



# Through Appreciation and Analysis of Liquor Image to Appreciate the Beauty of Ancient Poems

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**Abstract.** The meaning of image in ancient poems is self-evident. There are many images in ancient Chinese poems, from the universe of the moon and the sun to flowers, fish and insects, from natural emotions to humanistic construction. It contains the author's description of the scene with his eyes, and at the same time, it is full of rich and delicate emotions or profound philosophical implications of the poet. Most of the images come from the poet's real life, and they are modified by their own emotions. In the history of Chinese literature, there has always been an indiscordance between poets and liquor. Liquor has always been a kind of aesthetic image beloved by Chinese poets, which has rich connotation and cultural significance. This kind of image plays a role in rendering artistic conception and conveying feelings in the poems. Many poets have incorporated liquor into their poems, and endowed them with subjective feelings, making such poems fragrant and intoxicating.

**Keywords:** Image · Ancient poems · Liquor image

## 1 Introduction

In the history of Chinese literature, poets and wine have always been inseparable. "Wine" has always been a kind of aesthetic image favored by Chinese poets, which has rich connotation and cultural significance. This kind of image plays a role in rendering artistic conception and conveying emotion in the poetry. There are many poets who integrate "wine" into their poems, and give the poet's subjective feelings, which makes this kind of poetry fragrant and intoxicating. As an important image in traditional Chinese poem, "liquor" has been endowed with many image connotations in the works of ancient poets, and "liquor" also presents various colors, such as the liquor of unbridle, the liquor of stirring, the liquor of joy, and the liquor of destitution, which reflects the poet's poetic feelings from different perspectives. Therefore, image is the focus to understand the connotation of the theme of poetry, image analysis is the key to understand the poet's creation style and creation background.

## 2 Formation and Evolution of Liquor Image

Image is a very old concept in the history of Chinese poetics and a unique aesthetic category of Chinese classical poetics. Until today, the concept of image is still in the stage of continuous development and improvement.

### 2.1 Concept Definition

#### 1. Image

The word “image” originated in the Book of Zhouyi, “Confucius said, ‘The book is not full of words, words. ‘But the saint’s will is invisible. The Master said, ‘The sages set up images to give full play to their ideas, set up hexagrams to give full play to their falseness, and set up speeches to give full play to their words.’” First entered and was used in the field of literary creation, and developed the most Chinese characteristic “freehand” spirit from the primary idea of “ideographic image”, which was generally marked by Liu Xie’s “Wenxin Diao Long”. As people often quoted “Wen Xin Diao long · Shensi” in the “mysterious solution of the slaughter, looking for sound and ink; Alone according to the artisan, voyeuristic image and transport jin, this cover the first art of the text, the big end of the plan.”

Image theory was developed in the Tang and Song Dynasties. Wang Changling’s Shi Ge is “a long time of careful thinking, without the image, searching for the image, the heart into the environment”. Wang Changling divided poems into three levels: the first level is the scenery; The second level is emotional state; The third layer is the land of imagery. “Heart” and “environment” blend here to form the image, forming the basic unit of poetic conception.

Yan Yu’s theory of image further deepened the theory of image in Song Dynasty. During this period, images became more colorful. For example, “image table” and “representational image” were condensed concepts in this period.

To sum up, the author understands image as the basic unit that constitutes the content of poems and creates the artistic conception of poems. After the precipitation of time, these images show their own unique charm in ancient poems. For the students who just come into contact with the appreciation of ancient poems in junior high school, it is very important to understand its connotation and experience its significance.

#### 2. Liquor Image

China is the birthplace of liquor, the so-called one side of water and soil nourish one side of people, in this land of China, liquor and liquor culture show the rich connotation also reflects the unique charm of Chinese culture. As an important branch of image, humanistic image has its own unique connotation and existential significance. Liquor is one of the most important cultural images in the works of Chinese literati. When you look at Chinese classical poetics, you can always smell the fragrance of liquor.

In Shuo Wen Jie Zi, Xu Shen of the Eastern Han Dynasty interpreted it as “liquor, it is also, so the good and evil of human nature, from water to unitary, unitary also sound. One said to make also, good and bad made also. The ancient Yi Di liquor mash, Yu taste

the beauty, then Shu Yi Di, Du Kang Shu liquor.” It can be seen that liquor plays a very important role in shaping people’s quality and character.

Combining with the concept of image in classical poems, we can draw the conclusion that the image of liquor studied in this paper is a specific humanistic image that the poet can express his inner world and ideal ambition through his own aesthetic exercise and subjective emotion in the process of creation.

## 2.2 The Development of the Image of Liquor in the History of Literature

### 1. The origin of liquor image – the Pre-Qin period

Many works in the pre Qin period involve liquor. Liquor and “poetry” left many masterpieces when they first met in the Book of Songs. In the Book of Songs, Daya, Drunken, the saying “Drunken and satisfied” is the origin of China’s “liquor culture”. In “Southern Zhou, Ear Roll”, “I am black and yellow, and I will drink liquor from the other side, so as not to hurt forever.” He began to comfort the sadness of parting with liquor. There are 305 pieces in the Book of Songs, 55 of which mention liquor. The word liquor has appeared 63 times among them. These poems containing liquor are also rich in content, including drinking etiquette, drinking occasions, functions and standards.

Confucius, as the representative of Confucian culture, mostly embodied the culture of rites and music in his thoughts. Confucius stood in the position of Confucian culture and looked at liquor from the perspective of etiquette, and proposed the concept of liquor culture based on etiquette. When talking about the “spirit of Dionysus” and the concept of “liquor culture” in China, Zhuangzi must not be ignored except Confucius. Zhuangzi chose the opposite path to Confucius to discuss the “concept of Dionysus”. In *Chuang Tzu Sundries · Fisherman*, he mentioned that “loyalty is based on attack, and drinking is based on pleasure” [5]. From this, we can see that in Zhuangzi’s ideology, drinking is for self-satisfaction and self-enjoyment, not for the sake of observing etiquette as advocated by Confucianism.

### 2. The development of liquor image – from Han to Wei and Jin Dynasties

Liquor is a cultural image often appeared in literary works of the Han Dynasty. The Han Dynasty inherited the Confucian idea of controlling liquor with courtesy in drinking habits, leading to the prevalence of drinking in the Han Dynasty. The rulers relaxed the control of liquor, and the shops selling liquor gradually increased. Liquor began to become common, whether the common people or the lords and nobles could drink. “Han book · food annals” contained “liquor, the beauty of the day Lu, the emperor so take care of the world, enjoy praying, help aging disease. The meeting of the Hundred gifts must be liquor. Now the liquor of the world, there is no ceremony to raise; If you let it go, it will cost money and hurt the people.” Raising the world with liquor is the latest understanding of liquor in the Han Dynasty, that is, the most important function of liquor is not to recuperate the body, but to rebuild people’s character. Generally speaking, liquor plays a very important role in enriching people’s spiritual world and adjusting people’s mental state.

The Wei and Jin Dynasties were a period of sexual liberation. The freedom consciousness of literati was awakened and the significance of drinking alone was particularly prominent in this period. Celebrities in the Wei and Jin Dynasties often drank

themselves under the table, and their artistic imagination reached its peak under the drunken condition. The spirit of Dionysus in Wei and Jin works is also very obvious. “The Jin people often say that there are drunken people who drink alcohol, but this does not necessarily mean the liquor. When it is difficult to cover the square, people are afraid of disaster, but drunk, can be coarse and worldly.” It shows that through drinking, people in Wei and Jin Dynasties gained spiritual strength to fight against the famous religion and break free from the bondage of the secular world.

### **3. The enrichment and deepening of the image of liquor – Tang and Song Dynasties**

Since the Tang Dynasty, the phenomenon that liquor as a humanistic image has been put into poems works by poets is more and more frequent. The “Dionysian spirit” also flourished during this period. Many excellent works in the Tang and Song dynasties were written by poets in the state of Dionysus. In Li Bai and Du Fu, Mr. Guo Moruo also counted that “in Li Bai’s poems, the items directly related to ‘liquor’ accounted for 70%; In Du Fu’s poems, the items directly related to liquor account for 21 percent. Bai Juyi, who is known as “Mr. Drunk Yin”, loves liquor, and nearly one third of his poems are directly related to liquor. It is not difficult to see that liquor, as a flavoring agent, stimulated and mobilized the creative enthusiasm of the three poets and created a vast number of excellent works. Finally, the three of them also went together with liquor, and truly realized their co-existence with liquor. In the combination of “poems” and liquor, the poet can express his depression and desire to join the world well. The more frequently the poets drank, the deeper the liquor fragrance of the Tang Dynasty. It can be said that poems and liquor enriched the spiritual world of the Tang Dynasty poets.

In the early years of the Northern Song Dynasty, the rulers carried out the policy of monopoly selling liquor and koji, and the production of liquor was strictly controlled by the central government. Under the strict control of the central government, the liquor industry has become more and more prosperous. Liquor is becoming more and more common, and people’s understanding of liquor is becoming more and more profound. Neo-confucianism flourished in the Song Dynasty, forming a Neo-Confucianism system centered on Confucianism. The literati of Song Dynasty also expressed their ideal ambition through liquor. Shao Yong loved to drink. He pursued to be one with heaven and earth, to pursue and strengthen his own heart in the worldly world. Every time he drank, he only tasted it, leaving himself in the state of being just drunk. He believed that liquor should exceed the secular regulations, and reach the realm of unity between nature and man.

Since the Song Dynasty, literati’s enthusiasm for liquor gradually decreased, which has a lot to do with the mainstream thought of the society at that time. However, liquor has always been closely related to “poems”, which can still release the poet’s emotion and provide the poet with new creative enthusiasm and possibility.

### **3 Analysis of the Causes of Liquor Becoming an Important Image**

Looking back at classical poems, liquor seems to have become an indispensable part of the poet’s creation. From the Book of Songs, liquor, as one of the drinks widely used in people’s life, began to enter the ranks of poems. Tao Yuan ming in Wei and Jin

Dynasties developed the poetic liquor culture with a series of poems “Drinking”. But it is Li Bai and Du Fu who are obsessed with it. Literati love liquor, liquor also promoted the development of classical poems, but literati love liquor so far, the reasons can be explained from the following aspects.

### 3.1 Interest

As a common drink in ancient times, many poets were only interested in liquor. Either for medicine or as usual. Poets only praise or criticize it, and do not show excessive dependence [1].

### 3.2 Detached from Reality, Retreat Scattered Thousands of Sorrow

Under the influence of alcohol, temporary paralysis can lead the poet to break away from the shackles of reality and indulge in his own world. He drank liquor and made poems, and wrote liquor in his poems. The image of liquor also becomes an independent existence under the poet’s chant. After drinking, Li Bai can forget the wandering when he first entered Chang ‘an, pointing to the “long wind and waves will sometimes, straight hanging cloud sail to help the sea” of indignation; After drinking, he can also temporarily put down the depression of “giving gold and releasing it back”, and stay in the carnival of “life must be happy, don’t make the golden bottle empty to the moon”. Under the action of liquor, the poet can escape the frustration in reality, beyond the limits of external things, to a moment of comfort. In fact, more poets take liquor as a means to relieve themselves, that is, we often say that drinking sorrow [2]. In Setting Sun, Du Fu expressed his difficulties in channelling thousands of sorrows with the phrase “who makes you from the muddy mash and dissipates thousands of sorrows with a drink”. In Song Dynasty, Lu You also expressed his happiness after drinking by saying that “idle sorrow is like flying snow, which melts when you drink” and “nine rings of treasure with light, it is better to leave your cheeks red”.

### 3.3 To Speak for Liquor, Assist Emotional Expression

Sometimes the poet will use liquor to enhance his emotional intention. Sometimes it is the joy of “putting liquor under the hedge”; Sometimes it is “to persuade you to do a cup of liquor, the west out of the sun without a reason” the kind of not give up simile; Sometimes it is “late day to snow, can drink a cup of no” warm to drink hot; Sometimes is “drunken battlefield Jun Mo laugh, ancient war several people back” laugh under the sad. These feelings, whether joyful or sad, are filled with the poet’s liquor, mixed with their true nature, and drunk together. Don’t say, but let people always feel [3].

## 4 Cultural Connotation Analysis of the Image of Liquor

Liquor, as one of the most common images in poems, sometimes appears in the exchange of guests. It is the pleasure of “listening to flute and drum in drunkenness”. Sometimes it also appears in the dead of night, is “One bottle for Jiang Yue” sprinkled liquor to express their feelings [4].

#### 4.1 Drink to Drown Your Sorrows

In Chinese poems, the image of liquor is closely related to sorrow. If you are familiar with ancient Chinese poems, you will find that liquor is used in all expressions of sadness.

Fan Zhongyan in “Su curtain block (blue sky, yellow leaf ground)” wrote “the moon building high rest alone, liquor into the sad heart, into acacia tears.” In this word, liquor is closely associated with the sorrow of missing someone. Li Bai wrote in *Drinking Alone under the Moon*, “A pot of liquor among flowers, drinking alone, no blind date.” The poem connects liquor with the sorrow of loneliness. Du Fu wrote in *Climbing Heights*, “Hardship and bitterness hate heavy frost temples, down and out the new cup of liquor.” From between the lines, we can feel the plight of Du Fu’s life and his situation of drowning his sorrows in alcohol [5]. Generally speaking, the image of liquor is closely combined with the expression of melancholy, so the term “sad liquor” appears. However, fairy poet Li Bai clearly wrote in *Xuanxuan Xie Tiao Beilou Jiebei School Shushuyun* that “the tiao breaks up the water and the water flows more, raising the glass to relieve sorrow more.” It can be seen that liquor can indeed relieve sorrow, but its effect is short-lived, after the liquor wakes up, it will only add sorrow. Based on this, in life, encounter difficulties to grasp the nettle, must not drink sorrow, make themselves depressed. As Liu Yuxi wrote in “Reward Lotte Yangzhou at the beginning of the banquet to see Gift”, “Today listen to a song, temporarily with a cup of liquor long spirit.” Even if I am in trouble, I will keep my spirits up and meet my better self.

#### 4.2 Enjoying One’s Feelings with Liquor

Liquor can not only show melancholy, it can also add to the fun, so in all kinds of happy places, the appearance rate of liquor is very high. Reading the summary of ancient poems, we will find that many poets wrote that the liquor party appeared in a relatively happy place, or banquet, or happy gathering [6].

Li Bai wrote in “The Road is Difficult” that “Gold bottle sake bucket ten thousand, jade plate treasure shame straight ten thousand money”. The sake in this poem appeared on the occasion of banquet. Meng Haoran in the “old friend village” wrote “open Xuan noodles farm, liquor words mulberry ma”, here the mulberry ma specific guidance daily, home, that is to say, while drinking, while chatting about home, this is a relatively warm scene. In addition, Du Fu in the “Hear the official army to take over the North of Henan River”, there is a description that “singing in the day must be drunk, youth is good companion to return home”, this poem was written after the recovery of rivers and mountains, joy overflow in words, so the poet should sing to celebrate, but also with liquor to add to the fun. Lu You also has the description of “Mo Xiao farmer’s labjiu muddy, and the chicken and dolphins in good years” in “Touring Shanxi Village”. The “labjiu” here is mostly reunion liquor, so the liquor here is a tool for happiness. In short, the appearance of liquor in banquet occasions, generally is to do with. In addition, “drink to speak truth” is the consensus of contemporary people. Drinking is conducive to the promotion of feelings between friends, so in the communication between friends, alcohol is an indispensable tool. “Green ants in new fermented liquor, red mud small stove, late days to snow, can drink a cup of no” is an invitation to friends, “happy happy thousand day liquor” is a celebration of good things. In short, it is a tradition to borrow liquor to enjoy oneself, so in the banquet occasion, the importance of liquor is self-evident.

### 4.3 Send Friends and Give a Farewell Dinner

The appearance of liquor in ancient poems also means farewell dinner. If you are familiar with ancient poems, you will find that the two images that often appear in farewell dinner poems are liquor and willows. This article mainly analyzes the specific use of liquor.

The well-known “persuade you to drink more, go out of the Yangguan without reason” from Wang Wei’s “Song and Yuan Two Ambassador Anxi”, which has the meaning of care, solemn liquor. Li Bai wrote in Jinling Restaurant Farewell, “The wind blows willow flowers all over the shop, and Wu Ji presses the liquor to call customers to taste [7]. Jinling children to send, want to do not each cup. Please ask Dongshui water, don’t mean and who is long.” In this poem, liquor as a farewell image, but more wish meaning. Simply speaking, as an important tool for farewell, the appearance of liquor in poems has multiple meanings, such as giving up and wishing. Clearly understanding the specific function of liquor has a significant effect on understanding poems.

## 5 Conclusions

To sum up, liquor culture is an important part of Chinese traditional culture and occupies an important position in China’s cultural system. As an important drink in China, liquor has different meanings in different occasions. From a realistic perspective, there will be liquor in happy places and liquor in sad places. When friends come from afar, liquor is an indispensable tool to wash the dust. When friends go to afar, liquor is also an indispensable tool. It can be said that there are traces of liquor in all aspects of our lives. It is precisely because liquor is integrated into people’s lives, so in ancient poetry, liquor is integrated with people’s thoughts and feelings, so in poetry and articles in different scenes, liquor is given different meanings.

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