

Female Images and Their Characteristics in Historical Records

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Abstract: Although the female image in Historical Records is far less than that of men, its value of existence still shows richness and profundity. These women's different life experiences, personalities and life experiences constitute a unique group of women in that period of history. From the literary point of view, these female images surpass that era and have aesthetic significance in the height of human nature. This paper analyses the female images in the historical records from the literary point of view. The Historical Records depicts many women of different classes and strata. They have different styles. They either chatter about their rights in the court or fall victim to the struggle for rights and interests. There are also many women of civilian origin. Some of them have noble status and promote the development of the historical process. History records show rich, vivid and vivid characteristics in describing women, and tend to enrich in quantity, type and plot.

1. Introduction

As a great historian of the Han Dynasty, Si Maqian wrote a political history of the Han Dynasty, *History Records*, which mainly focused on male society. Historians should have a rigorous and scientific attitude towards scholarly studies, and try to avoid the influence of subjective intentions and emotions on the actual features of the history they write. With the author's sincere writing attitude and honest and faithful enthusiasm, *Historical Records* radiates more humanity and human thoughts, emotions and wisdom, and is more literary and deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. Just like ordinary people, Si Maqian also has thoughts and feelings, his own life experience and life experience, and these personal things will inevitably affect more or less the historical outlook he writes. Through the text of *Historical Records*, Si Maqian's tendencies and views on historical phenomena or types of historical figures can be dimly seen after readers read the text carefully. In this historical book, only a small proportion of women's images are written, which reflects the social structure of the Han Dynasty and the disparity between the status of men and women. However, *History Records* also shows the author's views of women when it writes female images that are worth recording in history.

2. Classification of female images in Historical Records

2.1. Noble female

Noble female refer to women who have consanguineous or marital relations with men who enjoy various political and economic privileges. The noble females created in historical records have complex and diverse personalities. According to the relationship between women and aristocratic men, and considering their influence on politics, aristocratic women can be divided into three categories: the mother of the Queen, concubines and concubines, and the family of ministers. In each small category, according to the size of the political impact, it can be divided into political women, women related to politics, women unrelated to politics. Among them, women who are related to politics do not directly participate in politics, but they have played a certain role in the cause of the emperor.

2.2. Civilian female

Civilian women, refer to women who are in the civilian, including emperors, princes, ministers as slaves and slaves, and women who have no feudal land. The number of civilians in Historical Records is not large, and it is inappropriate to classify civilian women according to politics because they are less related to political events. According to personality and spiritual features, it can be divided into small citizen women, high-yielding mothers, filial women, etc. The civilian women portrayed in the historical records have prominent personality and strong flavour of life. Among the civilian women, there are not only many civilian women with small citizen characteristics, but also the glorious and touching image of civilian mother, the image of wise wife and the image of filial and brave talented women. In a word, the female images in Historical Records are complex and changeable, and the female personality of the common people is prominent and full of social life atmosphere, which can be said to be part of the great achievements of Historical Records.

3. The uniqueness and causes of female images in Historical Records

3.1. The treatment of female images in Historical Records

Historical records are more interested in recording the character of the characters. He writes a series of events reflecting the character together according to the author's understanding of the characters. Readers can read the characters' distinct personality characteristics from seemingly objective materials. This is because Si Maqian's experience of being subjected to palace torture makes him have more personal subjective colour in compiling historical records. On the other hand, unlike other literary works, the author of Historical Records is a historian with profound learning and accumulation. He regards writing history as his lifelong mission. The female images in historical books do not allow the author to have too many emotions and inclinations of likes and dislikes. The writers of general literary works either write to express their feelings, come from their inner needs or write to satisfy their curiosity and the reader's curiosity. The purpose of their writing is mostly to meet the needs of public psychology or entertainment. In general, writers in literary works will have more freedom in shaping women's images. Even if some women are real people in history, writers can invest more personal feelings in shaping them and adopt more unfounded folklore. The images presented will be more in line with the aesthetic interests of writers and readers.

3.2. Differences between female images in Historical Records and in non-historical biography literature

Historical Records belong to documentary literature. The biggest difference between historical records and other kinds of literature lies in its historicity and authenticity. The characterization in historical and biographical literature requires rigorous and well-founded, and the specific characters displayed have their own unique characteristics compared with those in general literature. The female images in Historical Records are all human in history. Si Maqian created these female images first of all because of the need to record history. The foundation of female image creation is based on all kinds of historical materials and some personal experience. Although Si Maqian has his own view of women, and has his own tendency in dealing with various kinds of female images, and has certain freedom in shaping, this degree of freedom is very limited. Other kinds of literature can have more authors' personal imagination and emotions and more flexible ways of expression in shaping female images. Although the female images in historical and biographical literature are not created by the author at will, some of them are vivid, life experience or touching or thought-provoking. Therefore, some female images in historical biographies are also of great literary value. Similarly, some female images in historical and biographical literature also have rich cultural connotations. In general, the three reasons for the uniqueness and causes of female images in Historical Records are as shown in figure 1.

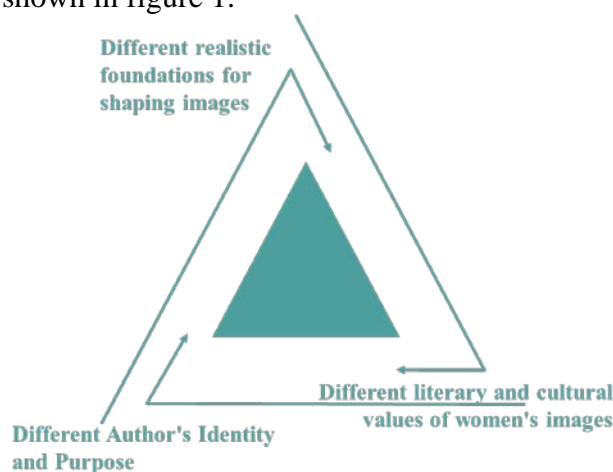


Figure1. Reasons for the causes of female images in Historical Records

4. Descriptive characteristics of female images in Historical Records

4.1. The rich, lively and vivid female images in Historical Records

In ancient Chinese society, women were a huge, unique and contradictory group. They have different temperaments, looks and talents, but their status is far from that of men, and they often exist as accessories of men. Si Maqian examined the unique light of women with a keen eye, and created the female image through delicate brush strokes. For them, Si Maqian sometimes cannot help but praise them directly in order to praise their merits. More often, it shows respect and appreciation for women in a quiet narrative.

4.2. Female's image tends to be enriched in quantity, type and plot

In Historical Records, women's images are presented to the world in a colourful and diverse manner, which preserves a relatively large number of women's data before Emperor Wudi of Han

Dynasty for later generations. The number and types of women described in Historical Records go up to noble women, empress concubines, ministers' wives and concubines, and down to the common people, the wives of rickshaw drivers and female businessmen. Ban Gu also recorded more women's stories in his Hanshu, and Fan Ye's Hanshu appeared eight volumes of Biographies of LieNu, which centralized biographies of representative female figures in a certain field and praised good deeds. It can be clearly seen that the Historical Records had a profound impact on later generations of historical biographers. In addition, most of the female characters in Historical Records appear only at a certain time or at a certain event, often in a fragmentary narrative, which shows a certain aspect of the characters' personality. On the premise of not completely deviating from the official history, Si Maqian reasonably imagined some details and deliberately added virtual scenes and dialogues to make the personality characteristics of the characters more vivid and richer.

4.3. Interesting description of Female's images in Historical Records

It is not easy to reproduce the life of ancient women in Historical Records because of the long history and lack of historical materials concerning female characters from the ancient Huangdi to the Han Wudi. Similarly, in describing the clues of historical development, the ancestors and origins of many dynasties are inevitable problems. Si Maqian's skill in novelty hunting has been brought into full play. By cleverly using legends, myths and anecdotes, Si Maqian has given an account of distant history and arranged rich and legendary stories. When history entered the Qin and Han Dynasties, Si Maqian recorded his astonishing discoveries in an almost ridiculous and sarcastic tone. It is precisely because these images are more easily spread for a long time and are widely praised by people.

5. Conclusions

In the spirit of recording facts, the Historical Records objectively evaluate each woman and depict many female images with different identities and distinct personalities. Their unique charm is shown to us through historical records, whether they are noble or not. Today's people can see their past charm, feel their personality charm, and influence generations after generations. Most of the female images in the political relations in historical records are women in the rear court. On the surface, they are accompanied by emperors, have noble status and enjoy glory. In fact, the personnel and political environment they live in are mostly dark and dangerous. Their personality and psychology are influenced and shaped by this environment, and they are typically representative in historical and biographical literature. From the literary point of view, such women's life, which is tightly bound, can often arouse people's exclamation and reflection.

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