not adorned with lavish expressions but sincerely conveys a longing for Li Bai and admiration for his talent. This simple and rich characteristic allows readers to directly experience the poet's deep emotions, resonating with the style of Tao Yuanming's poetry about drinking.

5.3. Open-minded and detached style

The transcendental attitude expressed in Tao Yuanming's poem "Drinking Wine" had a positive influence on the creativity of Tang dynasty poets. Li Bai writes in "Bring in the Wine": "Do you not see the Yellow River coming from heaven, rushing to the sea and never returning?" You do not see the bright mirror in the high hall lamenting white hair; morning like black silk turns to snow by evening. In life, when one is successful, they must enjoy it fully and not let their golden cup face the moon empty. Born with innate talent must be useful,

Spending a fortune only to come back again.

The poem reveals an optimistic attitude towards the gains and losses of life,

Expressing pursuit of freedom while enjoying wine,

This style is reminiscent of Tao Yuanming's detached attitude in his poem "Drinking Wine".

6. The influence of wine imagery in Tang poetry

6.1. The imagery of wine

In Tao Yuanming's drinking poem, wine is the central core image, symbolizing freedom, openness and contemplation of life. Tang dynasty poets inherited this imagery in their works as well, such as Li Bai's "Drinking Alone under the Moon" with the lines "A jug of wine among flowers; I drink alone without a companion." "Raise a glass to invite the bright moon, and with my shadow make three people." In this poem, wine becomes a companion in moments of solitude. The poet drinks alone amidst the blossoms, accompanied by the bright moon and his shadow. The depiction of wine expresses the poet's inner loneliness and longing for freedom, which is similar to the connotations of wine imagery in Tao Yuanming's drinking poetry^[3].

6.2. The Symbolism of Chrysanthemums

In Tao Yuanming's poem "Drinking Wine," the image of chrysanthemum often appears, symbolizing noble qualities and a love for rural life. Tang dynasty poets were also deeply influenced by this image

when creating their works. In the white clouds of the northern mountains, hermits enjoy themselves in peace. Gazing at each other from afar as we climb high, our hearts follow the disappearing geese. The sorrow arises with the dusk, the joy emerges in clear autumn. Occasionally seen are villagers returning home, resting at the sandy river crossing. In the sky, trees resemble young sorrel; on the riverbank, islands look like moons. When will we carry wine and come to indulge in drinking during the Double Ninth Festival? Though chrysanthemums are not directly mentioned in this poem, it embodies customs of drinking and appreciating chrysanthemums during the festival, as well as feelings of missing friends and a longing for pastoral life—capturing both purity represented by chrysanthemum imagery and rural beauty.

6.3. Imagery of birds

The bird imagery in Tao Yuanming's poem "Drinking" symbolizes a yearning for freedom and nature, which also influenced poets during the Tang Dynasty. Wang Zhihuan's "Climbing the Stork Tower" writes: "The white sun sets behind the mountains, and the Yellow River flows into the sea. To enjoy a greater view of thousands of miles, one must climb up another floor." The poem does not directly describe birds, but expresses a longing for the distance and freedom; this has an affinity with the imagery of birds in Tao Yuanming's "Drinking Wine." The pursuit of freedom and distance by poets of the Tang Dynasty is more reflected in their influence on bird imagery.

7. The Influence of Drinking Concepts in the Tang Dynasty

7.1. Drinking and Freedom

Tao Yuanming expressed this kind of sentiment in his drinking poems, where the act of drinking allows one to break free from worldly constraints and achieve spiritual freedom. Under the influence of this concept, Tang Dynasty poets also produced profound expressions and insights. In Li Bai's "Song of the Wine," it says, "One should enjoy life to the fullest when things go well; do not let one's golden goblet face the moon empty. Heaven has endowed me with talent which must be put to use; even if treasures are scattered, they will come back again." These verses were written by the poet while drinking, indulging in the joys of life and pursuing spiritual freedom, where the joy and freedom of life are not bound by fame or wealth. This reflects a characteristic that is closely linked to Tao Yuanming's perspective on drinking.

7.2. Drinking and Contemplation on Life

The drinking poems of Tao Yuanming contain profound reflections on life, a concept that also influenced the creations of poets during the Tang Dynasty. In Du Fu's "Gift to Li Bai," it states, "In autumn we gaze at each other like drifting weeds; I feel ashamed for not achieving immortality like Ge Hong." "Drinking heavily and singing wildly, living each day in vain; who does it serve to be so bold and arrogant?" The poet depicts Li Bai's drunken revelry, expressing his reflections on life. Du Fu admired Li Bai's ability to express his talent and personality while drinking, but felt helpless about his wandering lifestyle. The relationship between drinking and life contemplation in Du Fu's poetry bears similarities to the ideas presented in Tao Yuanming's poems on drinking.

8. The Inheritance and Development of Tao Yuanming's Poetry and Wine Culture by Tang Dynasty Poets

8.1. Li Bai's Inheritance and Innovation of Tao Yuanming's Poetry and Wine Culture

8.1.1. Inheritance

Li Bai's poetry incorporates many elements of Tao Yuanming's wine culture, such as a refreshing and simple style, as well as concepts of drinking related to freedom and reflections on life. For example, in "Bring in the Wine," he writes: "Do you not see the Yellow River come from the sky, rushing towards the sea never to return." You haven't seen the grand hall's bright mirror lamenting white hair; in the morning it's like blue silk, by evening it turns to snow. When life is successful, one must enjoy fully and not let the golden goblet face the moon empty. "Every talent must have its use; even if a thousand gold pieces are spent, they will return." This poem is similar in style to Tao Yuanming's drinking poems,

both expressing a pursuit of freedom and a broad-minded transcendence in life. Li Bai uses bold strokes to convey the feelings of time swiftly passing by and the state of mind seeking freedom and self-release through drinking.

8.1.2. Development

Li Bai's inheritance and innovation of Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture infused it with boldness, elegance, and romanticism. In "Drinking Alone under the Moon," he writes, "A pot of wine among the flowers; I drink alone without a friend." "Raise a glass to invite the bright moon, and with my shadow, there are three of us." The peculiar imagination personifies the bright moon and the shadow, drinking together. By using the techniques of romanticism, a fantastic and wonderful mood is created, which does not exist in Tao Yuanming's drinking poems. The expansion of the cultural connotations of poetry and wine is revitalized through Li Bai's creations, further expanding the essence of poetic wine culture.

8.2. Du Fu's Inheritance and Innovation of Tao Qian's Poetry and Wine Culture

8.2.1. Inheritance

Du Fu's creations similarly reflect a certain inheritance of the essence of Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture, characterized by simplicity, richness, sincerity, and depth. The concept of drinking intertwined with reflections on life has significantly influenced his works. This can be exemplified through the poem "To Li Bai," which states: "As autumn comes we look at each other like drifting weeds; I feel ashamed for not having achieved dan sha like Ge Hong. Drinking deeply in wild song I spend my days in vain; Who am I being bold and unrestrained for?" The language is expressed simply yet profoundly sincere in emotional layers, emphasizing feelings towards Li Bai's talent and wistfulness. This characteristic relates not only to the simple style maintained in Tao Yuanming's drinking poems but also aligns with equal importance given to thoughts about drinking and life reflection within Du Fu's expressions—showing how emotions intertwine with contemplation reveals deeper ideas embedded within the poem.

8.2.2. Development

Du Fu incorporated a somber and forceful style along with realism, building upon the poetry and wine culture of Tao Yuanming. In the poem "Ascending Heights", "the wind is strong and the sky is high, with monkeys wailing mournfully; in clear waters and white sands birds fly back." The endless falling leaves rustle down, the Yangtze River flows relentlessly on; a thousand miles of sorrowful autumn often makes me a guest, for over a hundred years I've climbed this stage alone with my many ailments. Struggling with sorrow, my temples frosty white, Broke and adrift as I set down the cloudy wine.

The poet uses descriptions of nature to express his feelings about life, conveying a sense of helplessness in fate. Du Fu's style differs from Tao Yuanming's drinking poetry style, developing a unique poetic culture based on life experiences and historical background.

8.3. Wang Wei's inheritance and innovation of Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture

8.3.1. Inheritance

Wang Wei's works inherit the natural freshness and profound artistic conception of Tao Yuanming, while also encapsulating an understanding of concepts such as drinking and pastoral life. In the poem "Autumn Dusk in a Mountain Dwelling", it says, "After new rain in the empty mountains, evening brings autumn weather." The bright moon shines between the pines, clear springs flow over stones. Bamboo rustles as washing girls return, lotus stirs beneath fishing boats. Spring flowers scatter at will,

The prince may linger on his own.

Detailed description of pastoral life,

Creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere,

Expressing the longing for rural life and closeness to nature.

This style shares similar characteristics with Tao Yuanming's drinking poems.

8.3.2. Development

On the basis of Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture, Wang Wei infused a style that combines tranquility and elegance with Zen inspiration. In "Birds Singing in Spring", he wrote: "People are idle as cassia flowers fall, / Silent night over empty spring hills." The moon rises, startling the mountain birds; they chirp in the spring brook." By depicting natural scenery to create a tranquil and serene atmosphere infused with Zen, Wang Wei's style differs from Tao Yuanming's drinking poetry. Wang Wei integrates the culture of poetry and wine with Zen philosophy, developing a distinctive poetic culture centered around wine.

9. The significance of Tao Yuanming's influence on the poetry and wine culture of the Tang Dynasty

9.1. The significance in literary history

Tao Yuanming's influence on the poetry and wine culture of the Tang Dynasty occupies an undeniable position in literary history. His creations were like a seed falling into the soil of the Tang poetry scene, taking root, sprouting, and growing to greatly enrich the content and forms of Tang poetry. During the Tang Dynasty, poets inherited and developed Tao Yuanming's culture of poetry and wine, resulting in numerous excellent works with diverse styles and meanings. These works shine like bright stars illuminating the sky of Tang Dynasty poetry, leaving a wealth for Chinese literature. Tang poets such as Li Bai, Du Fu, and Wang Wei innovated and developed their talents by combining Tao Yuanming's culture of poetry and wine with the characteristics of the times. Tang poetry holds a significant position in literary history^[4].

9.2. Significance in Cultural History

From the perspective of cultural history, Tao Yuanming holds a significant place in Tang Dynasty poetry and wine culture, reflecting the inheritance and evolution of drinking culture within traditional Chinese culture. The status of drinking culture in traditional Chinese civilization is exceptional; it is not merely a way of life but also a unique cultural phenomenon. The drinking poetry of Tao Yuanming and the creations of Tang dynasty poets are important carriers for inheriting drinking culture, vividly reflecting the connotation and value of drinking culture in traditional Chinese culture. From Tao Yuanming's pastoral drinking to the diverse creation of drinking poems by Tang dynasty poets, this cultural practice continuously evolves through inheritance, blending with different spiritual themes across eras, becoming a unique landscape within Chinese traditional culture.

9.3. The significance in social history

The influence of Tao Yuanming on the poetry and wine culture of the Tang Dynasty also holds social historical significance; traces of the cultural atmosphere and spiritual pursuits in Tang society can be partially found in Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture as well as in the works of Tang poets. The Tang Dynasty was characterized by social stability, economic prosperity, and cultural flourishing. In such a social context, the pursuit of culture and art is rising, with aspirations for freedom and a beautiful life also leaving traces in poetry and wine culture^[5].

10. Conclusion

Tao Yuanming's influence on the poetry and wine culture of the Tang Dynasty is extensive and profound, with his poetic and oenological creations reflecting multiple dimensions. Influenced the creative style, imagery expression, and drinking concepts of Tang dynasty poets. The natural freshness, simple richness, and open-minded detachment in style provided rich inspiration for Tang Dynasty poets, prompting them to create brilliant and diverse poems. The imagery of wine, chrysanthemums, birds, and others evolved within Tang poetry while embodying profound cultural connotations. The spiritual pursuits of different poets in the context of their times also reflect the traces of inheritance under drinking culture. The poets of the Tang Dynasty continuously developed and innovated while inheriting Tao Yuanming's poetry and wine culture, making the poetic and wine culture of this era increasingly prosperous. In literary history, the richness in both connotation and form within Tang poetry reflects his contributions; in cultural history, he embodies the transmission and development trends of drinking

culture; in social history, his influence mirrors the cultural atmosphere and spirit characteristics of the Tang Dynasty. His profound cultural contributions are eternally etched into China's rich cultural heritage.

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