

中国与欧洲“爱情”概念化的宗教影响

Influence of Christianity and Chinese Tradition
on the Conceptualization of Love

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【英文提要】

Religion has greatly influenced the conceptualization of love. The religious element plays a significant role, especially in shaping the cult of love in the West. In Chinese literature, love is predestined and transcends death itself. In Western literature, the subjective and irrational aspects of love are emphasized. While love in Chinese literature is often portrayed in terms of objective relationships that climax in a happy ending, Western literature depicts the subjective and irrational nature of love, leading to a tragic ending.

In literature's depiction of marriage we also see the influence of religion and the difference in religious attitudes between China and the West. Chinese novelists tend to focus on the constancy of true love while Western novelists focus on the violent passion of love in winning the beloved. The Western concept is largely shaped by the traditions of Greek mythology, Christian mysticism and metaphysics. In China, since the end of the Ming Dynasty, passionate love gradually found a place in the literary conceptualization of love as well. Seen as quasi-metaphysical, emotional love was envied and respected by some, because it represented a power that could tran-

scend the laws of nature and overcome death itself. Another area where religion impacted culture's notion of love is in the development of the cult of the woman. Again, with Chinese and Western traditions, while both are molded by religion, they have taken on very different expressions. In China, the cult of the woman underwent marked changes in the second half of the Ming Dynasty.

宗教并非间接地对爱情概念化产生影响。宗教情感与爱情都同人的主要冲动相吻合,前者应和人对于永恒和幸福的渴望,后者符合人对幸福和繁殖的需求。群体往往根据由“内外部支配”的社会利害关系,譬如说羞耻、愧疚、罪恶感以及道德观、宗教观和法规等等,对由爱情的基本冲动而引起的“气”进行抑制、限定和引导。宗教本身受到几个方面的影响,而不仅仅是作为“里比多”的升华。比如,宗教情愫与性欲激情关系十分密切。此外,神话和信仰凭借自身的黏合作用,有助于克服生活中夫妻关系的困难和障碍,在这方面它们充当了十分重要的角色。

宗教因素当然在西方爱情膜拜的形成过程中扮演了关键的角色,从中世纪的宫廷诗歌到浪漫主义的高扬;希腊神话和基督教的影响在西方的爱情概念化中起了十分重要的作用。它们从神秘主义语言那儿抽取出来艺术语言的内容与形式,把从基督教玄学那儿承袭下来的绝对知觉灌注进去,从而使为人所接受的这种爱情—激情独立价值观成熟起来。如果看一下欧洲的情况,暂不提现代的性革命带来的变化以及欧洲历史上文化与意识形态思潮的多样性,我们可以追溯到一股主潮,这股潮流肇始于宙斯划分的两性团体合一的柏拉图神话以及天国之爱的神话。比如说,在欧洲文学中,柏拉图神话在但丁塑造的天使般女性身上反复出现,并通过浪漫主义理想得以流传。如果我们稍作变动,能否在中国文明中看到