

Analysis of the Characteristics of Guizhou Culture

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Abstract: Due to the multi-ethnic living together and the special natural and geographical environment, Guizhou has formed a unique cultural phenomenon different from other places. This paper analyzes and discusses the characteristics and causes of Guizhou culture.

Keywords Guizhou culture, Ethnic minority, Natural environment

INTRODUCTION

As for the concept of “Guizhou culture”, there are mainly two views in the academic circle. “One is that Guizhou has not formed a separate culture from a macro perspective, and ‘Guizhou culture’ is just a local reflection of Chinese culture. Second, some views believe that various cultural phenomena in Guizhou are conceived, formed and developed in Chinese culture, and are never divorced from this mother at any time.”¹ However, from the micro point of view, namely from the regional cultural differences, the concept of “Guizhou culture” can be established. The above two points can be said to be different and wise. The first point of view is to view Guizhou culture from a macro perspective and incorporate Guizhou culture into the general category of Chinese culture. This perspective is to emphasize the overall characteristics of Guizhou culture and the Central Plains culture, while ignoring the individual characteristics of Guizhou culture. The second view is to emphasize the personality characteristics of Guizhou culture, which is to treat Guizhou culture as a regional culture, the same as Qilu culture, Three Qin culture, Sanqin culture, Saibei culture, Wu-Yue culture, Lingnan culture, Western Regions culture, Qinghai-Tibetan culture, Bashu culture, Jingchu culture and Yunnan culture. It is believed that these regional cultures are gradually formed within a certain spatial scope. Due to the differences in history, geography and ethnic groups, several differences arise with the development of history, showing different cultural features from each other, which is the local characteristics.

Combined with the above views, we can give the next definition of Guizhou culture: Guizhou culture is a regional culture of multi-ethnic integration, with Han culture as the main part.

IMPACT FACTORS OF GUIZHOU CULTURE

a) Impact of Guizhou National Economy

Due to the different economic and cultural types of various ethnic groups in Guizhou, their respective cultural traditions are continued. Let's leave Han nationality alone, only discuss ethnic minority culture, Guizhou ethnic minorities are generally divided into four basic economic and cultural types: Pu people settled in farmland and became indigenous, and are famous for refining cinnabar, with special customs such as wearing skirt, living in dry column houses, bronze drum, nose drinking and teeth beating. The Yi nationality in the Qiang clan was originally a nomadic people who ‘migrated with animals’. Later, it was gradually transformed into the economic and cultural type of ‘farming and herding’, famous for raising horses, which custom is warlike and good at riding and shooting. Its text originated early, and several ethnic regimes have been established in history. Miao Yao used to like living in mountains instead of plains. They were better at hunting. And they have long followed the farming method of slash-and-burn farming and lived a life of driving the mountain to eat, which is a typical “mountain nation”. The Baiyue nation is used to live in plains. They often live in the waterfront, cultivating paddy fields, living the pastoral life of “men ploughing and women weaving, which is self-sufficiency”, so called “rice nation”. On this basis, different cultural styles and cultural traditions are formed, which is the reason for determining the cultural diversity of Guizhou. Another factor to form the characteristics of the Guizhou culture was the policy --“coexist of the official rule and the self-rule by aborigine” long implemented by the feudal dynasty. In the mainland, the officials were dispatched by the imperial court at any time, the population was integrated, and the land was raised by measuring, and all political affairs were handled

in accordance with the decrees of the central government. In remote areas, due to different social and economic foundations, officials are appointed by local natives, "position hereditary, living in local and governing the people all life time". All affairs are decided by local officials, and the central government is rarely involved. Since Guizhou is in the position of "neither border nor mainland", the two different administrative systems are parallel in Guizhou. Guizhou has both dispatched officials and local officials, from the Qin and Han Dynasties to the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Due to the large number of Han immigrants entering Guizhou, Han culture has gradually become a dominant culture since Ming and Qing Dynasties, but its spread is mainly in ethnically mixed areas, economic development areas and areas along the transportation. Han culture has not gone deep into the ethnic settlement areas, especially the remote mountainous areas. Therefore, Guizhou culture presents a relatively balanced state between the development of Han culture and ethnic minority culture, and each has its own space for development. Therefore, miscellaneous is the characteristics of Guizhou culture, miscellaneous but not chaotic, miscellaneous but orderly, harmonious coexistence.

b) The Impact of the Natural Environment in Guizhou

On the one hand, with the formation of Guizhou culture, it comes from different ethnic cultures formed on the basis of various ethnic economies in Guizhou. On the other hand, it is deeply restricted and influenced by the specific geographical environment, and produces a unique regional culture. This regional culture has an obvious imprint of mountain culture. In Guizhou, the mountains and hills account for 97% of the province's total area, and the flat land only accounts for only 3%. Guizhou is not only mountainous, but also very straight and steep. Therefore, Wang Yangming, a scholar in the Ming Dynasty, once described it that the mountains of the world excel in Yunnan and Guizhou. As if the mountains are concentrated in Yunnan and Guizhou. Due to the barrier of mountains, Guizhou has been blocking traffic for a long time and has little communication with the outside world. The culture formed in this environment must have obvious national characteristics and primitive characteristics of mountains, which is the so-called "mountain culture" characteristics. The mountains hinder people's communication and bring some disadvantages to agriculture. But things are dialectical, and the mountains also have its

advantages, because there are rich mineral resources under the mountain. It can be said that Guizhou is a typical mountain country, which you can see mountain everywhere. The natural environment of Guizhou directly affects the production and life style of all ethnic groups in Guizhou. The saying that relying on mountains for a living vividly and accurately expresses the relationship between mountains and people's livelihood, which is mainly reflected in the material culture and spiritual culture of all ethnic groups in Guizhou. In terms of material culture, Guizhou's material culture can be summarized as mountain economy. This mountain economy directly affects Guizhou's agriculture, handicraft industry, construction, transportation and so on, etc. In the ancient agricultural society, mountain agriculture occupied a very prominent and important position in Guizhou. In Guizhou, Guizhou culture is also known as "bazi Culture" due to the many basins formed between the mountains, which is so called "bazi". There are about over 2,000 basins in Guizhou. Because mountain economy is a closed, male tillage female weaving, self-sufficient natural economy, it did not form a special industry, no social division of labor, is in the form of domestic handicraft industry. Due to the affection of the specific natural environment, the national wisdom, aesthetic concept, arts and crafts formed on this basis obviously reflect the characteristics of the nation. For example, flower picking and embroidery of Miao nationality; weaving of Buyi nationality; leather makers of Yi nationality and popular batik of Miao, Buyi, Shui, Yao and Gelao nationality. Guizhou is the hometown of bronze drum, which is all used by the Gelao, Buyi, Dong, Miao, Shui, Yao and Yi nationality. In architecture, the dry column buildings of ethnic minorities are the most distinctive. In addition, there are Miao stilted buildings, also built on the mountain. The Dong Drum Tower is also quite distinctive.

In terms of spiritual culture, in addition to the national wisdom, aesthetic concepts, arts and crafts and other spiritual culture mentioned above, the most representative are the philosophy, literature, calendar and medicine of ethnic minorities. For example, in terms of myths and legends, the Gelao nationality has the "creationism" view of the growth of the sun and earth, and the ancestors of other ethnic minorities in Guizhou Province also have this discussion of nature. In the long-term production and labor practice, the ethnic minorities in Guizhou have also created their own calendars (mostly natural calendars, neither solar nor lunar calendars, with autumn harvest as the beginning of

a year), among which is the typical Shui nationality calendar — Shui calendar, which is already a written calendar. This calendar is closely related to the water books of Shui nationality. In the water book, the words used to record the Five Elements, the Eight Diagrams, the Ten Heavenly Stems and Twelve Terrestrial Branches and 28 lunar mansions occupy a considerable proportion, and the shape of the Ten Heavenly Stems is similar to Chinese characters, so there are conditions to calculate the year and month according to the Ten Heavenly Stems. The months of the water calendar are divided, basically according to the change law of the sun and the moon, and divided into twelve months and four seasons (“holy”, “crow”, “tree” and “fall”, namely, spring, summer, autumn and winter). The calendar of Yi nationality is called the Yi calendar, which is very similar to the Shui calendar. The difference is that the calculation year, month and day of the Yi calendar are deduced in turns by the twelve Chinese zodiac. Later, after the introduction of the “lunar calendar” of the Han people, it gradually replaced the “natural calendar”. In terms of medicine, it used to be said that ethnic minority areas lack medicine, in fact, this is inaccurate. Because before the introduction of traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine, all ethnic groups already had their own medicine. Such as Miao medicine, Miao medicine is representative. In addition, rock culture is also a major feature of Guizhou culture. Guizhou is the most typical area of karst terrain, with about 74% of the exposed limestone area. On the cliff cliffs deep in the mountains, there is an ancient and mysterious rock painting. People do not know what it began, let alone its meaning and connotation, some people say that it is the remnants of the original art, others say that it is some kind of ancient text, which has so far not been interpreted so far.

SUMMARY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GUIZHOU CULTURE

Ethnic culture and mountain culture jointly

constitute the two basic characteristics of Guizhou culture. Due to the influence of its own special natural environment, Guizhou’s cultural development is not synchronized compared with the cultural development of other regions of the country. The lag of cultural development is an objective reflection of the lag of social and economic development. It is this situation that makes Guizhou culture show a kind of primitive style.

To sum up, we summarize the characteristics of Guizhou culture as follows: ethnic culture and mountain culture are interwoven, among which ethnic culture is mixed, orderly and harmonious symbiosis, and mountain culture is simple, natural and systematic.

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