

# A Comparative Study of Women's Culture in Book of Songs and Poetry of the South Based on Multi-Subject

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**Abstract:** “book of songs” and “poetry of the south” are important components of Chinese classical culture. An era has its own aesthetic standards. Different aesthetic standards are rooted in different social soil. Aesthetic consciousness changes with the development of the times and the changes of social production and life style. The creation of “book of songs” and “poetry of the south” are in this period of social and cultural changes. A large number of female descriptions in them just reflect the change of women's aesthetic thoughts and show their different cultural characteristics. Book of songs and poetry of the south are outstanding representatives of the northern culture and the southern culture in the pre-qin period. They have obvious aesthetic differences in shaping female images, which are reflected in the aesthetic form, character and expression methods. Based on the parts of book of songs and poetry of the south, this paper explores the differences in female images in literary works, including the differences in performance objects, clothing and accessories, and aesthetic tendency, and explores the causes of the differences from the perspective of geographical environment.

## 1. Introduction

“Book of songs” and “poetry of the south” are the two major sources of Chinese poetry art, both of which have a large amount of space to describe the image of women. Aesthetics is the care, perception and judgment of the subject for the beauty of objective things. When describing female images, they show different characteristics in terms of objects of expression, aesthetic orientation and choice of metaphors, and also show different description styles and cultural differences [1]. “poetry of the south” is a glorious poem after “book of songs”. The female images in it are infiltrated by the specific culture of chu. Its artistic features are bright and beautiful, bringing us different aesthetic feelings [2]. More than one-third of the poems in book of songs deal with women's images. These images are natural and simple, with distinctive features, and vividly represent the daily life of women in zhou dynasty. As two immortal works describing women, no matter the different style descriptions and cultural differences presented from the aesthetic image, the choice of metaphor and the promotion of love view, they all show different female cultural perspectives shaped by different social backgrounds, regional environments and cultural customs [3]. In the history of human aesthetic consciousness, appreciation of women is an important starting point of human aesthetic history. The beauty of women has a special and irreplaceable contribution to the generation and development of human early aesthetic consciousness [4].

“book of songs” and “poetry of the south” show different characteristics of women's portrayals, so this article uses this as an entry point for analysis, and explores the differences in the description methods and aesthetic concepts of the two [5]. There are more female images in poetry of the south, but these images are slim and misty, which is very different from that in book of songs. A detailed analysis of the differences in women's images and their causes is of great significance for a deeper understanding of the two works. Poetry of the south is the beginning of romantic poetry. Most of the character prototypes are taken from goddess or historical person who is deified. More than a third of the poems describing women in “book of songs” show that china's oldest collection of poetry has generated attention to the female image itself [6]. “poetry of the south” by qu yuan is another important source of Chinese poetry. It has the same status as “book of songs” in the development of Chinese classical literature [7]. “book of songs” and “poetry of the south” as the

two major sources of literary history, the female images created are dazzling. Their existence as beauty, the aesthetic attributes are fully presented [8]. By analyzing the unique beauty of these female images, we can understand women's aesthetic characteristics and changes in aesthetic consciousness in different era backgrounds.

## **2. The Difference of Female Image Shaping in Book of Songs and Poetry of the South**

The different female images in “book of songs” and “poetry of the south” are reflected in many aspects, including the differences in macro-level selection of objects and micro-level description of appearance and clothing. “poetry of the south” shows the aestheticism of the object with virtual character description. In the choice of characters, “poetry of the south” tends to choose the fairy, deified women in history, noble women and witches. The witches and goddesses in “poetry of the south” often wear colorful clothes and are decorated with vanilla because of their strong divinity, thus highlighting their fantastic beauty. From the track of historical development, women are the subject of human beauty. From the object of expression, the book of songs mostly shows working women, showing the characteristics of primitive farming culture, while the poetry of the south mostly shows the cultural characteristics of feudal society. “book of songs” era, men and women love more freely, women are also more active in love, dare to boldly pursue their own happy love [9]. Due to the differences between north and south regions and the long-term influence of local culture, in the human aesthetics, the north represented by “book of songs” emphasizes women's tallness and abundance. The south represented by “poetry of the south” focuses on women's elegance. Perfect.

The selection of objects is based on the macro level, and analyzes the differences in the selection of female images between “book of songs” and “poetry of the south” from a holistic perspective. The differences are based on the different social roles and positions of women. The “book of songs” era is at an important stage in Chinese history from primitive society to civilized society [10]. The level of productivity is extremely low. Only a tall and strong body can bear the heavy responsibility of continuously breeding future generations and participating in social labor. In “poetry of the south”, the beautiful goddess and witch are more in line with the mainstream male aesthetic. In the south opposite to the north, the birthplace of “poetry of the south” has relatively superior natural conditions, fertile land, pleasant climate, and sufficient rain [11]. From the description of “book of songs”, we can see the worship of reproduction at that time, begging for its own fertility, continuous reproduction, and attention to the social work function of women. It was the mainstream value orientation at that time. With the development of the economy and the enhancement of economic strength, it has also provided the necessary material conditions for the development of literature and art. The depiction of women's images started out of aesthetic needs and began to distinguish the feelings of beauty spiritually. In “book of songs”, the overall image of women is mostly working women at the bottom of society. Some of them bear a lot of productive labor, and some are lonely abandoned women.

## **3. There Are Different Aesthetic Standards for “Female Beauty”**

This is also in line with the local cultural customs. However, “poetry of the south” was influenced by the witchcraft culture of chu at that time. The ancients believed that witches were the representatives of gods and could understand the meaning of gods and gods and pray for disaster relief. At the same time, the ritual activities of witchcraft also give people a sense of mystery. Many goddesses come from witches. From this, we can know that the natural conditions in this area are good and the species are rich. Under such a background, the female aesthetics in poetry of the south inevitably takes on the mysterious color of nature and is more ethereal and illusory. At the same time, due to good soil and water conditions in the plain area of the middle and lower reaches of the yellow river, it is suitable for planting, so the area is dominated by planting. Sacrifice activities in the era when witch culture prevailed also gave the female image in “poetry of the south” a mythological color. In addition to working women in daily life, “book of songs” also has a large

number of descriptions of frustrated thinking women and abandoned women [12]. “poetry of the south” was born in a densely populated area with abundant vegetation and complicated natural features. Such conditions enabled the creators at that time to enjoy more different scenery. The female images in poetry of the south highlight the beauty of gender, emphasize the overall beauty and have the characteristics of elegance and perfection.

In the Book of Songs, a large number of women are attached to men, which includes expectations of love, complaints of unsophisticated people and infatuation of missing their husbands. Due to the relatively low educational level of the creators, their works often have the characteristics of simple and straightforward words, more popular words and expressions, and being suitable for singing when working in the fields. Women are no longer the participants of social labor, but the aesthetic objects of male culture, reflecting the characteristics of feudal private ownership culture [13]. The authors of “Book of Songs” are mostly the masses of lower-class working people. Most of what the working people come into contact with and hear are working women, and the outpouring of feelings tends to be natural, straightforward and bold. “Here has created a tall, strong female image, and at the same time has made a detailed description of her face, has made the key characterization to the manner. This kind of lovely, gentle and lovable woman is the standard image vigorously promoted in Book of Songs. The works of Poetry of the South are mainly composed of Qu Yuan's works, which were later added and revised. The literary intelligentsia and culture are the main subjects of creation, and the focus is naturally higher. Therefore, the works in Poetry of the South have colorful words, exquisite sentences, singing and sighing, and stronger literary aesthetics. “Poetry of the South” is quite different. Most of the women in “Poetry of the South” are not real women based on life, but imaginary women relying on myths and legends to show the mysterious and ethereal beauty of women.

#### **4. Conclusion**

“Book of Songs” and “Poetry of the South” have opened an important development direction for the Chinese classical literary world. The female images depicted in them are either plump, strong or petite and gentle. “Book of Songs” and “Poetry of the South” are two brilliant chapters in China's traditional culture. They have created many female images, but they also make us deeply realize that the aesthetic perception of images brought by different social backgrounds, different regional environments, different cultural customs and different authors are different. Due to the changes in the background of the times and social values, Book of Songs and Poetry of the South show different cultural characteristics in the description of women. Book of songs creates a realistic tradition of realism, and poetry of the south is the origin of romantic literature. In the description of women's images, the simple white drawing technique in book of songs, the establishment and praise of the feminine beauty in poetry of the south, the meticulous and colorful description of the feminine beauty, and the writing technique of blending feelings and scenes have a great influence on the later literature. The colorful culture created the rich connotation of the development of literature, and pushed the younger generation to explore and absorb its essence.

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