

## The shaping of Changzhou's spirit by water culture heritage

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**Abstract.** Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, which is located in north of the Yangtze River, south of the Taihu Lake, The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal pass through the city. Located in the center of the Jiangnan Wu culture area, being the Jiangnan Geographical fortress. Crossed the city are interlaced rivers and lakes. Since ancient times, Changzhou city has been built according to the water, prospered with water, Changzhou ancestors chose water and inhabited, living near the water, forming a city in the river, River in the city, city and river depend on each other, River and city integration of the "three rivers and four cities" urban water pattern. Water not only constitutes the elements of production and life in Changzhou, but also shapes the regional culture and urban spirit of Changzhou.

### 1. Introduction

Water is the basic element of human existence and production, and is the thread of the origin and development of cities. Water breeds the vitality of the city and drives the city to move forward. As a kind of natural form material, water has no life, but it has its unique characteristics; although there is no distinction between good and evil, but in the process of the unity and harmony between people and water, people and people, and human society for thousands of years, the characteristics of water can be sublimated, condensed into a kind of outlook on life, world outlook, values, and achieve a methodology, an idea, a cultural trait, existing directly or indirectly in every corner of the city in various forms. For thousands of years, Changzhou city was built according to water, and prospered because of water, forming a pattern of city depending on water, water embracing city depending on water, and accumulated a profound water culture. Water in Changzhou is the gestation, achievement, pattern, drive and foundation of Changzhou regional spiritual culture.

### 2. Changzhou' spirit of advocating morality

Water, which is nourishes all things never for the sake of fame. Changzhou is a typical Jiangnan city, for thousands of years, the city and water depend on each other, people and water are close to each other. This inner culture of water has deeply influenced Changzhou. From people to the city, it all with the brand of kindness. Therefore, Changzhou' spirit of advocating morality has been bred. From Jizha who is the founder of Humanities in Changzhou give up the throne three times to Sheng Xuanhuai who is the father of China' modern industry founded The Red Cross Society of China, to the three outstanding people in Changzhou who lay down their life for justice, sacrifice for the country. The influence of thousands of years of water culture has gestated Changzhou' great tradition of advocating morality, and cast the Changzhou' soul of kindness.

### 3. Changzhou's spirit of seeking and learning

Changzhou river network is dense, the river runs continuously, always remind people of the time flies, and the road ahead is long and has no ending, you need to seize the time to seek and learn.

In the oppression brought by water, Changzhou people had a strong thirst for knowledge, promoted the prosperity of Changzhou regional culture and even Chinese culture, and formed Changzhou's spirit of seeking and learning.

In the imperial examinations, the Changzhou people showed the spirit of seeking and learning

the best. In the history of the imperial examination for more than 1,700 years, Changzhou's Wujin area alone came out of the top nine, the second eight, the third eleven, and 1,546 scholars. Three years of Song Daguan was the most prosperous: during the Song Daguan third year period, 300 scholars were selected nationwide and 23 from Changzhou, accounting for one-third of the total number of scholars enrolled in the country at that time. Zhou Qingyuan who is the Minister of industry. The two champion is Lv Gongguan and his grandfather Mr. Zhao .It was less than sixty years after Mr.Hu writed this poem, Changzhou out of other three public ministers and one champion.The three ministers and officials were the Associate major Liu Yuye, ducation officer Zhuang Junquan, The assistant minister Zhuang Cunyu. The one champion is the assistant minister Zhuang's younger brother Zhuang Peiyin, and the other ministers and officials, who enrolled the most important subjects are numerous, It can be said that it is very prosperous. Gong Zizhen, a famous poet of the Qing Dynasty, once praised that "there are tribes among the world's famous scholars, and there is no such thing as Changzhou in the southeast" and "the southeast learns best in Changzhou".

At the same time, Changzhou government also attaches great importance to cultural development, promulgated a series of policies and decrees to encourage cultural development, For example, in order to praise the imperial examination family, for it to establish such as Shuangguifang, Chun Guifang, ZaoKefang, Shikefang and other corresponding archways.

For thousands of years, a large number of literati talents who are proficient in many practical studies have sprung up in Changzhou. For example, Tang Shunzhi has made remarkable achievements in literature, history, mathematics, Confucianism, astronomy, geography, music, military and other fields. In the field of literature, his style of writing is both simple and elegant made him became one of the "Eight Talents of Jiajing", ranked "Jiajing Three Great" ,the leader of "the tang-song school"; In the field of military, he is proficient in art of war, being a famous anti-Japanese general; in the field of kungfu, he improved the kungfu called Yanghuquan, excellent in shooting skills, Qi Jiguang also learned from him.... And similar to him are Dong Yining, Chen Wang-yu, Hong Liangji and so on, numerous.

#### **4. Changzhou's spirit of innovation**

The Yangtze River is pushing forward, and everything in the world is changing. In the face of change, only by constant innovation can we remain invincible. In a sense, water "compels" Changzhou to embark on the road of innovation from the philosophical level, but at the same time this "force" has already merged into the blood of Changzhou after tens of millions of years of evolution, and become an important part of Changzhou spirit. "Gou is new, new day is new." Changzhou has fully carried forward the spirit of innovation in the process of construction and development. Innovation has become Changzhou's self-image city card. Ordinary people are innovative, and Changzhou has an innovative tradition. From Changzhou's five schools looked up to the whole country in the Qing Dynasty to Sheng Xuanhuai, the father of industry, to create 11 items of education being "China first" to "father of Chinese phonetic alphabet" Zhou Youguang and mathematician Hua Luogeng, to the new era of reform and opening up, ordinary people actively seek new models of economic development, and participate in the creation of "Southern Jiangsu economic development model"... Changzhou constantly creating "China's No. 1". In short, the spirit of innovation is the essence of Changzhou's urban development and the inexhaustible motive force for Changzhou's prosperity and development.

#### **5. Changzhou's perseverance spirit.**

Water to soft, also to the rigid. Water, twists and turns, can diffuse and overflow, but it can soften the force, cut the mountain and chill the river. At the three-rivers-and-four-cities Changzhou, the city and water depend on each other, people and water are close to each other, water's character of couple hardness with softness also deeply affected Changzhou, will be determined to engrave into the hearts of each Changzhou's people, into the flesh of each person, branded into the soul of Changzhou. Changzhou is as a small city in the south of the Yangtze River, It has all the characteristics of a water

town: Exquisite boat, bridges, mossy slab roads, poems, reciting, and Jangnan's canzonet. But this does not mean that the city is soft and weak. The water is soft and yet it can still be strong and soft, Rigid and flexible. And this kind of hardness and softness also came into being. When the iron cavalry of the Yuan Dynasty trampled the Central Plains, the southern cities were irresistible, and were ready to surrender, Changzhou stood up in a minor folk song, even though the city was besieged, lacking grain and grass, and poorly equipped, just like a paper city. In contrast, the soldiers of the Yuan Dynasty were strong, reinforcements were increasing, and fighting was fierce. Perseverance has long infiltrated the bones and blood of the Changzhou people, and the perseverance that goes deep into the bone marrow makes them build the walls of the heart with flesh and blood. Even though the country was shaken, even in the face of a sharp and fierce offensive, the whole city was desperately resisting, defending the dignity of the Chinese nation in the grim and vicious, even if the city was eventually destroyed without regret, and always "would rather be broken for the sake of tile", wrote a magnificent chapter. The enemy generals Bo Yan also felt the strong will of the people of Changzhou, and sigh the "iron man of paper city" in Changzhou with emotion. Water breeds the perseverance and strength of Changzhou, and Changzhou people at the same time with practical action to carry forward this spirit.

## **6. Changzhou's spirit of Inclusive**

Most of the world's water in the form of liquid exists, and the greatest feature of liquid water is the accommodation, is the so-called "all rivers comes into the sea because of it's Inclusive". The great philosophical enlightenment that water inspired the Changzhou's people is that the river and the sea can become great if they don't choose small currents. The revelation has deeply influenced every generation in Changzhou. It is manifested in two aspects: one is erudite and versatile: from Jizha mastered politics, literature, music and so on, to the emperors of Qiliang who brought about the fusion of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, literature and history, created a new situation of Changzhou culture, to Tang Shunzhi, who was called as an "encyclopedic scholar" with many talents, such as literature, history, science, history, music and military, has made great achievements in various fields.....Throughout the ages, the number of Broadcom talents in Changzhou is numerous. The second is inclusive, regardless of preconception: in the late Qing Dynasty and the period of the Republic of China in Chinese Mainland, Chinese and Western cultures collided fiercely, most of the Chinese adhered to the ancient Confucian culture, despising the West. Inspired by water since ancient times, Changzhou has held an inclusive, open and relaxed attitude toward various cultures.

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