

Comparison and Application of Auspicious Cloud Patterns in Chinese and Thai Buddhist Paintings

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Abstract: Both China and Thailand have a tradition of believing in Buddhism, especially in Thailand, therefore these two countries have produced a large number of paintings with Buddhist themes from ancient times to the present. In both Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings, auspicious clouds is an essential decorative motif. The auspicious clouds in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings have their own characteristics and similarities in terms of symbolic meaning, shape and expression, from which we can see the deep integration during Chinese and Thai cultures. This thesis focuses on the similarities and differences of the auspicious cloud motifs between Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings. By using their similarities, it will be applied to all aspects of contemporary cultural, economic and personnel exchanges between China and Thailand, and play a positive role in promoting friendly exchanges between China and Thailand.

1. Introduction

The auspicious cloud pattern occupies a place in both Chinese and Thai traditional culture. The auspicious cloud motif represents auspiciousness and carries people's beautiful aspirations. The symbolic meaning of auspicious clouds in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings is the same, but the modeling features and expression methods may be different and have their own characteristics.

China and Thailand have a long and deep friendship and share a lot of common aspects in Buddhist art. By taking the auspicious cloud motifs in Buddhist paintings of the two countries as an entry point, it can be found a good intersection of cultural exchanges, and thus make the cultural exchanges between the two countries deeper and the people's exchanges more harmonious. In terms of literature review, there are a great number of articles studying Chinese and Thai auspicious cloud patterns. However, not many articles that compare and analysis the auspicious cloud patterns in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings, which leaves room for the study of this thesis.

Based on the above situation, this thesis analyzes that the auspicious cloud motif is a common element in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings, which has the similar and different points. Through this basis, it analyzes that the auspicious cloud motifs in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings have a positive meaning and role in the cultural and other exchanges between the two

sides, thus clarifying that it is valuable to study the auspicious cloud motifs in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings.

2. The auspicious cloud pattern is a common element in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings

In all kinds of Buddhist paintings in China and Thailand, the auspicious cloud pattern is an essential element. It has both an auspicious meaning and a strong decorative effect. The auspicious cloud pattern can make the picture more integrated and beautiful, and can render the strong Buddhist atmosphere and make the theme of the work more prominent.

2.1 The auspicious clouds in Chinese and Thai Buddhist murals

There are many Buddhist temples in both China and Thailand, and many large murals with Buddhist themes are painted inside these temples. Most of these large murals are painted with various kinds of auspicious clouds. These auspicious cloud patterns become the accompanying and decorative figures, buildings, etc. Under the auspices of the auspicious cloud patterns, the Buddhist atmosphere comes out.

2.2 The auspicious cloud pattern in Chinese and Thai Buddhist scroll paintings

There are many scroll paintings on Buddhist themes circulating in both China and Thailand, among which Chinese scroll paintings on Buddhist themes are more abundant. In addition to figures and architecture, these scroll paintings are also decorated with many auspicious clouds. These auspicious cloud motifs also play a decorative role in setting the atmosphere of the picture, and make the picture theme more distinct.

3. Comparison of auspicious cloud patterns in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings

From the above analysis, it can be seen that there are plenty of auspicious cloud motifs in Buddhist paintings and various Buddhist objects in both China and Thailand. Thus, what are the similarities and differences of the auspicious cloud patterns in various Buddhist paintings in China and Thailand?

3.1 Commonalities of auspicious cloud patterns in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings

Among the Buddhist paintings of both countries, the auspicious cloud motifs have something in common, and their commonality is mainly reflected in the auspicious symbolism and the line oriented expression. The similarities between these symbolic meanings and the line technique are consistent.

3.1.1 The same moral meaning is implied

The meaning of the auspicious cloud motif is the same. Whether it is Chinese Buddhist paintings or Thai Buddhist paintings, the auspicious cloud motif presented in the picture is a symbol of good fortune. "Auspicious culture is a human behavior of using specific expressions to pray for good wishes, and has a strong folk culture imprint. In primitive society when no unified writing was formed, people expressed this prayer for a better life through painting, carving and other forms." [1] The auspicious cloud pattern is a very good presentation of the auspicious culture.

3.1.2 The same line oriented expression of Oriental art

Both Chinese Buddhist paintings and Thai Buddhist paintings have their auspicious cloud motifs expressed mainly in lines and applied with colors. It is the main characteristic of Oriental art to shape by lines. By depicting the pattern of auspicious clouds in the form of line drawing, it can especially show the dynamics and beauty of auspicious clouds, with a kind of spreading beauty, fluent beauty and lightness. The dynamics of the clouds are shown through the lines, which are imaginative and vivid.

3.2 Different characteristics of auspicious cloud patterns in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings

The historical backgrounds of the two countries are different, and their appreciation and trade-offs of art are also different. Although the auspicious cloud patterns in Buddhist paintings of China and Thailand have similarities, they also have different characteristics when compared, and such different characteristics are quite distinct.

3.2.1 Each has its own characteristics in shape

In terms of the shape of the auspicious cloud pattern, the auspicious cloud pattern in Chinese Buddhist paintings appears to be more majestic and atmospheric. The auspicious clouds are basically expressed in a large area, with a feeling of grandeur, heaviness and magnificence. On the other hand, the auspicious clouds in Thai Buddhist paintings are mainly expressed individually and in smaller shapes, and the auspicious clouds show a more delicate, dynamic and dynamic beauty.

3.2.2 Line performance in their own style

The two have different characteristics in terms of line expression. The lines in Chinese Buddhist paintings are generally long, reflecting an overall atmospheric and spacious pattern, with long and rich variations of lightness, shortness, thickness, curvature and straightness. In contrast, the auspicious cloud pattern of Thai Buddhist painting is mainly delicate, with shorter and more dynamic lines, full of a sense of upward motion. "Structure is a comprehensive formal element that reflects the actual state of organization and interrelationship of the conformational elements in the pattern."^[2]Both Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings have their own characteristics in the representation of lines and the composition and form they form.

3.2.3 Color performance on each show

In terms of color expression, there are obvious differences between the auspicious cloud patterns in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings. In Chinese Buddhist wall paintings, the color of auspicious clouds is generally less intense, but rather thicker and simpler, more simple and single. In many cases, Thai Buddhist paintings use rich colors and are decorative and colorful.

4. The auspicious cloud motif in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings has application in cultural exchange between the two sides

It has been analyzed the presentation of auspicious cloud motifs in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings in various works, and the similarities and differences of auspicious cloud motifs in China and Thailand, from which we can see that auspicious cloud motifs are often used in Buddhist paintings in China and Thailand, and the two countries have many commonalities in their understanding of auspicious cloud motifs, especially the symbolic meanings are the same. Then, it

should be meaningful and valuable to take the auspicious cloud motif in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings as an entry point and apply it to the contemporary cultural exchange and human interaction between China and Thailand.

4.1 Use auspicious cloud patterns in high-level cultural exchange activities between China and Thailand that are compatible with the artistic styles of both sides

China and Thailand often hold high-level cultural exchanges, we can use the auspicious cloud pattern which is compatible with the art styles of both sides in the process of exchange activities, especially in the design of the logo and the production of related promotional materials.[3] The use of the auspicious cloud pattern can add a harmonious atmosphere and increase both sides' perception of each other's traditional culture, which will be more conducive to the communication and integration during the activities.

4.2 Use of auspicious cloud patterns in folk cultural exchange activities between China and Thailand that are compatible with the artistic styles of both sides

The same is true for folk cultural exchange activities. If we also use the auspicious cloud pattern, which is compatible with the artistic styles of both sides, in various folk cultural exchange activities held by both China and Thailand, it will also add more sense of harmony and intermingling to the activities. The auspicious cloud pattern can serve as a good entry point for the integration of both sides of the exchange, which can make the folk cultural exchange activities go more smoothly.

5. Conclusion

In summary, the auspicious cloud motif in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings based on the cultural intermingling of the two countries has been talked above. First, the auspicious cloud motif is a common element in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings, and this element is reflected in Buddhist murals, Buddhist scroll paintings and various Buddhist objects.

It is shown that the auspicious cloud motifs in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings share commonalities in that they have the same symbolic meaning and their expression is also line oriented. However, they differ in the shape of the auspicious clouds, the specific way of line expression, and the use of auspicious cloud colors.

The article concludes by emphasizing that it is possible to find auspicious cloud motifs that are compatible with the artistic styles of both sides, based on the characteristics of auspicious cloud motifs in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings, and then apply them to contemporary cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts between China and Thailand. The article points out that the application of auspicious cloud motifs to high-level cultural exchanges, folk cultural exchanges and daily interactions between Chinese and Thai people in a reasonable and timely manner can play a positive role in promoting interaction. The rational application of the auspicious cloud motif in Chinese and Thai Buddhist paintings, which has the artistic styles of both sides, has a practical significance and role in promoting contemporary cultural exchanges between China and Thailand, as well as promoting friendly exchanges between people of both countries.

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