

Explaining "Eternal Doubt" Remove "Flaw in a White Jade" ——An Analysis of Suspicious Sentences in Peacock Flying Southeast

Mingfu Peng

Department of Cultural Communication, Sichuan Vocational and Technical College, Suining 629000, Sichuan.

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Abstract: *Peacock Flying Southeast*, known as "the saint of long poems", which is the earliest and longest narrative poem in the history of ancient Chinese literature. It is also the peak of Yuefu Poetry in Han Dynasty. There are many controversies about the understanding of "Lan's daughter" in the phrase "There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance". From the Qing Dynasty Zhaoyi Wu questioned, the researchers say Public opinions are divergent., unable to agree on which is right. This article starts with the analysis of the ideological content, story plot and the background of the poetry, and links the interrelation between the poems before and after. To sum up, the author puts forward the view that "LAN's daughter" should be "Lanzhi Liu".

1. The Sacred Poetry Has a Tthousand Years of Questionable Flaws

Open the China ancient literary history, literary masters, the famous poet can if the stars, each generation toward the famous masterpiece it is too beautiful to be absorbed all at once. Each dynasty in each period has the most representative literary style, such as Pre-Qin prose, parallel prose in the Northern and Southern Dynasties, Tang poetry, Song Ci, Yuan Song, Ming and Qing novels, etc. In the Yuefu of Han Dynasty, *Peacock Flying Southeast*, which is praised as one of the "saints of long poems" and "double bends of Yuefu", can be called the most dazzling pearl on the crown of the folk songs of Yuefu of Han Dynasty.

Peacock Flying Southeast [1], more than 350 sentences and 1700 words are the first long narrative poem in the history of Chinese literature and the longest one in the history of ancient literature. This poem mainly tells the tragic story of Zhongqing Jiao and his wife Lanzhi Liu who were destroyed and persecuted by the feudal ethics and the feudal patriarchal system. At last, they both expressed their resistance by death. In the poem, the heroine Lanzhi Liu moving image of humility, intelligence, diligence and competence, loyalty to love and never yielding to the feudal forces until death. On the one hand, the heroine Zhongqing Jiao is loyal to love, on the other hand, he also hopes to fulfill the complex character of filial piety, which has left a distinct and deep impression on the readers. Therefore, for more than a thousand years since its emergence, it has been loved and praised by the broad masses of the people. It is indeed a brilliant treasure in the treasure house of ancient Chinese art.

For thousands of years, while praising the story of *Peacock Flying Southeast* with simplicity and proper tailoring, vivid characterization, complete, compact and meticulous artistic achievements, people think that there is a puzzling place in the poem, meanwhile, they think that this is a "flaw in a white Jade" and think it is a fly in the ointment as well as they deeply regret it.

2. Different Opinions on "LAN's family"

Disagreement and troubled readers is described in a poem after Lanzhi was sent to the home, meanwhile the county magistrate sent people to propose marriage. After Lanzhi refused, Satrap sent the county prime minister to propose marriage, too. Several lines of poetry deserve attention:

“The matchmaker sent by the county magistrate went for a few days,
And then Taishou sent his prime minister to invite him to marry him.

There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance".

There have always been divergent opinions on the annotations to these poems. What are the different opinions? I do a simple comb, roughly the following views:

2.1 Theory of " Mistake Omission " .

The note, many critics believe that, due to the level of the ancient printing is low, in the process of copying the poem many times, there may be omissions or errors so that the text, the meaning of individual words difficult to understand.

(1) Viewpoint of Zhaoyi Wu.

It was Zhaoyi Wu of the Qing Dynasty who raised doubts earlier. When he wrote a note for Xuling's *New chants of Yutai*, he wrote the following sentence: "The preface said Liu, this is said the orchid family, not with [2]. Some people think that words are false." The so-called "false character" means that the word "Lanjia" may contain a wrong word, or "Lan" should be "Liu" or "Jia" should be "Zhi".

(2) Following Wu's saying Viewpoint

According to " Mistake Omission ", some selected classical literary works now completely adopt Wu's theory when annotating this sentence. For example, Annotation 68 on page 93 of *Ancient Chinese Literature*, published by Yanbian University Press and edited by Huang Shiji "Lan's daughter: It's the mistake of Liu's daughter or Lanzhi Liu."

2.2 Theory of " Lanzhi " .

Many commentators and critics believe that "Lan's daughter" refers to Lanzhi Liu. Among them, there are two kinds of statements:

(1) One thinks that "Lan's daughter" is "Liu's daughter", and "Lan" is a mistake of "Liu". Annotation of " Lan's daughter: Liu Lanzhi"[3] in *Selected Works of Ancient Chinese Literature* edited by Zhongyu Xu and Qihua Jin.

(2) The other one is that "Home" is the "Zhi" word error. Jiangsu people's Publishing House Zhu Dongrun editor of the "Chinese" selected works of the ancient literature and the 1979 Shanghai ancient books publishing house "China literary works through the ages" are "Lan's daughter. words: Lanzhi " [4]. The " daughter" here is a girl.

2.3 Theory of " LAN " .

In addition to the above viewpoints, there are also two kinds of views which do not adopt Wu's theory, but put forward new solutions:

(1) One view holds that the original surname of "Lanzhi" is "Lan". Published by Higher Education Publishing House and edited by Yu Fei, *Ancient Chinese Literature Works Notes*: "All refer to Satrap to the master book. Lan Jia: According to this poem, Lanzhi's surname is Lan. The preface to *New chants of Yutai* says that her surname is Liu, which is based on another legend. Eunuchs in the inheritance: Inheritance of the previous household registration, there are officials. "

(2) Another view is that "LAN's daughter" has nothing to do with Lanzhi Liu. Lanzhi's family name is Liu, LAN is different from LIU. LAN is an official family. Therefore, the county prime minister suggested that the county order to propose marriage to LAN for his son, while the five young masters of Satrap should marry Lanzhi Liu. That's what the master Book conveyed to the county minister, and asked the county minister to act as matchmaker [5]. Notes to *References for Literary History of the Han Dynasty* selected by the Department of Teaching and Research of Chinese Literature History of Peking University[6]: " There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance ', the first sentence, "Say" the subject is the county prime minister. Next sentence, 'inheritance', inheritance; 'registration', household registration; 'eunuch', a person who reads and acts as an official. Renwei Wen said, 'When we inherit our ancestors' household registration, there are also officials in the world. Guanying Yu said, 'The above two sentences are that the county prime minister proposed to the county decree to propose to the LAN family, saying that the LAN family is an official family, different from Liu's family.' It means that the daughter of the LAN family is of

good family background and can be matched with the son of the county magistrate. By the way, Yu said. In the old saying, "Lan" is the mistake of the word "Liu", but after the word is changed, the context is still difficult to penetrate, and it is not as easy to read as the explanation. "This is also widely used. Senior Chinese textbooks and most junior and secondary school textbooks have commented that "there may be omissions or errors in writing, so these four sentences can not be explained clearly." This is also widely used in other selected textbooks or textbooks.

Overall, the predecessors said that "there are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance" There are great divergences in the interpretation of " Lan's daughter" and several related poems in China. There are different opinions and different opinions. It is believed that this is a defect in the beauty of *Peacock Flying Southeast* and a " Flaw in a White Jade ".

3. Explain Flaws and Remove" Flaw in a White Jade ".

Throughout the annotations of commentators of all dynasties, the common point is that they all try to explain these poems related to " LAN's daughter " smoothly and try not to contradict the preface, but they have not made a detailed discussion of their views, nor have they made further specific answers to this pending question, which has caused great trouble for readers to read and understand this poem. Readers have always felt sorry for the " Flaw in a White Jade" and regretted the " a Fly in the Ointment ".

Is the sentence " LAN's daughter" the "flaw" of *Peacock Flying Southeast*?

By consulting a large number of documents, combining the plot of the whole poem and the background of the times when the poem came into being, and connecting with the poems before and after, the author thinks that the words here are actually not missing, but may be erroneous in the process of copying. The key to the problem lies in the understanding of the poem" There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance ". The author agrees with Dongrun Zhu, Zhongyu Xu and Qihua Jin. So as long that "LAN's daughters" are replaced by "Lanzhi Lius" or "LIU's daughters", the meaning of the poems before and after will be coherent and easy to understand. This is because in the previous section, the matchmaker sent by the county magistrate came to Lanzhi's house to talk to the county magistrate's three sons about matchmaking and was rejected by Lanzhi's mother. The reason why Liu refused is that "My poor family has this daughter, just when she returned home. Can't stand being an official's wife? How can it suit your family?" After the matchmaker of the county magistrate hit the wall, he left Liu's house in disgrace. After a few days, Satrap sent the county prime minister as matchmaker again to Liu's house and said to her," There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance." The matchmaker always said, heard that Lanzhi inherits the predecessor of Official titles, the intention is very obvious, just do not want to repeat the mistakes of the magistrate refused to let the matchmaker, for her mother's " My poor family has this daughter " as the reason for a rejection, which is also a reasonable thing.

Can this " LAN's daughters" be understood as " Lanzhi Lius "? Is it Lanzhi Liu? Here I venture to, make a superficial analysis.

First of all, from the context, the last paragraph is about Liu Lanzhi, who was forced to leave Jiao's home and return to his mother's home because of her mother-in-law's various difficulties. Then, shortly after she returned to her mother's home, the county decree sent someone to propose to Lanzhi for her son. Lanzhi told her mother that she still loved Zhongqing and asked her mother to come back and refuse the matchmaker sent by the county decree. The reason why Liu Mu rejected the matchmaker of the county decree is as follows:

"My poor family has this daughter, just when she returned home.

Can't stand being an official's wife? How can it suit your family?"

Fortunately, it's widely known that you can't marry casually."

From this point of view, there are two reasons why Mrs. Liu rejected matchmakers: first, Lanzhi was abandoned to her mother's house soon after she got married, a married woman, who had just been abandoned to her mother's house by her husband's family, which is not compatible with the three young masters of the county lord, who are so talented that they can not match her; second, we

are a small family with poor family, and even a small government official is not worthy of it(Can't stand being an official's wife?). Now they have been abandoned to their mother's home. If they marry the noble son of the county master, it is even more improper and incorrect. So, you have to ask the matchmaker to look elsewhere, because we Lanzhi can't promise you anyway.

Secondly, we can draw the same conclusion from the analysis of the situation before and after the county Prime Minister raised relatives for Satrap. On the one hand, the county minister, as an official assisting the county magistrate, will be very clear about the rejection of the county magistrate's proposal for the son and its reasons. Before he accepts the mission of Satrap, of course, he will inform Satrap of these circumstances, so that even if the matchmaker is unsuccessful, he will not let Satrap blame himself too much. On the other hand, since Satrap chose Lanzhi for his son, he will certainly seek countermeasures when he understands the situation, so he will inevitably have to look into the situation of her ancestors. Check back and forth, unexpectedly found that Lanzhi's ancestors were eunuchs ("There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance." later, somehow, family morality declined). Since Lanzhi's ancestors were officials, then Lanzhi was not a "poor" daughter. If this is the case, even in ancient China, where the hierarchical concept was very strong, Satrap 's son married an official like Lanzhi girl, and it would be a "right door", and when the county officials went to ask for relatives, they would no longer be rejected by the Liu family for reasons of disparity. Therefore, the first sentence of the county minister to Liu's family is:" There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance ". In this way, it avoids the refusal of Liu's family to mention their relatives on the grounds of" My poor family has this daughter ", so that Liu's mother has to find another reason in the future, using the excuse of "women swear first, how dare the old woman dare to speak". From the analysis of these situations," LAN's daughter" should be "girl of Lanzhi Liu", which should refer to Lan Zhi Liu.

From the point of view of past and future correspondence, is there any basis and possibility for the statement that the matchmaker, the county prime minister, who was too strict in inviting Lanzhi family, had "eunuchs" who inherited the official status of their ancestors? I think there are. How can I see that? Look at the opening lines of the long poem:

"Thirteen can weave, fourteen can cut clothes;

Fifteen play Konghou music, sixteen recitations of poetry."

Look at what Liu Mu said when Lanzhi was repatriated to his mother's house:

"Thirteen teaches you to weave, fourteen can tailor clothes;

Fifteen Konghou music, sixteen knows etiquette and righteousness."

From these two poems, which correspond to each other, it can be seen that "thirteen knitting elements, fourteen learning styles" mainly embodies Lanzhi's intelligence, competence, diligence and virtue. The skilled labor skills such as "weaving element" and "tailoring" are not enough to prove Lanzhi's identity after the official. But" Fifteen play Konghou music, sixteen recitations of poetry " shows that Lanzhi has been well educated by culture and art since childhood. Just imagine: Under the historical conditions at that time, the ruling class monopolized culture, ordinary workers generally had no right and opportunity to receive education, and they were busy all day for their food, clothing, shelter and transportation. Where did they have time to recite poems and learn music? Then, the more elegant leisure like "chanting poetry books" and "playing music " probably had no time to take into account the ordinary peasant housewives and Weaver girls in the machine room at that time. Liu Lanzhi had the chance to recite poetry and play the pipes, which showed that she was well educated from an early age, and that she was not an ordinary farm girl, but maybe a descendant of an official family or grew up in a family of scholars. I don't know when and for what reason, their family morality declined and they became a "poor" family. From this point of view, it is not far-fetched to say that Liu Lanzhi is an eunuch with his family background.

From the matchmaker's constant plot after Lanzhi's deportation to his mother's house, it is clear that Lanzhi's beauty, intelligence, diligence and virtue are well-known both inside and outside the state and county, and Lanzhi is deeply loved and admired by people. On the other hand, even as a county or state Supreme governor's County decree, Satrap, he spares no expense and scrambles to form the Liu family for his son. From another side that Lanzhi's ancestors are prestigious officials?

Finally, from the evolution of the title of the poem and the content and structure of the poem, it is argued that "LAN's daughters" should be referred to as "Lanzhi Liu".

(1) The evolution of poetry. *Peacock Flying Southeast* was first seen in Xuling's *New chants of Yutai*, originally named *Anonymous Ancient Poetry for Jiao Zhongqing's Wife* (later simplified as *Ancient Poetry for Jiao Zhongqing's Wife*). The title of miscellaneous songs and lyrics in *Yuefu Poetry Collection* is abbreviated as *Jiao Zhongqing's wife*. Later, people used to use the first sentence of the poem as the title, which was also called *Peacock Flying Southeast*. From the original title, the main character of this poem should be Zhongqing's wife Lanzhi Liu. If another "eunuch" girl (whose surname is Liu) is inserted in the middle, it can not highlight the image of the hero Lanzhi, but give people a sense of adding to the snake, which will destroy the perfect overall artistic effect of the poem.

(2) Analysis of the content and the subject. This part of the poem describes the situation that Satrap sent the county minister to Liu's house to propose marriage after it was rejected. This should be two closely related things. The purpose of the author's arrangement is to highlight Lanzhi's intelligence, beauty and virtue. It shows that Lanzhi is a well-known beautiful woman both inside and outside the prefecture and county, and she is highly admired by people. Such a beautiful woman was abandoned because of her failure to reach the heart of Zhongqing's mother, which could not help but arouse people's hatred for the tyrannical and violent this mother. Thus arouse people's strong indignation about cannibalism and feudal patriarchal system, so as to highlight the theme of anti-feudal poetry.

(3) Structural analysis. This part of the poem mainly describes her precious quality of loyalty to love, not admiring wealth and repeatedly refusing to remarry, which is in sharp contrast to Zhongqing's mother, all kinds of difficulties and cruel abandonment of Lanzhi and her plot of death rebellion corresponds to each other, forming a sharp contrast. It highlights the theme and strengthens the tragic color of Jiao Zhongqing and Lanzhi who love each other but eventually separate. Such a structure is perfect. If there is another "Lan's daughter" (the girl surnamed Lan) in the middle of the rich family, is it not a bit extraneous?

4. Summary

To sum up, I think that the phrase "Lan's daughter" in the poem "There are Lan's daughter, eunuchs in the inheritance" should be replaced by "Lanzhi Liu" or "Liu's daughter". However, from the perspective of the whole poem, the concept of "Liu Jia" has never appeared. In order to unify the language before and after, it is more appropriate to say "Lanzhi Liu" here. In this way, "eternal doubts" will be solved, *Peacock flying southeast* this "slight flaws" are also naturally removed.

References

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