

Comparing Roy Cui's "Yellow Crane Tower" and Li Bai's "Ascending to the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling"

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a comparative study of Roy Cui's "The Yellow Crane Tower" and Li Bai's "Ascending to the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling", two classical seven-character poems of the Sheng Tang Dynasty. The two poems show remarkable intertextuality in terms of thematic meaning, artistic techniques, and metrical forms. The two poems are characterized by their own aesthetic qualities, and together they constitute a pair of jewels in the Tang poetry art.

KEYWORDS

Cui Hao; Li Bai; Yellow Crane Tower; Phoenix terrace; Comparison of imagery; Poetic art

1 Introduction

Located in the ancient Huangguoji on the Yellow Crane Tower control of the two rivers, treading on three places, standing in the nine provinces of the "in", with its isolated and majestic posture to gaze at and witness nearly 1,800 years of the rise and fall of generations and historical turbulence. In the Tang and Song Dynasty's Yellow Crane Tower poems, which are mainly about the high spirits of the Yellow Crane Tower, the beauty of the Parrot Island, and the vastness of the Hanyang River, Roy Cui's Yellow Crane Tower poems have gradually become classicized, which not only carry forward the tradition of writing sorrow in Yellow Crane Tower poems since the North and South Tides, but also open up the meaning of farewells in Yellow Crane Tower poems. The imagery of Hanyang, Parrot Island, the bright moon and the sound of the flute that he inscribed were also accepted by poets of the Tang and Song dynasties.

The origin of Phoenix Terrace is quite legendary. As the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties, Jinling has a deep history and culture, and is rich in various legends. The legend of the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling is one of them. Li Bai came to Jinling in his later years after a life of freedom and uninhibited ambition to serve his country. One day he climbed the Phoenix Terrace, he looked around, by the legend of the Phoenix Terrace itself to start, feeling the ancient and modern, sighing that time is relentless, the world is unpredictable, and thinking of the political environment in which he was placed, he was nostalgic and lyrical, leaving behind a thousand ancient masterpieces.

The Yellow Crane Tower is a seven-character poem written by Cui Hao, a poet of the Tang Dynasty, who is nostalgic for his hometown. Yan Yu of the Song Dynasty said in Canglang Poetry and Painting: "When it comes to seven-character poems of the Tang Dynasty, Cui Hao's The Yellow Crane Tower is the first one." Rumor has it that when Li Bai climbed the Yellow Crane Tower, he wanted to sing, but when he saw this poem, he put it aside. Later, when Li Bai traveled to Jinling, he wrote a poem called "Climbing to the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling" in response to Roy Cui's poem. In the Yuan Dynasty, Fang Hui pointed out in Yingkui Ruler's Essence that "this poem of Taibai is similar to Roy Cui's Yellow Crane Tower, but its meter and momentum have not been changed from one to the other." Both poems are ancient works, but each of them shines with unique artistic light. In this paper, we will compare and analyze these two poems.

2 Similarities between the two poems

First of all, the two poems have more or less similarities:

Cui Hao and Li Bai are both representative poets of the Shengtang period, and their works are characterized by the characteristic "Shengtang weather" of Shengtang poetry, with atmospheric and generous poetic features. For example, in "The Yellow Crane Tower", "The clear river is full of Hanyang trees, and the fragrant grass is full of Parrot Island", which sets off the upright momentum of the Yellow Crane Tower overlooking Hanyang and the Yangtze River; and in "Ascending to the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling", "The three mountains are half-fallen out of the blue sky, and the two waters are divided into the White Egret Continent", which shows a picture of a majestic and bleak landscape of the Yangtze River. The two poems have a strong and strong sense of humor.

The two poems share the same theme. Both poems use the word "empty", which shows that the two poets have realized the longevity of time and space, and lamented that things are different and nature is eternal. Yellow Crane Tower" in two places 'this place is empty after the Yellow Crane Tower' 'white clouds thousands of years of empty leisurely', depicting the empty buildings, only the remaining white clouds in the sky of the scene of a thousand years, expressing

the sentiment of the world's uncertainty; 'climbed to the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling' in the "the phoenix has gone to the empty river from the flow. The phoenix has gone to the empty platform, the river flows from the river", showing the empty silence of the ancient platform, only the water of the Yangtze River, still rolling eastward.

The two poems also have similarities in writing techniques, and both poets use the techniques of diction and couplets. The Yellow Crane Tower opens with the use of canon, writing "yellow crane" three times in a row, and realizing the combination of reality and reality through the description of the actual scene of the Yellow Crane Tower and the imaginary scene of the Yellow Crane; Ascending to the Phoenix Terrace of the Jinling Mountains opens with the legend of the Phoenix Terrace, which is described three times, and the two poems have similar writing techniques. The legend of the Phoenix Terrace opens with three times of "phoenix" in the air, depicting the empty and silent mood of the Phoenix Terrace. Yellow Crane Tower" in the couplet of the poem 'clear river all over the Hanyang tree, grass luxuriant parrot continent'; 'climbed the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling' in the couplet of the poem 'three mountains half fall outside the blue sky, two water divided by the White Egret Continent', the two poems use the couplet to highlight the scenery of the broad and majestic, reflecting its mood of distant. The two poems use couplets to emphasize the vastness and majesty of the scenery they see, and to reflect the long distance of their mood.

The rhythms of the two poems are the same, they are both seven-line stanzas, and they are also very similar in terms of meter and rhyme. The two poems not only rhyme with "eleven You", but also do not strictly follow the format of the stanzas in terms of meter, but also pursue the natural rhythms, which are rich in musical beauty.

3 Differences between the two poems

However, the two poems also have their own excitement, and each expresses its own feelings, and each excels in its own way:

Although there are some similarities in the themes of the two poems, the emotions expressed in each of them have their own emphasis. If Roy Cui's "Yellow Crane Tower" is the last song of a traveler, then Li Bai's "Ascent to the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling" is the sad song of an aspirant. The Yellow Crane Tower is a poem of ancient nostalgia, the main idea expressed is nostalgia: the poet borrowed the legend of the origin of the name of the Yellow Crane Tower to write, and then developed to write the feeling of loneliness in the infinite space of the empty building, which set a certain emotional tone for the "countryside" thought, and then in the last sentence "Smoke and waves on the river make people sad" direct expression of the poet's sadness, where the sadness, not only have no door to serve the country, the success of the helpless, but also the sadness of the unrecognized talent, life is short of confusion, and even more wanderers moving guest homesickness for the native land. This kind of sorrow, such as the river fog like lingering in the poet's mind, can not be waved. Ascending the Phoenix Terrace at Jinling" is a nostalgic lyric poem, the main idea expressed is the worry of the family and the country: Looking down from the Phoenix Terrace, all the traces of the past have disappeared, only the unchanged Yangtze River is still as strong as ever. In the face of the empty and chaotic natural scenery, the poet's feelings of disappointment and sadness could not help but arise. 'the river flows' three words, from the scene in front of us to the history of the narrative, the prosperity of the six dynasties passed away in a flash, never to return, leaving behind only this day and night of the torrential river. The poet visits the ancient monuments, feels the sadness of the time, and thus triggers the feeling of the rise and fall, the sadness of the corn. The tragedy of the six dynasties has not yet awakened today's rulers to the fact that "floating clouds" still "cover the sun", and "Chang'an is not seen to make people sad" shows the poet's concern about the current situation, expressing his The poet is worried about the current situation and expresses his sorrow that there is no way to serve his country and it is difficult to fulfill his ambition.

Although both poems are seven-line stanzas, they differ in metrical details. From the point of view of flat and oblique meters, these two poems are not strictly seven-line metered poems. Although "The Yellow Crane Tower" is a stanza, it is actually a variation. Roy Cui adopts a system that is both ancient and metrical to compose his lines. The three and four lines of the poem should be in harmony with each other, but here it is directly contrary to the law of leveling and narrowing, connecting one or two lines in one go, creating the majestic momentum of the first four lines of the poem; the six and seven lines go back to the meter, which is exactly in line with the requirements of the chapter of the poem, and it is precisely this poem that has a coherent and marvelous structure, and it is not overrated that it is the first Tang dynasty's seven-line poem. On the other hand, compared with Cui Hao, Li Bai's poem "Ascending to the Phoenix Terrace at Jinling" is still composed in accordance with the meter of seven-line poems, but the second couplet and the first couplet appear to be out of sync, but fortunately the structure is still quite neat and tidy, and Li Bai's unique style of boldness and elegance is demonstrated in this structure.

The imagery depicted in the two poems is different: "Yellow Crane Tower", the poet climbed the Yellow Crane Tower, by the false start, and then wrote the bleak situation of the empty Yellow Crane Tower platform in front of him, on the current Yellow Crane Tower imagery has expressed the poet's loneliness and isolation; "Yellow Crane" is "not returnable ", but the "white clouds" are still "leisurely" in the sky, here "white clouds" this imagery reveals the truth that things are not the same

as people, natural eternity; "clear river" 'luxuriant grass' such a beautiful and vibrant scenery did not make the poet happy, but let him think of the tragedy of the death of You Heng Jiangxia, can not help but nostalgia, and in the twilight, smoke and waves and other imagery triggered, directly expressed the poet's strong feelings of nostalgia for his homeland. The strong emotion of the poet's nostalgia for his homeland. Climbing the Phoenix Terrace in Jinling, the poet also climbed the Phoenix Terrace, but the difference is that Li Bai used the "Yangtze River" imagery to lament the absence of the years, things are different; furthermore, the poet on the platform, looking out, sees not only the natural scenery, but also the historical relics of the six dynasties, "Wu Palace" "flowers and plants", "the" "flowers and plants", "the" "flowers and plants", "the" "flowers and plants", "the" "flowers and plants". , "flowers and grass", "paths", "ancient hills" and other imagery depicting the decay of the ancient burial mounds, while "three mountains", "two waters" and other imagery depicts the majestic landscape scene, the combination of the two expresses the sentiment of "people are not the same, the mountains and rivers are the same", but also a reflection of the poet's sadness about the times and the country. "Floating clouds" imagery in the last couplet, hidden meaning, in addition to the clouds seen in front of the eyes, but also implied the meaning of the huge forces within the city of Chang'an, which makes the poet's 'sadness' deeper and more complex. There is a waijun repudiation of treachery the anger, the sadness of the ambition that is difficult to fulfill, and there is the impermanence of life! The sadness of.....

4 Conclusion

In conclusion, Roy Cui's "Yellow Crane Tower" and Li Bai's "Ascent to the Phoenix Terrace at Jinling" have similarities and differences, but of course, both of them are still shining with their own unique ideological light in terms of genre, content, and expression of emotions, and are shining in the history of excellent traditional Chinese poetry.

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