

Detachment

---the Fieldwork on Shuncheng Community of Hui people in Kunming City during the Process of Urbanization

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Abstract—When the cities in China were in the process of Urbanization, the traditional living style of Hui people in cities have been changed, such as Hui people who lived in Shuncheng Street which is the center area of Kunming city. There are a lot of Hui people lived here. Because of the needs of cities development, most of them have been left their original home and moved to other parts of Kunming city. The Muslim people were accustomed to the traditional living style which was living surround the mosque. Those Muslim people who were leaving their original living place have to move to the border areas of the Kunming city and living mixed with the other Ethnic groups' people. Thus, the Muslim's religious holy space has been fragmented. Due to this trend, the traditional religious holy space and ceremonies have been changed a lot. According to the generation and gender differences, the adaptive changes happened during the process of Urbanization. The article relied on the theories and research methods of Anthropology and Religion Studies to discuss the causes, the practices and the predicaments of Hui people who wanted to stick to their religious space in such fragmented worldly living spaces of Kunming city

Keywords—*Shuncheng Street; Hui people; Urbanization; Detachment*

I. INTRODUCTION OF FIELDWORK PLACES

Shuncheng Street of Kunming city has taken its original shape in Yuan Dynasty. Because of the street is next to the south wall at that time and got its name as Shuncheng Street, from then on, it has become a place for Hui people to live and run businesses here. The community for Hui people is really traditional Islamic style, which is centered by mosque and forming the living style which is surrounding the mosque. The Islam is the only belief for all the Hui people, the mosque and the daily religious life are both important in their spiritual world. Moreover, it has become a part of their daily lives and affected their daily behaviors. From the historical standpoint, the Hui people who lived in Shuncheng Street has formed the sense of self-identity for their community and their own culture. Such self-identity of Hui people who lived in Shuncheng Street has helped to keep the development and existence of the community. But in the long history of more

than several hundreds of years of Shuncheng Street and due to the affections of the economy, politic and urbanization process, the religious lives and culture identity of Hui people who lived there has changed.

A. The brief introduction of Shuncheng Hui People's community in Kunming City

Shuncheng Street is located in the southwest of Kunming city, during the Yuan and Ming Dynasty, there were old post roads in the west of Shuncheng Street, went through the Wacaozhuang and direct to the Zhuantang water-land transshipment dock. It has near to the prosperous business street which is called Sanshi Street in the east. Getting through the Nantong Street and Chongren Street, you may reach Jinbi Road to the south. In the Qing Dynasty, Shuncheng Street has been called Shuncheng Pu, It has been divided into three parts: the name of east part called Dadai street, the middle part called Shuncheng Street, the west part called Shaozhu Street. Later on, during the period of Republic of China (before 1949), all three parts of Street has been called Shuncheng Street. Nowadays, Shuncheng Hui people's community is located in the center of prosperous business zone of Kunming city, the transportation here is really convenient. So, from the beginning of the Shuncheng Street has taken its shape, it was the constituent part of the most prosperous zone of Kunming city. In the scanning of many distributions of Hui people's enclaves of Yunnan Province, we may find that the Hui people's distributions tended to locate on the vital traffic lines and market towns. They always run in the family from one generation to the other generation by fur trade, to be the butchers of cattle and sheep or doing the business as the Muslim catering services. Shuncheng Street is now in the Wuhua District of Kunming city, it has been administered by Shuncheng Street community residents committee. According to the statistics in 2014, the number of the whole community's families is 2142, the number of the community's population is 10597, there are 15 nationalities lived here, such as Han, Hui, Bai, Yi, Zhuang etc. The percentage of Hui people's population is about the 40%.

B. The brief introduction of Shuncheng mosque

Mosque is the most significant architecture and landmark of the Islam world. It is the center place for Muslims to worship, to accomplish religious assignments, to accept the religious education, to attend the missionary activities and to celebrate the major holidays and ceremonies of Muslims. In the Hui people's community, the mosque is the true center and the spiritual home for Muslims. In the long run, Shuncheng Mosque is always the very important place for holding the Islam religious activities for the native Muslim inhabitants and exotic Muslims. It is the place for edifying oneself in Islam world. It is also the place for Muslims to study their religious knowledge and inherit the traditional Hui's Islam culture. It is the place for Muslims to celebrate the major Islam holidays and ceremonies and personal social communications. Shuncheng Mosque is located in the west part of Shuncheng Street in Kunming city. It is the biggest ancient mosque in Kunming. It was said that Shuncheng Mosque was built in Ming Dynasty (in 1425). In the early Daoguang Emperor's reign period of Qing Dynasty, the local Hui people donate the money for expanding the mosque. Shuncheng Mosque covered the area of 10000 square meters. The main body of the mosque is the worshipping hall, the architectural style of the worshipping hall is the transversal gable and rip roof one which is surrounded by the cloistered walks. There are imam's office, classrooms, the bathrooms for male and female Muslims, the wudu (washing for prayer) rooms and the mortuary room. According to the epigraphy of rebuilding the Shuncheng Mosque, after the rebuilding, there were holy books hall, imam room and a pavilion in the mosque's yard. There was a grand stone tablet standing in the pavilion. During the years of Hui people's Anti-Qing uprising of Yunnan, Shuncheng Mosque has become the stronghold of Hui's uprising leader Ma Linghan. After the failure of Anti-Qing uprising, the houses and the mosque have been fired by the Qing military troops. In 1880(the 6th year of Guangxu Emperor's reign of Qing Dynasty), Shuncheng Mosque was rebuilt for the third time because of the local Hui people's donation. The mosque has been expanded again in 1927. In the 1980's, the mosque has been financed to renovate by Yunnan government and formed the present scale. The worshipping hall of Shuncheng Mosque covers the area of more than 400 square meters. There are cabinets attached to the side wall can hold the holy books, the cloistered walks surrounded the worshipping hall, the width of the cloistered walks is about 4 meters. In front of the worshipping hall, there is a two-story building on the right which is used for classroom building. The office building is on the left. the east yard next to the right wing rooms used for the bathrooms and the mortuary room. Shuncheng Mosque has been appraised as the important protection unit of culture relic of the Wuhua District in Kunming city in 1983. Now, it is the place for the Islamic Association of Yunnan Province, which has been moved to the Dianchi Road later. There are nearly 1000 Muslims in Shuncheng Islamic Community, they all believed in Qadim denomination of Islam. There is a Islamic school in the Shuncheng Mosque to train the professional Islamic personnel. The Mosque also have opened the different amateur Islamic classes to meet the different demands of the Hui people of their different genders, ages and educational level, in

order to teach and propagate the Islamic dogmas, rules and various legal and documents of the government.

Shuncheng Mosque is the one of the biggest Mosques in Kunming area, besides of the local Muslims attended the religious activities, those Muslims who came from both inside and outside the regions of Yunnan province, even though the foreign countries to attend the activities held in Shuncheng Mosque. There are 100 to 200 Muslims attended the daily 5 worships in mosque, on the Jumah Day, nearly 900 Muslims would attend the worship for each Friday. At the date of Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha, there are more than 2500 Muslims celebrating the holidays there. The administrative committee of Shuncheng Mosque abides by the Koran, admonitions from the man of Allah, Islamic regulations and rules to organize the healthy and orderly religious activities. For example, the Imam would hold the Khutba sermons on each Jumah Day of the year, the main content of the Khutba sermon is to persuade Muslims to conduct the Islamic behavior regulations and rules, take the social responsibilities as a Muslim, take good care of their parents and so on. The administrative committee of Shuncheng Mosque also provided the accommodations for those Muslims who wanted to have a trip to Mecca to accomplish their hajjes from all of the Yunnan Province for each year. And additionally, Shuncheng Mosque is undertaking the 90% funeral service of Muslims of Kunming area. They provided more than 200 Muslim's funeral services for each year. From the investigation of Professor Ma Shourong, we knew that among those old Muslims whose age is over 60's, most of them have accepted the Islam education in Mosque when they were kids. They went to the mosque every evening, the teacher taught them the meanings of the holy books, such as Koran, Arabic and traditional Islamic cultural knowledge [1].

In a conclusion, Shuncheng Mosque is a very important place for Muslims to socialize themselves. The young kids were educated by religious teachers with Islamic enlightened education and deepened their understandings about the Islam gradually by attending the religious practices in order to strengthen their Muslims' self-identity. According to author's records of interview of the director of the administrative committee Ma Nengrong, he was the former principal of Mingde Middle school, we know that Shuncheng Mosque recovered the religious classes for the old and the young, the scale of the Koran classes expanded from 1 class to 8 classes, the number of Muslims who studying there from several dozens to hundreds of them since the Mosque was permitted to open again to the public in 1980. Shuncheng Mosque is a place for holding the religious activities and inheriting the traditional Muslims' culture in the Shuncheng Community, the original function of Islamic Mosque did not changed. Shuncheng Street is a native community for the Muslims in the centered area of Kunming city, specialized with the strong Islamic atmosphere, appealing more and more Muslims from home and abroad to settle down here, it has become the model window to show the Muslims' culture.

II. DETACHMENT

A. *The fragmented Islamic religious space which is under the process of the urbanization.*

Since the 1990's, Chinese Urbanization has marched into a stable rising period. A lot of traditional Hui people's communities have to face the changes which happened during the Urbanization process. The old communities needed to pull down, expand, rebuild or remove. For example, Niuji Street Hui people's community in Beijing, Qijiawan Hui people's community in Nanjing and Shuncheng Community of Hui people in Kunming. According to the author's investigations about these three communities, we found some similarities and differences about these three communities due to the each governmental planner's different reconstruction plans and specific conditions of these three communities. The most significant change is the original living style of Hui people. They like to live surrounding the mosque, this living style is convenient for Muslims to go to the mosque to participate the religious activities easily. With the development of Urbanization, we need to extend the city scale to meet the demands of it. In such background, Shuncheng Community has the same fate with the other communities in Kunming city, they all have to reconstruct in to the new community. But Muslims' daily life can not be separated from the mosque, they went to the mosque to do their worships daily, in order to accomplish their assignments which are assigned by Allah. Staying far away from the mosque is really inconvenient for the Muslims. The traditional living style of Hui people which is surrounding the mosque is provided a public place for them to hold the religious ceremonies and communicate with each other.

Islam is a religion, a culture, a living style and a social system [2]. We all know that the whole life of a Muslim is related to the mosque tightly. Mosque is the public place for Muslims to celebrate the Islamic traditional holidays. The local inhabitants Urbanized emigrating leads to new changes of Hui people there. The old houses in Shuncheng community have been pulled down and reconstruct, the local people have to move the other places to wait the reconstruction of the Shuncheng Community or to find a new house for themselves. They all stay away from the mosque. It is really inconvenient for them to do their daily worships in the mosque as usual. The Urbanized construction has changed Shuncheng Community geographically; the original religious space for the Muslims has been changed.

Sailun Real Estate Company had bided for the expansion and reconstruction of Shuncheng Community. The reconstruction and expansion of old Shuncheng Street area has begun. This makes the area of Shuncheng Street narrow down to the 1/4 of its original one. The former Shuncheng Street is 1km from Sanshijie in the east to Guofang Road in the west, the former old and shabby houses have been pulled down and two new tower buildings which are called Xinyue tower buildings have been built. New Shuncheng Community is centered by the Shuncheng Mosque; two new tower buildings are new settlement for the native Hui people. According to the author's investigation of the fieldwork, the number of moving out families was much more than moving back families. The

main cause of moving out of the community was the housing property right belongs. They can be classified into 3 categories:

A. Because of the historical factor. After the liberation of China in 1949, there were hundreds of citizens have got the real estate in Shuncheng Street in the name of their working organizations or units, but they did not own the property right of the houses, they just owned the right to live there. If they wanted to move back to the original community, they have to pay a large sum of money to buy the new apartments there. So, most of them chose to move out to the other places to settle down.

B. Because some of the housing property rights belonged to the government or other public institutions, we call such houses as the Public Rental Housing. Therefore, in consideration of this situation, government provide several new residential quarters to them to settle down. Such as Zhenghe Residential quarter and Jinshunyuan Residential quarter.

C. Because of private housing property right factor. Those who have their own housing property rights, they really wanted to moving back to the original community, most of them chose to move back to Shuncheng Community after it reconstructed. But there was a big question that they have to face. The areas of those old and shabby houses on Shuncheng Street were really small, but the area of new apartments in the Xinyue tower buildings were bigger than the old ones, that is to say, if they wanted to move back to Shuncheng Community, they have to pay the money for the additional area of new apartments which compared with their old and small houses. Some of the original inhabitants could not afford to make up the money to the new departments in Xinyue tower buildings, so they chose the other residential quarters which were far away from Shuncheng Street because of cheaper housing price. At last, they also chose to move out of Shuncheng community.

Thus, many of native inhabitants moved out of Shuncheng Community after the reconstruction, the number of Hui people's families were reducing a little bit. From this point of view, we can see that the original Islamic religious space has been fragmented accompanying with the changes of the original living places geographically. Due to the fragmented religious space, the traditional functions of mosque were weakening a little bit. There were other nationalities living in Shuncheng Community besides Hui people, such as Han, Bai, Yi and etc. They were all lived mixing together, but for Hui people, they preferred to live together because of their similar living habits and eating taboos. The number of moving back original Hui families is fewer than moving out families. Most moving out Hui families moved to other residential quarters in suburban areas of Kunming city, such as Zhenghe Residential Quarter and Jinshunyuan Residential Quarter. Those moving out Hui people could not participate the religious activities as usual before easily, their original religious space has been fragmented. According to author's records of interview, Jinshunyuan Residential quarter was built for Hui people to settle themselves down by government, most of the moving out Hui families chose to move there, but some of the moving out Hui families moved to other residential quarters, such as

Zhenghe Residential Quarter and lived mixing with other nationalities. Those moving out Hui families were moving far away from the mosque, thus they could not attend the religious activities easily as usual. It was inconvenient for them. The detachment of religious space leads to a new style of religious lives. They had to adjust themselves to such new changes. To those moving out Hui people, especially for the old people, it was really inconvenient for them to attend the religious activities in mosque because of distances. They used to doing their daily 5 worships to Allah in the mosque, but nowadays, few of them could go to mosque everyday. The commuting journey for them from home to mosque could cost a lot of time and would raise risks of the traffic accidents for them. Such difficulties were really a big burden for them and they can do nothing with it.

B. Maintaining the Integrity of the Specifications

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III. CONCLUSION

Even though the commuting journey is far for them and do not in good healthy conditions, you can see most of them in Shuncheng Mosque everyday. With the development of Urbanization, the old and shabby areas of the city would be reconstructed. It is really important to keep on the traditional Muslims' culture in such Hui community. The mosque is the spiritual home of Muslims; it can integrate the culture of the whole community. Muslims have the strong religious sense of belonging and cultural self-identity. The main barrier is the change of their original religious space. The most important question for those moving out Hui people is how to keep on their traditional religious self-identity and cultural self-identity continually and successively in the present condition of Urbanization.

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