

# Reflection and Exploration on the Protection of Cultural Relics in the New Era—Taking the Historical Remains of Yanshi District, Luoyang City as an Example

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**Abstract:** *Cultural relics are an important basis for cultural inheritance and development, as well as the deep foundation for nourishing cultural inheritance and development and building the modern civilization of the Chinese nation. Under the background of the New Era, the protection and activation and utilization of cultural relics have attracted more and more public attention. To this end, this paper combined with the experiences of the protection of cultural relics in Yanshi District Luoyang City. By sorting out the work of cultural relic protection and utilization, analyzing the many difficulties encountered in cultural relic protection in the new era perspective, and exploring how to better protect and activate the utilization of cultural relic resources in the future.*

**Keywords:** *Cultural Relics; Yanshi District; the New Era; Protection and Utilization*

## 1. Introduction

Cultural relics are the physical witness of the long history and splendid culture of the Chinese nation. They contain the unique spiritual values, way of thinking, creativity, vitality and imagination of a nation. They are the spiritual symbol of the Chinese nation and the "golden name card" of the country.<sup>[1]</sup>Yanshi as one of the birthplaces of the Chinese nation, the territory contains extremely rich and profound historical relics. In recent years, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Yanshi District attaches great importance to the protection of cultural relics, also made certain achievements, but in the actual works also exposed many problems, need further targeted to take effective measures to improve the protection of cultural relics, strengthen the protection of cultural relics in the quality of grassroots.

## 2. The Current Situation of Cultural Relics Protection and Utilization in Yanshi District in the New Era

Yanshi is a city with a long history and profound cultural deposits. In the 11th century BC, King Wu of Zhou built the city here. Seven dynasties, including Xia, Shang, Eastern Zhou, Eastern Zhou, Eastern Han, Cao Wei, Western Jin and Northern Wei, built their capitals here, which was one of the main birthplaces of Chinese civilization. Looking at the long history of Yanshi, it is one of the ancient capitals with the most concentrated, the most complete preserved and the most profound cultural heritage of the capital of China. According to the latest statistics, there are more than 600 immovable cultural relics registered by the cultural relics census in the region. Among them, there are 13 national key cultural relics protection units, 20 provincial cultural relics protection units and 35 at the city and county level. The site group of Yanshi contains the Chinese civilization of nearly 3 thousand years since the summer solstice to the Northern Wei Dynasty. It is an extremely important historical area in the development history of Chinese civilization. As an important part of the historical and cultural area of Luoyang with prominent heritage value, dense distribution and large scale, it carries the brilliant civilization of the ancient capital Yanshi.

### 2.1. Continuing the Roots of History and Safeguarding the Safety of Cultural Relics

In recent years, in recent years, efforts have been made to strengthen the safety and protection of cultural relics at all levels of cultural relics protection units in Yanshi District. According to the document

spirit of the Guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration on Strengthening and Improving the Safety of Cultural Relics, improving the responsibility system for cultural relics safety. Establishing a four level cultural relic safety prevention system within the entire Yanshi district, from the government where the cultural relic protection points are located, to the cultural relic management department, to the villages where the cultural relic protection points are located, and then to various cultural relic protectors. Continuously strengthen the construction of a four level cultural relic protection network for districts, towns, villages, and people, sign cultural relic protection safety agreements layer by layer, transmit work pressure level by level, and ensure that the responsibility for cultural relic safety protection is clear, tasks are implemented, and accountability is held accountable.

## ***2.2. Protecting the Roots of Cultural Relics and Promoting the Implementation of Key Projects***

Implementing cultural relic protection and restoration projects, focusing on improving the preservation status of cultural relics. In combination with the construction of historical and cultural cities, towns, villages, and neighborhoods, a number of cultural relics protection and repair projects have been implemented in a planned and focused manner, and a number of cultural relics protection units have been carried out protective repair and maintenance, such as Erlitou Site, the Hall of Xingfu Temple in Yanshi, Jiulong Temple, Mount Taishan Temple, etc. At present, the construction of the Erlitou Xiadu Ruins Park and the Yanshi Shopping Mall environmental renovation project, as well as some cultural relics protection units, have met the initial conditions for opening up for display to the outside world. The large number of visitors who come to admire the name has enabled the public to further understand the cultural relics and the splendid history and culture of Yanshi. Secondly, we will continue to promote the cultural relic safety project and firmly adhere to the bottom line of cultural relic safety. Install safety monitoring in key cultural relics protection units, equip fire equipment according to regulations, strengthen daily patrols and dedicated personnel management, and build a strong safety defense line for cultural relics protection.

## ***2.3. Empowering Historical Roots and Continuously Promoting Resource Transformation***

The protection and utilization of cultural relics essentially have value synergy and sustainability. Strengthening protection is the basic prerequisite for development and utilization, and development and utilization are effective ways to protect and inherit.<sup>[2]</sup> Efforts will be made to optimize the path of cultural relic activation and utilization, relying on cultural relic resources and the Yanshi Museum site, and actively carry out a series of social education activities such as "I promote my hometown - I am a small commentator" entering the campus; On the "5.18 International Museum Day", "World Cultural Heritage Day", as well as traditional Chinese festivals such as the Spring Festival and New Year's Day, a series of activities were carried out to deeply promote traditional Chinese culture in schools, government agencies, enterprises and institutions in our district. The aim is to allow the general public to visit museums and cultural relics, while feeling the strong vitality of the culture behind the relics, enhancing cultural confidence, and promoting the dissemination of excellent culture. Let cultural heritage better assist in building a new era of Yanshi cultural highland with spiritual confidence and self-improvement. To some extent, there are many similarities between the protection of cultural relics and the utilization of cultural relics, both of which aim to better inherit cultural relics.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **3. Difficulties Encountered in the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Relics in Yanshi under the Background of the New Era**

There are numerous cultural relics in Yanshi, but due to various factors, there are still many problems in the current protection and utilization of cultural relics. Not only can the value of cultural relics not be well protected and utilized, but it may even cause certain damage to cultural relics.

### ***3.1. Scattered Cultural Relics Resources and Complex Environmental Protection and Utilization***

The cultural relics resources in Yanshi District are abundant and widely distributed, and most of the cultural relics protection units are located in remote mountain villages, making protection and utilization difficult. In addition, the immovable cultural relics in Yanshi District are mainly composed of civil and brick wood structures, and the materials of the cultural relics themselves are prone to erosion, making it difficult to preserve the cultural relics themselves. The funds available to grassroots cultural and museum institutions are very limited. Although there is a certain amount of investment from superiors every year,

there is still a huge funding gap to meet the protection needs of all cultural relics protection units. Especially, the special funds from superiors follow the principle of "level matching" and dedicated funds. Some unclassified cultural relics are generally immovable. Due to uneven resource distribution and limited space for attention and excavation, the enthusiasm of grassroots cultural and museum institutions to protect cultural relics is to some extent limited, leading to some cultural relics not being protected and repaired in a timely manner, and facing the risk of loss.

### ***3.2. Unclear Boundaries of Power and Responsibility in Cultural Relics Management***

Local people's governments at all levels are responsible for the protection of cultural relics within their respective administrative regions. However, some townships, streets, and relevant departments have not fully recognized the importance of cultural relic protection work, and the implementation of the main responsibility for cultural relic protection is not yet in place, resulting in overly difficult work in cultural relic protection. Although some townships, streets, and departments recognize the significance and practical value of cultural relic protection work, the lack of professional technology and funding support makes it difficult to carry out the work. At the same time, in the current process of cultural relic protection work, it often involves joint actions of multiple departments, with multiple related units radiating from under the departments, such as museums, memorials, tourism companies, etc. These departments involve different fields, and in the process of coordination and coordination, it is easy to create phenomena such as insufficient communication and lack of coordination.

### ***3.3. Diversified Property Rights of Cultural Relics and Incomplete Management System***

Property ownership is a necessary condition for dividing the responsible persons for cultural relics protection, which effectively protects the safety of cultural relics to a certain extent, but gradually becomes an obstacle to the protection of certain cultural relics protection units.<sup>[4]</sup> The ownership of cultural relics in Yanshi District includes state-owned, mixed, or private property rights, with relatively diversified property rights. On the one hand, due to historical reasons, some cultural relics and buildings are privately owned, making management, maintenance, and utilization quite difficult. On the other hand, due to the quality issues of the cultural relics themselves, some of the cultural relics are state-owned property rights. However, due to the imperfect management system, departments such as cultural tourism and townships are involved, and different demands result in policies, funds, and purposes having their own characteristics. The management is not unified, and the overall force for protecting and developing cultural relics has not yet been fully formed. As a result, most of the cultural relics are vacant, some are diverted for other purposes, and some are in danger of loss.

### ***3.4. Inadequate Integration of Culture and Tourism, Weak Development and Utilization of Cultural Relics***

Firstly, the cultural and tourism integration of cultural relics is not deep, and the tourism industry chain has not yet formed. Secondly, the level of cultural relic display and utilization is low. At present, less than a quarter of the cultural relics protection units in the city have good protection and development entities, and are mainly managed by local township and other departments. Most of them are in an unprotected and undeveloped state, and many cultural relics protection units are idle, and the value of cultural relics cannot be realized. Thirdly, the development of resources is single and similar, and the incorrect understanding of "integration of culture and tourism" has led to some improper restoration behaviors, which have also had a significant impact on the protection of cultural relics. These losses not only affect the value and integrity of cultural relics themselves, but also affect the cultural identity and development of society.<sup>[5]</sup>

## **4. Solutions to the Difficulties in the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Relics in Yanshi District under the Background of the New Era**

Protecting cultural relics contributes to the present and benefits the future. To effectively protect and utilize the cultural relics and their value in Yanshi District in a true sense, it is necessary to coordinate and promote them from multiple perspectives, levels, and departments. At the same time, it is necessary to grasp the advantages of local ecology, culture, and other resources, and in the fusion and collision of resources, let the cultural relics of Yanshi shine with more "Yanshi characteristics".

#### ***4.1. Establish a Scientific Management Mechanism to Enhance the Level of Protection***

The mechanism of cultural relic protection and management largely determines the quality of the implementation of cultural relic protection and management work in China.<sup>[6]</sup> We will improve the system of cultural relics protection work, continue to protect them in all aspects, weave and strengthen the "protective net", and actively play the role of mass cultural relics protection personnel in frontline management and protection in accordance with the principles of "territorial management, division of labor and responsibility, and mutual cooperation", continuously strengthening the construction of civil air defense, material defense, and technical defense. Law is an important guarantee for the protection of cultural relics and the highest criterion for cultural relic protection. Ensure that the responsibility for protecting cultural relics takes root in the local area, strive to ensure the safety of cultural relics in the entire area, and achieve a new situation of cultural relics protection with joint management, playing an important role in promoting the long cultural history of Yanshi. At the same time, conduct a thorough investigation, protection, and promotion of major cultural relics protection units. Based on the deep integration of cultural relics resources, we will coordinate and organize the implementation of projects related to the protection and utilization of cultural relics protection units, highlighting protection and deepening integration. Further strengthen communication and linkage at the district and town levels, in accordance with the principle of "centralized connection, highlighting key areas, national coordination, and complete zoning", connect points and connect them into a piece, and combine points, lines, and areas to promote the construction of cultural relics protection and utilization areas. At the same time, we will promote the nationalization of private cultural relics protection units with property rights, refine support policies and implementation paths, and explore new ways of protection and utilization.

#### ***4.2. Strengthen the Guarantee of Funds, Infrastructure and Personnel***

First, financial support. Diversified fundraising, increased funding support from various channels, and in accordance with the spirit of the "Opinions on Encouraging and Supporting Social Forces to Participate in the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Relics and Buildings" document, actively encourage and support social forces to participate in the entire process of protection and utilization of district level and yet to be approved and announced as cultural relics protection units, promote the high-quality development of cultural relics in Yanshi District, and achieve the goal of "managed, utilized, and cost-effective" cultural relics and buildings. At the same time, seize the opportunity to "upgrade" and strive for more policy support and superior funding investment. Second, land use support. For immovable cultural relics included in the scope of national expropriation, certain land indicators will be given to alleviate the contradiction between the protection of cultural relics and the need to improve living conditions. Given legal permission, priority should be given to meeting the land needs for the development of tourism projects and their supporting facilities. Third, the support of educational resources. Strengthen the cultivation of professional talents, especially increase the educational opportunities for grassroots workers involved in the protection and utilization of cultural relics. Further streamline the human body system, optimize the talent reward mechanism, and promote the stability construction of the team.

#### ***4.3. Strengthen Integration to Create new and Revitalize the Utilization of Cultural Relics Resources***

Ensure the protection and utilization of cultural relics, and promote the integration and exchange of cultural and tourism industries. On the one hand, we need to strengthen the protection and utilization of cultural relics, "focus on key areas, shape unique features," deeply promote research and inheritance, further explore the stories behind cultural relics, and add vitality and momentum to the diversified development of the cultural and tourism industry. On the other hand, "activating" more cultural relics that are in a "dormant" state, "creating highlights and planting attractions", allowing cultural relics protection units to deeply integrate with the construction of high-quality scenic spots, characteristic towns, leisure agricultural tourism, traditional village protection, and other aspects, allowing historical and cultural heritage to enter the hearts of more people, especially young people, and making cultural relics carriers and disseminators of culture.

### **5. Conclusion**

Cultural heritage is a treasure left by our ancestors, and protecting it is an unshirkable responsibility of each and every one of us. As a major cultural relic area, Yanshi's status is beyond doubt. In the context

of the new era, we should effectively protect historical and cultural heritage, cherish cultural heritage, and carry on the important task of the times, highlighting the charm of Yanshi as the "ancient capital of the seven dynasties".

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