

Discuss the Poetic of TangYin's "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan"

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Abstract. Tang Yin has a poem of "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan", it has always been understood by the academics that the author just used a literary quotation to express his own worry and sorrow of unrecognized talent. The literary quotation is the round silk fan has no use in autumn and discarded into the comers by people. However, they haven't comprehends the subtleties of the poem. Combined by Tang Yin's poem in painting and his life experiences and his other works of poetry and painting, we can realize the image of Tang Yin's round silk fan does not just stay in this level. Tang Yin also takes this image to express his realm of mind. Although he suffered the inconstancy of human relationships and felled the underappreciated, but precisely because of these experiences, he achieved to a deeper realms of a carefree type without a single worry and without comparing anything.

Tang Yin's figure painting "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan", now Collected in Shanghai Museum. In the picture, a lady who executed a fan stands still, with a desolated expression, forlornly, with the lake behind sparse bamboo stone embellishment. This technological painting is used Chinese traditional painting medium of ink and written on absorbent paper, coexisted with slightly freehand. In the painting, a beautiful lady stands with her clothing lines ups and setback. The layout of this picture is nutshell and sprawl out in zigzag manner. The painting uses the edges to point out the ladies hair, the light ink hook the ladies pine, and leaving a large blank in the lower right corner, echoed of the darker ink stone lake, show a picture of the ink hearted continuity and potential flow, making the whole picture showing the ink shades continuity and flow. The upper and the left of the screen is relative emptiness, the poem in the left is a long line down and add the emptiness, so that the entire picture has a sense of balance. However, it might strike one as interested that the place which the lady stand in this painting is the degree of slope, the slope is over thirty, the lady's body is slightly side and standing against the slope. In fact, this is an extremely uncomfortable position and has a significant instability. In this case, the painter treated the train of the lady's dress which swept in the ground as a rise in L-shaped. This stable L-shape makes the painting characters can fight with the oncoming autumn flow, not only to increase the stability of the characters, but also continuation of the ink painting S-type trend. Even so, the uncomfortable posture of the beautiful lady in painting, the imbalance of the screen still can't be completely hidden.

Looking at the ancient traditional Chinese paintings of beautiful women, if they just pivot around the characters and not emphasize the plot, the painter basically have no background or just embellished by a few bamboo stems in the lake stone corner. However, all of them focus on the stability of the screen and the balance of the character; hardly make the beautiful ladies in a shaky foothold situation. For example, Zhang Xuan and Zhou Fang's Paintings of "Beautiful Women" in Tang dynasty, Zhou Lang's "Du Qiu figure" in Yuan dynasty, Ren Xiong's landscape painting "Yao Gong Qiu Fan figure" and Fei Danxu's "The round silk fan on autumn figure" in Qing dynasty, including Tang Yin's another painting "Mencius Shu Palace Prostitutes Figure". These paintings have no background or the background is interior courtyard and the ground is flat, the characters are relatively stable.

Therefore, the artistic theme and esthetic aroma of "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan" in the Portraits of lady is quite unique. In other portraits, the author seldom put the characters into an

unstable situation in their paintings. However, Xu Wei actually used this method in Ming dynasty; one of Xu Wei's book character screens is the example. In this painting, the whole picture shows a goods-shaped composition and there is a tree swaying in the wind in the lower left of the Painting, with the edges dyed to show the strength winds. The lower right with the light ink depict the rocks and at the top of the mountain standing a person, whose pine hovering under the mountain blowing, this picture showing a quite unstable trend. It is probably because of the whole picture patterned with goods-shaped and the composition contains the stability inherent, dispelled the precarious situation in painting character, to making the climber not stand down. So does Xu Wei's another picture "Ludi fishing boat figure", the stern has shown a 45-degree angle. A fisherman who was standing on it bumps ups and downs, managed to support. However, this painting would have been emphasized the dynamic, which is different from the "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan", who intent to focusing static performance. Therefore, in Tang Yin's painting, the lady standing in the wind add a layer of arduous that demand a tiny bit of land in the difficult environment.

His painting "Ladies Playing with Fans" has always been understood by the academics that the author just used a literary quotation to express his own worry and sorrow of unrecognized talent [1]. The literary quotation is the round silk fan has no use in autumn and discarded into the comers by people. The painter and collector, Xiang Yuanbian in Ming Dynasty, has a comment that "Mr. Tang Ziwei is a talented and romantic scholar, yet he was slander and discard, undervalued and unappreciated by others. Although he is just cynical to make himself feel better, he has to endure people's insults. This picture and the poem, expressed the author's self-comfortable and self-sorrowful. [2]" Although the painting lady just looked wistful, with a gracious gesture and no extreme grief, but people still used, "grief", "sad" and other manifestations of extreme emotional words to describe her demeanor.

In fact, the painting whose themes were "fine silk fan" and "beautiful ladies" did not begin from Tang Yin in history; the images of the fine silk fan were not the same, too. Zhou Fang has "Ladies Playing with Fans" in Tang Dynasty. But unlike Tangyin's painting, Zhou Fang takes the ladies as the center of the whole picture; the fine silk fan was just decorated the painting and the wealth palace life. There has no more emotional metaphor in the picture. In Ren Xiong's landscape painting "Yao Gong Qiu Fan figure", parrot and fine silk fan also fall into this category, although the painting named "fine silk fan in autumn", but there is no sense of any bleak. How about Fei Danxu's "The round silk fan on autumn figure" in Qing dynasty? It also takes the same theme of "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan" in the Portraits of Maid, but he only use simple smooth ink to depict an ethereal artistic conception, we just see fresh fall silent and there is no feeling of desolation.

Only the image of Tang Yin's "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan" has been widely extended, this is mainly because the poem which was written in the painting. He says: "The fans have been put up in the autumn. What makes the beautiful lady depressed? Please look the world situation carefully. Most people follow the crowd." The poetry and painting interpreted with each other and extend the inner meaning of the round silk fan. Autumn is coming, the wind is frosty and the dew is cold, the round silk fan has no need to exist and should be covered up, this is consistent with the law of life phenomenon. The authors used the word of "put up" to represents the recognition of such usual behavior. However, faced with this natural affair, the author has used a set to ask, what is the reason brought back the beauty lady's sad once again? Next, the reader does not need to think, the author himself answered, it was because the beauty lady thinks of the round silk fan should be put up, then thinks further that most people are flatter in authority, the human relationships are inconstancy and weak. Therefore, it brought back the lady's grief and made her has a sigh again. "Please look the world situation carefully. Most people follow the crowd." This sentence tells the scenario slowly and flatly, it not expresses the indignation of human's cheap and hard judgment, but expresses his understand of human's state and the world with his broad mind. The imagery of "autumn breeze and round silk fan" is not just performing the author's means of "depressed undervalued and unappreciated" which as the reviewer said. "What makes the beautiful lady depressed?" The word "depressed" has been tried to tell readers that the "sad" things happen in the beginning and has been to vent over, the author's mood has calmed down, too. However, by the behavior of putting up the round

silk fan in autumn, the past which is difficult for the author to forget brought back again. Thus the focus of emotion is not “sad”, but converted to use the relaxed state of mind to face the gains and losses, the honor and disgrace and as well as the state of the world and human’s feelings. This embodies although the author was once slander and discard, undervalued and unappreciated, but after a few bad time, he has to get rid of clinging and his heart reaches the realm of silence.

Although we still can’t know the exact time that Tang Yin creates the “Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan”, but most researchers think it is made after fraud Koji twelve year [3]. In the spring of 1499, Tang Yin take part in the examinations at the Board of Ritual in the capital Beijing, after having obtained first place in the metropolitan examinations in Nanjing. At that time, Tang Yin was flushed with success, immersed in the joy of “Nanjing Jie Yuan”; suddenly, he suffered the Imperial Examinations and was dropped to the jail. Life sorrow didn’t let him feel the career’s sinister and the unpredictable people, but also learned to appreciate the world’s shallowness and the human’s indifference

Just as “the Letter to Wen Zhengming”, written by Tang Yin, he says: “Finally the emperor furious, decreed to catch me in jail. The jailer wear the shackles on me ferocious, let me salute to them, my tears is flowing constantly; I feel crash and burn, it is difficult for me to get along with the dirty generation, all the sins are concentrated together. If you use a pen to draw a lot of threads, you can weave the net, if the wolf get together, they’ll want to eat people; if you insist on, you can use the ponytail to cut the white jade; if a mother has listened a lot of person says that her children killed someone, she will believes that her children would really killed someone. I have lost caste with the world. Everyone has clenched their fist, opening their courage, treated me as their enemy. The people informed or unsuspected are spit on me, that shame can be considered amazing! Although I’m not smart, but I know I was guilty. The authorities have mercy on my embarrassment and according to the old constitution, let me make the Magistrate’s entourage. They intended to let me trying make up my fault, earning money to feed myself neatly. That made me bowed and scraped before them, too obedient and eager to please. This experience made me extremely tragic, beyond recognition, shame sounded. There are no new clothes and shoes can substitute if they broke; sitting in front of the book case is the original nunnery servant, husband and wife against each other; I had raised ferocious dogs guarding the door and they want to bite me if I back home. When I back home, a mess everywhere; in addition to a few pieces of clothes and shoes, there are no superfluous things. Westerly wind blowing violently, full of dead leaves on the ground, with one bleak barely detain a guest; I am distraught could not do anything. I intended to picking up some mulberry in spring, picking up some acorns to eat in autumn, and it was not enough, I would go to the temple to get something to eat. [4]” The Imperial Examinations have a larger influence of Tang Yin’s life trajectory, which makes him from aspiring fell into the abyss of officialdom nowhere.

However, with the passage of time, everything will passed eventually, TangYin has not always immersed in the great grief. Indeed, TangYin has a frivolous nature and his friends also have a deep understanding of this. Before Tang Yin go to Beijing for the exam, his friend Zhu Yunming persuaded him that “We are talking about traveling thousands of miles of horse, it must be start from Wu in the morning and arriving to Chu at night, you can clearly see his footprints; Instead of those who said he can travel thousands of miles and make the appreciator see thousands of miles away, but ultimately did not move a step. [5]” He is very clear about his own responsibility in this incident. He reflected on himself that he didn’t know to avoid arousing suspicion, and finally provoked a disaster, rather than complaining blindly. In order to avoid rumors and adjust the mood, by a friend’s persuasion, Tang Yin decided to travel to distant lands such as Fujian, Zhejiang, Hunan in the 14th Year of Hongzhi, the lasted ten months travel give vent to his depressed. Just as he travelled the Qiyunshan tour and wrote the poem “Qi Yunshan Zong Mu”, he said, “I have visited more than nine months and pleased to board the mountain in late autumn. The mountain’s scenery is as beautiful as the painting and swallows flying overhead cheerful. We have just started dating on deep friendship, I am afraid that the affection will become weaker and weaker. In fact, the gains and losses are not important if we feel comfortable enough. [6]” The things that have past is like the floating clouds, he has no longer subject to the fetters of fame and isn’t swayed by the gains and losses. Although the time is late autumn, but there is no bleak and bitterness in author’s eyes, instead, the beautiful

sceneries are colorful and excite the author. He bathed in the glorious autumn scenery, attaining the realm of forgetting everything; this reflects his broad-minded of see through the world situation.

Tang Yin also describes his feelings by Su Shi who experienced the "Wutai Poem Case". This reflects his distain about the ups and downs of the officialdom, he would rather immersed in the still of the natural world to show their emotions and thoughts. Therefore, the impact of the Case of Spring Civil Examination in 1499 is not make his life immersed in the pain of hopeless, but "make him generate a strong sense of disillusionment in life's impermanence. [7]" He feels that life is short and we shouldn't obsess to get the fame and other worldly possessions. Therefore, the images of round silk fan in "Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan", has no longer stay unsuccessful sentimental, but express the author's state of mind attributed deserted after suffered the inconstancy and human well-being. As the painting lady hold the fan in her hand with peaceful mood, elegant demeanor and aloof and so on, all of this achieved the new connotation of the round silk fan.

Throughout the ancient dynasties poetry works, the "fan" image loads with different functions. Firstly, it regarded as signs of love and happiness. As Tao Ye in "TuanShan sing" in Eastern Jin dynasty, she writes to her love Wang Xianzhi who loved her deeply. She says "The fan which I carefully crafted is like the bright moon. I donate it for you to drive away the summer heat and hope you never forget my feelings." Zhan Hu's "Song of Harmony·Tuanshalang" write "The white fan, abandoned by people in autumn. How I wish it come to your hands, you holding the fan just like we stayed with each other." In Huang Pufu's "dedication of fan", he says "This is an elaborate fan made by a beauty lady; she made Xiangzhu as fan rib and used the best silk as fan sector. We can smell the bamboo forest unique fragrance from the fan and it as the shadow of mine, no matter I was in dance banquet or bedroom. I give it to you as a nice going-away present, hoping its meaning can finally allow us reunited."

Secondly, it can awake the beautiful memories of the bygone days. The silk fan is an essential thing for the traditional chinese ladies, and thereby refers to the former prosperity. He Zhu says in "He Man Zi", "I always recalls your reluctant looks when we sexual gratification of each other and remembered your mildly voice. My mind is full of your dance with holding a round fan. Unfortunately, all this has become a dream of the past."

Thirdly, it used to describe that the emotional between men and women were easily fade away. Ban Jieyu was the most beloved by Emperor Cheng of the Han Dynasty. Then, Zhao Feiyan, who was originally a dancer in the family of Princess Yang'e and favored by the emperor, Ban Jieyu in order to avoid disaster and waits day and night upon his imperial parents, she write the poem "Yuan Ge Xing", says "The best silk that just cut from Qi was as white as frost. I put it into a fan and the fan like the bright moon. This fan is hold in your hands and rope into your arms all day long, if you shaking, you will feel gentle breeze. What I was most worried is the arrival of the autumn; the cool weather drove away the summer heat. At that time round fan will be useless and you were thrown it into the box, just like I will be cruel abandoned by you. [8]" She recalls the past with the monarch's favor, but the king's favor is as short as the morning dew, she was always worried about round silk fan has no use when the autumn comes. A lot of the "round silk fan" images in poetry are continued the connotation for generations. Such as WeiYingWu's poem "the Tragedy Silk Fan", "Not because of the fall came, really the love is no longer exists. The past love has gone and irrevocable. The valentine has been away and the round fan which stored in empty boxes still remaining with the coolness of the day. Why don't you take the round fan in hand and let it fade luster lonesomely." Although there has no the word of "silk fan" in the poem, but the words "Autumn Festival", "kindness", "trunk" are associated with the silk fan and the title of the poem is "the Tragedy Silk Fan". Wang Changling's "Chang Xin Qiu Ci" says " Ban Jieyu holding a broom to clean the hall in cold morning, her heart was miserable and her beautiful appearance are less than even the crow. Even the crow can see the palaces which the emperor lived, but she has no opportunity to see the emperor forever." This poem describes her feelings and expressed the author's sympathy for Ban Jieyu. The poem of Nalan Xingde's "Mu Lan Hua" says "If lovers keep their first vows and oaths for long, How could love be thrown as useless winter fans? Change carelessly but the late lament heart, but way the late lament heart inconstancy? However, even the final is the separate; we will only feel sad rather than resentment if we experienced the vows of eternal love. How is better than that of the Tang dynasty emperor, he and Yang Yuhuan

had vows of love that life and death together.” The Metaphor of the silk fan is used to express that the love is short.

Lastly, the image of round silk fan is also used to express the meaning of scholar-bureaucrat underappreciated. Such as Liu Yuxi’s poems “the Song of Silk Fan” in Tang dynasty, he says “Round fan can bring cool and refresh in the hot summer, but it will no longer have used when the autumn comes. Beautiful pattern on the fan will be obscured by the dust and insect net. If we need to use the round fan again next summer, we will select a new fan, rather than the old.” The first layer of meaning perpetuated the theme of the past autumn fan have been abandoned, and the deep layer on this basis is to point out, even though the weather is heat and need the round silk fan, we will also used to adjust the new fan. The old once being abandoned, will never seen the sun again. He also has another poem that used fan to describe a person who was gifted and frustrated. He says in “Autumn in the Han Palace”, “I board Lu in autumn last year, and aboard the autumn pavilion this year at this time, too. I looked ahead, although the Sam Rainsy was not the same as before, but the autumn scenery is the same. Resolve the distress and make contributions, then left out by the Lord, just as the round fan will be discarded in the fall.” However, the “fan” in “Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan” has rich connotation, expressed that if you experient the inconstancy of human relationships, you will reach remain unaffected the world situation. Many scholars have their own understanding about the inconstancy. Bai Juyi write a poem named “Qian Shou” in Tang dynasty, he says, “Once was demoted and leave the court, an instant time is eight or nine years. We will be considered to be a pedantic person at the beginning, then they will call us hermit, we will fully appreciate the inconstancy and human well-being. [9]” There are quite a lot of identification between Tang Yin and Bai Juyi, even Tang Yin’s late plain vulgar poetic style also influenced by Bai Juyi. Tang Yin knows a person will be abandoned by his friends or the society if he once fall on hard time, this situation actually can be understood and he have no indignation about the fate imposed inequities upon him.

The poems In Tang Yin’s later time reflects his magnanimous mind of sees sophistication more clearly. Such as “Song of Peach Blossom Cottage”, he writes “In the peach blossom land there is a peach blossom plot; a peach blossom lover lives in peach blossom cot. The peach blossom lover plants peach trees in days fine; he sells his peach blossoms for money to buy wine. When he is not drunk, he would sit before the flowers; he would lie beneath them to spend his drunken hours. From day to day half-drunk, half-sober he’d appear; the peach flowers blossom and fall from year to year. I would grow old and die among flowers and wine. Rather than bow before the steed and carriage fine. The rich may love their dust-raising carriage and bowers; the poor only enjoy their cups of wine and flowers. If you compare the poor with the rich low and high, you’ll find the one on earth, the other in the sky. If you compare the poor with the carriage and steed, the poor have leisure while the rich gallop with speed. Others may pity me so foolish and so mad; I laugh at them for those who can’t see through are sad. Can you find where the tombs of gallantheroes stand? Without flowers or wine they turn into ploughland.” He rejected that the people in order to pursue wealth while struggled all their lives. Make the spirit become a slave material.

However, whether Tang Yin really see through the fame, healed the wound of the Imperial Examinations in the Tang dynasty, the academia always has different opinions on this. Some researchers think that “despite Tang Yin play the fool on occasion, romantic by nature in his old age, but he has always yearned to defeat the imperial and he never forgive DuMu, this also suggests that he hasn’t understood the official career thoroughly. [10]” There are other researchers think that he participated in the expedition is just in order to complete his father’s testament. Tang Yin’s character of plays the fool on occasion, romantic by nature was formed before he experience the Imperial Examinations[11]. If we refer Tang Yin's experience and poems, we can found that his frivolous character really can’t attribute the Examinations fraud; his early works also have some poems about how closely to the prostitutes. In his poem “Ji Ji”, he says “After separation, we cut off by mountains and rivers; I could not help tears and wet my skirts when I was overlooking your direction. The place which we have spent together has gone, even if we revisit the place, we can no longer met forever. ” He was not particularly eager to strike fame, but at the persuasion of ZhuYunMing in his 26 ages, he determined to acquire fame. He says “If you want to achieve the desire that your father expects for you, you should go to pursue the exam books; if you want to adapt to your own mind, then you can

take off the robes, burned the expedition books. Now you're just having names in school, but not to pay attention to learning, so what do you want in the future? [12]” It seems that his thinking of unconventional uninhibited and reluctant to fame are not only before the formation of suffering the setback, but also throughout his life.

Another paintings Tang Yin's “Ban Ji round fan map”, now hidden in the Taipei Palace Museum, the painting depicting the Ban JieYu and round silk fan, which can be used as an evidence. This ancient chinese paintings contain the seals of “Nan Jing Jie Yuan”. So it is considered to be made before the Imperial Examinations [13]. In this painting, her hand holds the fan elegantly, of full figure and fine presence, with the lonely and sad feelings, stand in the shade below the palms. There is a strain of bloom *alcea rosea* in front of the house, suggesting the time is between late summer and fall. In the face of autumn wind rises, white clouds fly, grass and trees wither and geese go south, we feel very sad. It was obvious from the beautiful woman's wistful eyes faces that the painter was very moderate in the beautiful women’s internal World. Ban JieYu totally immersed in the emotion of sadness, with hold a fan to hunt chapters and sentences in the autumn wind. In fact, she is well aware of the “Chi Nian” things that have happened in the past don’t have any meaning in today.

His poetry and painting are interpreted to each other. It is visible that even when Tang Yin stay in brilliance in “Nan Jing Xie Yuan”, he still not immersed in narcissism, but had a clear understanding of the illusion of fame, his insight into the extent of the world situation is surprised. Tang Yin built the Peach Blossom temple and residence in it in his later years and influenced by Buddhist philosophy, his outlook on life is more thorough, he has the profound insight on his another poem “Songs for life”. This poem make us sigh the life is short, we should negative the wealth and fame, and even see through the things behind, reflecting the thought of promptly pleasure, rather than being tired with fame and fortune and waste life. So, even before the Imperial Examinations in the Tang dynasty, the pursuit of spiritual freedom and the pursuit of fame and fortune has been exists in Tang Yin in a contradictory manner. This status allowed him not persist in fame, made him even after suffer setbacks could soon be able to digest the pain and have a deep understanding of life.

In summary, combined with Tang Yin's experience and painting and calligraphy works, we can see the round silk fan image in his “Autumn Breeze and Fine Silk Fan” enriched the image of fan in ancient Chinese literature. After experience the honor or dishonor, there is no anger and hatred in his heart, which increases the Image of the silk fan and reflects Tang Yin affected Buddhism in his later years.

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