

Abstract

A Textual Study of the Worship of Guanyin, Maitreya and Sizhou in Xiapu Manichaeism

Yang Fuxue, Peng Xiaojing

Abstract: Guanyin, Maitreya and Sizhou Buddhas are highly worshipped in Xiapu Manichaeism documents and many local relics in Xiapu. In addition to the origin of Manichaeism doctrine system, the integration and coexistence of various beliefs is more a borrowing and dependence on Buddhism, but also a comparison of Taoism. Guanyin belief and Maitreya belief play a very important role in Han Buddhism. Sage Sizhou worship belongs to Buddhism in general, but contains a lot of Taoism and folk beliefs. As a folk belief, Xiapu Manichaeism obviously belongs to a minority compared with Buddhism and Taoism. Therefore, it has to use the great influence of Buddhism and Taoism to achieve the purpose of enlarging Dharma and strengthening itself. It can be regarded as a typical example of the Sinicization of Persian Manichaeism.

Keywords: Xipu Manichaeism; Guanyin; Maitreya; *Mani the Buddha of Light*

The Influence of Christianity, Buddhism and Manichaeism on the Literature of Chinese Scenic Religion

—Centering on “Ship Metaphor”

Ge Jiaze, Yang Fuxue

Abstract: When Christian Nestorianism disseminates the Gospel in Central Asia and China, it always follows its own circumstances and makes it convenient to say. Buddhism and Manichaeism are its choices to quote a large number of foreign terminology for teaching. “Light Boat” is an ancient Christian metaphor. The Bible talks about boats and owners. It also refers to Christ and the church as boats and Noah as boatowners. This kind of metaphor is also found in eight Chinese landscape manuscripts unearthed in Dunhuang. For example, all those involved in boats and boatowners are metaphors, but they are mostly related to the doctrines of Jesus. Although they are not explicitly stated, they use the owner of boats to metaphorize Jesus. Their words are very clear, although they are quite derived from their own believers, as can be seen from Manichaeism and Buddhism. The image of the ship’s owner Jesus is similar to that of Bright Jesus in Dunhuang and Xiapu Manichaeism manuscripts, as well as Sakyamuni, the Lord Buddhist. It is the image of Jesus as well as the influence of the Buddhism and Christian on Nestorianism. It includes not only Taoist, Confucian, Buddha, but also the shadow of Manichaeism’s Mani Buddha and Bright Jesus.

Keywords: Christian Nestorianism; Manichaeism; Buddhism; Dunhuang Manuscripts; Light Boat

The Academic Value of *Mani the Buddha of Light*

Bao Lang, Fan Lianxia

Abstract: *Mani the Buddha of Light* has important academic value as fol-

lows; it can help us to corroborate scholars' corrections on Manichaeism Chinese literature in Dunhuang, to collate characters of *The Chinese Hymnscroll*, to solve disputes such as the Manichaean afferent pathway and the Manichaean extinction time and the punctuations in "Firstly: Light-Venerableness", to supplement the material of Mani's birth from Dunhuang and of other Chinese sources, to clarify the relationship among Ming Jiao Wen Fo, Da Ming and Ming Jiao, the concept of "Zhen Ming" suggests that we think new propositions in the study of Manicheism.

Keywords: *Mani the Buddha of Light*; *Xipu Manichaeism* Documentary Value

Reconsidering the Late Bronze Age Decline of Southern Canaan: A Perspective from the Amarna Letters

Yuan Zhihui

Abstract: During the Late Bronze Age, the decline in southern Canaan was attested at sites. Then, who was responsible for the decline and even devastation in southern Canaan? Many scholars asserted that Egypt was responsible for the decline and even devastation in southern Canaan, but several scholars held opposite views. In view of Egyptian's imperial rule established in southern Canaan, I intends to use Wallerstein's the Core-Periphery model and Prestige-Power models in Weberian Stratification for analysis. When I read the Amarna letters, I can find that the topic which chiefly concern the great kings in letters are the exchange of presents, the topic which chiefly concern the Egyptian king and the vassals are southern Canaan's order and city-states security. Some scholars believe that Egypt has established stable and systematic of tax system in southern Canaan, so there is no need to discuss it in correspondence. I investigate the economic aspects the letters between Egypt and the vassals in southern Canaan, and evaluate the value of good items paid by the vassals to Egypt, further compare the economic burden imposed by the Egyptian court on the vassals with those imposed by Hittites on his vassals, i. e. , Amurru and Ugarit, we can see clearly that the burden of

Ugarit is heavier than four vassals of Egypt in southern Canaan. So, the argument that Egypt's exploitation led to the decline of South Canaan is untenable. But, what led to the decline of the south Canaan? I believe that during the Late Bronze Age, Western Asia and Egypt were amalgamated into a larger system, and Egypt could trade directly with the great powers of Western Asia. Thus, the loss of the status of trade agency which southern Canaan once played finally led to its decline.

Keywords: the Late Bronze Age; Southern Canaan; Amarna Letters; Vassals; Egypt

An Analysis on Hezbollah-Syria Relations

Li Fuquan, Shen Lang

Abstract: Since the birth of Hezbollah in Lebanon in 1982, the relationship between Hezbollah and Syria has been complicated, showing different characteristics in various periods. Period 1982 – 1989 showed mutual vigilance, whereas 1989 – 2000 is a real joint period in which Hezbollah depended on Syria. Afterwards 2000 – 2011 developed into an equal partnership. Later on since the civil war broke out in 2011, the relationship has become closer and there has been a short-term reversal of roles. The constant quantity and essence of the relationship between the two sides is to rely on each other and make use of each other, while the change of regional situation is the eternal variable of the evolution of the relationship. Both Iran and Israel have a direct impact on the creation and development of this relationship. The fact that the two sides are united has a significant impact on both sides themselves and on the situation in Lebanon. As long as the Golan Heights issue exists and the state game covered by sectarianism persists, the complex relationship between the two sides will never fade away.

Keywords: Hezbollah; Lebanon; Syria; Syrian Civil War

The History, Current Situation and Prospect of United Nations Tribunal on Lebanon

Hu Yaohui

Abstract: United Nations tribunal on Lebanon is an international criminal court, which strove to solve the problem of the Lebanese cannot punish guilty and track down those of former prime minister Rafik Hariri assassination. Under the United Nations, for punishing the crime, it established a series of international mixed court, Such as the security council in 2007 set up a the special tribunal for Lebanon. The United Nations has led a number of the international mixed court of crime, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon is an international tribunal tried to interfere with an international judicial practice case. It is the United Nations over the sovereign state and directly against a sovereign state of the individual to take international judicial behavior. The establishment of the special court and the trial in Lebanon further enrich the theory and practice of international criminal law. Due to the two major political camps completed in the current domestic political situation in Lebanon, and continuing the spread of the Syrian crisis, Court of justice and efficiency is insufficient, which causes the Lebanese question special court prospects are grim.

Keywords: The Special Tribunal for Lebanon; The United Nations; Sovereign State; The International Criminal Law

A Study on the Motives and Possibilities of Turkey Joining the BRICS

Zeng Xianghong, Yang Meng

Abstract: On July 25, 2018, the Tenth BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was invited

to participate in the meeting, clearly expressed his desire to join the ‘BRICS regime’ during that summit. There were two kinds of factors leading Turkey to express its interest in joining the BRICS: the pushing factor was the denial of its integration into Europe by the Western countries, the pulling factor was the attraction of the BRICS to Turkey. Through analyzing the process of South Africa joining BRICS in terms of positional consistency, regional representation, expansion necessity and access procedurally, combined with the current internal and external situations faced by Turkey and the BRICS regime, this paper argues that with regards to possibility of Turkey’s joining BRICS, there have been some favorable conditions for Turkey to join BRICS, for example the BRICS currently has the necessity for expansion, and the relations between Turkey and the BRICS members are relatively stable, etc. At the same time, there are some challenges for Turkey to realize its desire, such as BRICS countries don’t want this regime to become an anti-Western alliance, the recent currency crisis in Turkey and the dissent voices within Turkey on the issue of joining the ‘BRICS regime’, and so on.

Keywords: Turkey; ‘BRICS Regime’; South Africa; Discourse of ‘BRICS has no influence’

Iraqi Jewish Aliyah Movement: Centred on the Al-Farhud Event in 1941

Yang Yulong

Abstract: The Al-Farhud event was an anti-Semitic violence that erupted in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, in 1941, and the external factors arising from the Al-Farhud event included anti-Semitic propaganda by Nazi Germany in Iraq, the negative response of the United Kingdom to the prevention of riots, and the spillover effects of the conflict in the Palestine; analysis from a domestic perspective, The political turmoil in the Iraqi state, the shift of State policy towards Jewish Community and the emergence of extreme nationalist ideologies are the main internal causes. The Al-Farhud event had a turning point on the history of Iraqi Jews, which

causing security anxiety among the Jewish community and triggering the scale-up of the Iraqi Jewish Ariayh movement; it changed the relationship between the Jewish community in Iraq and the Palestine Jewish Community, allowing the latter to gradually adjust their attitudes and policies towards the eastern Jewish issue, Yishuv then actively intervened in and mobilized the Jewish Ariayh movement in the Arab countries of the Middle East. Finally, the Al-Farhud has shaken the Jewish community's sense of identity with the Iraqi state.

Keywords: Al-Farhud; Iraqi Jews; Iraq; Arabs

Current Political Development in Kyrgyzstan and Its Future Direction

Kang Lina

Abstract: In 2017, the most important political event of Kyrgyzstan was the presidential election which was held on October 15th. The result of the election were unexpected, meanwhile had some predictable elements. Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeenbekov (referred to as Jeenbekov) was elected directly as the fifth president of Kyrgyzstan in the first round. Considering two coups in 2005 and 2010 in Kyrgyzstan, this election is of great significance. This is the first time that Kyrgyzstan has ended the term of the presidential election after 1991 and passed the elections in a smooth manner. This paper intends to summarize the stability of the election by summarizing the situation of the presidential election in 2017, focusing on the three influence factors for this election: traditional political culture of tribalism, the gradual stabilization of the domestic situation in Atambayev's (full name is Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev) tenure, the importance of developing relations with neighboring countries, and to analyse the ruling situation of new president Jeenbekov.

Keywords: Kyrgyzstan; the Presidential Election; ЖЭЭНБЕКОВ