



The Possibility and Necessity of Casting the Consciousness of Chinese National Community with the Spirit of Chinese Traditional Culture

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Abstract. There is a close relationship between the spirit of Chinese traditional culture and the consciousness of Chinese national community. The thought of “harmony” of the spirit of Chinese traditional culture from the perspective of national community consciousness provides a value premise for casting the consciousness of Chinese national community, and the thought of “great unification” provides conceptual support for casting the consciousness of Chinese national community. Building a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation with the spirit of Chinese traditional culture is the need to build a common spiritual home of the Chinese nation and provide Chinese wisdom for solving human problems.

Keywords: Spirit of Chinese traditional culture · The consciousness of Chinese national community · Spiritual home

1 Introduction

There is a close relationship between traditional culture and the consciousness of national community. Based on the background of the times, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to explore the relationship between the spirit of Chinese traditional culture and the consciousness of Chinese national community, so as to analyze the possibility and necessity of casting the consciousness of Chinese national community with the spirit of Chinese traditional culture.

2 The Consciousness of Chinese National Community and the Connotation of Chinese Traditional Cultural Spirit

The consciousness of Chinese national community contains three levels: ethnic identity, cultural identity and national identity. The spirit of Chinese traditional culture from the perspective of national community consciousness has unique connotation.

2.1 The Connotation of Chinese National Community Consciousness

National community is a national synthesis formed in a certain region with special historical and cultural ties, stable economic activities and psychological quality. The formation of a community based on the historical and collective values of the Chinese nation. The consciousness of Chinese national community is the blood, geographical and spiritual basis of mutual recognition formed by all Chinese nationalities on the basis of pluralistic and integrated structure. The consciousness of Chinese national community contains three levels: ethnic identity, cultural identity and national identity.

Ethnic identity is the foundation. “ethnic identity is the expression of national independence and integrity”. [1] The essence of ethnic identity is an external manifestation of a sense of responsibility and belonging. When people have a strong sense of belonging and a high sense of responsibility for the group they live in, ethnic identity can be realized. Its emergence is not only restricted by natural environment and geographical factors, but also deeply branded with blood and history. On the land of China, the key to ethnic identity lies in the recognition of the concept of the Chinese nation. Although there are many ethnic minorities, they are all in the big family of the Chinese nation in the final analysis. The existence of Chinese traditional culture goes hand in hand with the existence of ethnic culture. As a kind of “ethnic belonging” in people’s hearts, ethnic identity not only recognizes the existence of ethnic minorities and their culture, but also respects and recognizes their history and living habits. It is the basis of all social identity.

Cultural identity is the spiritual link. Fundamentally speaking, cultural identity is a kind of basic value identity. It is people’s basic identity for the most meaningful things in the nation. It plays a spiritual adhesive role of consensus within the nation and determines whether the national community can survive and develop. As a deeper identity, it plays an important role of spiritual bond in a national community. It can be said that “while coordinating national identity and national identity, cultural identity is like a lubricant”. [2].

National identity is fundamental. National identity includes not only the identity of sovereignty and territory, but also the identity of values, as well as the identity of history and culture. Ethnic identity is not only closely related to national identity, but also very different. They are people’s inner ideas or consciousness, but the focus and perspective are completely different. Paying attention to their own ethnic groups is the main perspective of ethnic identity. Based on the country is the focus of national identity. The former is value identity, and the latter tends to political identity.

2.2 The Spirit of Chinese Traditional Culture from the Perspective of National Community Consciousness

Chinese traditional culture is a kind of national culture reflecting national characteristics and features, which is integrated by the evolution of Chinese civilization. It is the overall representation of various ideological, cultural and conceptual forms in national history. It is a culture with distinctive national characteristics, long history, broad and profound connotation and fine tradition created by the Chinese nation and its ancestors, inherited and developed by the Chinese nation from generation to generation. The spirit of Chinese traditional culture is the basic spirit of traditional Chinese culture. It is the ideological

basis for the long-term development of Chinese traditional culture, the subtle internal driving force in the process of cultural development and the basic thought guiding the continuous progress of national culture. Different scholars have different generalizations of the spirit of Chinese traditional culture, some of which are summarized as the main spirit of people-oriented, the spirit of perseverance of combining hardness and softness, the spirit of neutralization among noble monks, the spirit of tolerance of harmony but difference, and the humanitarian spirit of benevolent love; Some of them are summarized as the enterprising spirit of self-improvement, vigorous and promising, the harmonious spirit of valuing peace and differences, the people-oriented thought of the people as the foundation of the country and valuing the king less, and the thought of the unity of heaven and man, the unity of people and things, and the unity of man and nature; Some are summarized as vigorous and promising, harmony with China, the use of virtue, and the coordination between heaven and man. From the perspective of national community consciousness, the spirit of Chinese traditional culture mainly includes the thought of “harmony” and the thought of “great unification”.

2.2.1 The Thought of “Harmony”

In Chinese traditional culture, “harmony” embodies the highest pursuit of the values of traditional culture. It not only summarizes all the contents of the Chinese people’s basic cosmology, but also provides the basic guiding principles for the Chinese people in dealing with people and things. It is contained in traditional culture as a complete ideological system. The pursuit of peace and harmony has become one of the basic characteristics of Chinese traditional culture. China’s thought of “harmony” has a long history. This “harmony” culture includes the basic national concept, social viewpoint and moral cognition of the Chinese nation. It is the basic embodiment of the Chinese national spirit, such as the integration of family and country, the unity of heaven and man, harmony and reality. As time goes by, everything has changed, but the “harmony” culture has always been inherited and developed by the Chinese nation. Ethnic groups are peaceful and friendly, and neighbours and friends live in harmony, as well as the social atmosphere is harmonious and friendly. Therefore, as the highest value pursuit of Chinese traditional culture, “harmony” is the fundamental goal of doing everything well and a broad and profound system.

2.2.2 The Thought of “Great Unification”

The idea of “great unification” began in the Spring and Autumn period and the Warring States period. The book, named *Gongyang Zhuan*, put forward: “Why say Zhou dynasty’ first month? It was to respect the emperor’s great unification over the world.” Here, greatness means respect and attention; Unification refers to the unified leadership of the emperor of Zhou over the princes of the world. Dong Zhongshu of the Western Han Dynasty interpreted it as: it is natural to regard unity as the fundamental trend of the existence and development of things. Through the inheritance and development of the Confucian thought of “great unification”, people in later generations continue to strengthen and promote the development of the thought of “great unification”, which has

become an important part of the spiritual pursuit of the Chinese nation. It is deeply contained in the hearts of the Chinese people and the spiritual pursuit of the Chinese people. Throughout China's history of more than 5000 years, China's social development has always followed the track of national "great unification". The idea of "great unification" has become the main melody of the historical evolution of the Chinese nation. In the process of development, various ethnic groups have exchanged and integrated, forming a rich and colorful Chinese civilization. Since the Qin and Han Dynasties, the thought of "great unification" has always been the political pursuit of the rulers of all dynasties. Both Han and ethnic minorities have taken "great unification" as their goal, and gradually evolved into the core content of the traditional political culture of the Chinese nation. As an important mode of thinking about ethnic identity and national identity, the concept of "great unification" plays a certain role in controlling and promoting the people of all ethnic groups to safeguard the reunification of the motherland and national unity. It is an important spiritual pillar for the Chinese nation to breathe together and share a common destiny for a long time, and the soul of the Chinese national culture.

3 The Possibility of Casting the Consciousness of Chinese National Community with the Spirit of Chinese Traditional Culture

There is a close relationship between the consciousness of Chinese national community and Chinese traditional culture. The recognition of Chinese traditional culture is the acceptance and recognition of the millennium history and core values of the Chinese nation, and it is the psychological basis of Chinese national identity. The sense of identity and belonging of all Chinese nations to Chinese traditional culture transcending the nation, region and national boundaries, and has become the common psychological trait of the Chinese nation. This cultural identity, as a cultural integration element internalized in the heart, objectively contributed to the strong cohesion of the Chinese nation, so that the Chinese civilization has survived for thousands of years.

The thought of "harmony" provides a value premise for casting the consciousness of Chinese national community. The Chinese nation has always pursued the thought of "harmony" and developed it into a complete ideological system. "Harmony" is not only the basic starting point for dealing with the relationship between people and looking at the changes of things, but also the basic idea of closely uniting the Chinese nation. "Harmony" has promoted the mutual tolerance and common development of the Chinese nation, and "harmony" has forged and consolidated the sense of community of the Chinese nation. As independent individuals, people's perception of things and their inner pursuit are always inconsistent. However, in order to achieve the basic balance of getting what they want and getting what they want to gain, we must fully understand and accept the concept of "harmony but difference". The world is the world of harmony, not the same world; the existing state of the world is harmony but difference. Although harmony is different, this is the original face hidden under the surface of mistakes. We should see and understand differences. When treating and dealing with things, we should not only look at them from the local perspective. On the basis of doing a good job in local details and dealing with the relationship between them, we must coordinate the overall situation, make the best use of everything, and realize unity in diversity. This is not only

the requirement for the coordinator, but also the state that local people and things must achieve. “Harmony” and “middle” are closely connected, and the coincidence of the two states is called “Neutralization”.

The thought of “great unification” provides conceptual support for casting the consciousness of Chinese national community. Chinese dynasties have changed, but the thought of “great unification” behind it has been firmly existing, and gradually sublimated into an ideology, values and the common memory of the Chinese people, internalized into the strong cultural beliefs and political forces of the Chinese nation, and penetrated into the psychology and actions of the Chinese people. First of all, the thought of “great unification” emphasizes unity and opposes division. The concept that separation must be united for a long time, which is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. The Chinese will never allow acts that threaten and undermine national unity to exist. Secondly, national integration has become an important means to realize national identity and forge a strong sense of community. “The power structure is fundamentally set and strengthened by society and culture.” [3] As the soul of the political thought of the Chinese nation, the thought of “great unity” provides a political guarantee for the development of a harmonious and diverse society. The thought of pluralistic and integrated culture is pregnant, developed and mature, which promotes the improvement of the consciousness of the Chinese nation’s community, and realizes all-round value integration. Finally, the spirit of inclusiveness and mutual learning contained in the concept of “great unification” provides a path and strategy for the improvement of the consciousness of the Chinese national community. “Great unification” recognizes and accepts the existence of differences, takes an inclusive attitude towards all ethnic groups, realizes the overall unity in the development of harmony but differences, and casts a strong sense of the Chinese nation community. It is inseparable from this inclusive understanding of multiculturalism, multiple lifestyles and diverse ethnic characteristics. [4].

4 The Necessity of Casting the Consciousness of Chinese National Community with the Spirit of Chinese Traditional Culture

Chinese traditional culture is the common spiritual home of the Chinese nation. Casting the awareness of the Chinese national community with Chinese traditional culture is the need to build the common spiritual home of the Chinese nation and provide Chinese wisdom for solving human problems.

4.1 The Need of Building the Common Spiritual Home of the Chinese Nation

As the ideological soul and spiritual blood of the Chinese nation, Chinese traditional culture gives full play to the important value of condensing ideological consensus and gathering spiritual strength. It is imperative to enhance cultural identity as a spiritual guide to strengthen the unity of all ethnic groups and build a common spiritual home of the Chinese nation.

Chinese traditional culture has cultivated the spiritual world of the Chinese nation and embodied the value pursuit of the Chinese nation. The characteristics and endowments of the Chinese nation have not only cast the Chinese civilization that has developed for

thousands of years, but also have a profound impact on the development and progress of contemporary China and the spiritual world of contemporary Chinese people. The Chinese nation is a community of shared destiny characterized by “you have me in you, I have you in me” in national consciousness and “pluralistic and integrated pattern” in structure. [5] In order to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, all ethnic groups with Chinese blood should center on Chinese traditional culture, then going through interaction, exchanging and blending with each other on the premise of respecting differences, tolerance and mutual learning. Through 5000 years of trials and hardships, a pluralistic and integrated community with a strong sense of cohesion and national belonging has gradually formed in the process of integration and communication with consanguinity.

It is determined by the objective conditions that China, as a multi-ethnic country, has a large population, wide distribution and high degree of mixed living of all ethnic groups; it is the realistic result of the pluralistic and integrated pattern of the Chinese nation. History shows that the Chinese nation prospers and loses, as all ethnic groups are a community of shared destiny. As a lasting and profound force, cultural identity can build consensus, gather strength and stick to the position of Chinese traditional culture. It is an inevitable choice and important magic weapon to enhance the Chinese spirit. Only by making good use of the powerful spiritual weapon of Chinese traditional culture can we gather the most powerful spiritual force of the Chinese nation. [6].

4.2 The Need to Provide Chinese Wisdom for Solving Human Problems

The 2011 white paper on China’s Peaceful Development proposed to find a new development concept in line with the common interests and values of mankind from a new perspective of “community of shared destiny”. Today, with the rapid development of globalization, people all over the world are closely linked and inseparable. Building a community with a shared future for mankind has become the consensus of the international community.

Promoting the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind is the eternal feelings of the Chinese civilization, the Chinese plan for the CPC to accurately grasp the general trend of the world and make positive contributions, and the Chinese strength for the Chinese nation to contribute to the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind with practical actions. It is a new internal requirement put forward by human development to a new stage. At the same time, it also presents a new way to solve new contradictions and problems in the process of human development. It is a new scheme put forward by Chinese wisdom for human progress. China’s future is closely linked with its own future. Casting the awareness of the Chinese national community is not only a powerful boost to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, but also provides a theoretical basis and basis for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

5 Conclusion

In view of the close relationship between traditional culture and the sense of national community, and the possibility and necessity of building a strong sense of Chinese

national community with the spirit of Chinese traditional culture, we must inherit and carry forward the excellent Chinese traditional culture, especially the “harmony” and “great unification” ideas, and carry out creative transformation and innovative development to promote national cultural identity and national identity, So as to strengthen the consciousness of the Chinese nation community and play its due role in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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