Land, Fate and Identity:Study on the Geomancy Legends that Ching Officals Destroyed the Feng-Shui

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Abstract

Feng-Shui and Geomancy are beliefs that matters with calamity and happiness in life, especially in Han cultural community. Feng-Shui and Geomancy are almost synonym that refers to geomancy instead of the science concept of geography.

There are lots sorts of legends about Feng-Shui and geomancy. These legends reinforce the beliefs of Feng-Shui. They are not only parts of cultural system of Feng-Shui but also the traditional life values involved with fate. The legends about destroying the Feng-Shui in Han culture community reflect the traditional life values. If the legends about destroying the Feng-Shui refer not the individual but regional, they infect collective consciousness of a place and recognition and feeling of community. The background of these kinds of folklores was in Ching-Dynasty but actively spread until now. The migratory district is mainly in western Taiwan no matters in literature or field work. Those legends can conclude briefly as below: Taiwan had lots of good Feng-Shui to raise excellent people. However, that good Feng-Shui was destroyed by the Ching-officals and restricted the development of Taiwan. Different from other legends in western Taiwan, these geomancy legends refer to the real person in the history who are Chang and Yang.

Those geomancy legends that Ching-officals destroyed the Feng-Shui prevail in Han cultural community for a long time. From the point view of folk legend study, those legends are not unique Taiwan local legend but migratory legend that spread widely in Han culture community. However, in the point of view of Taiwanese, the kind of legends has different meaning. Since the main characters in these legends refer to specific external officials, the kind of legends not only involves with the characteristics of local landforms but also reflects the identity of self-stereotypes and ethic/national stereotypes. The region where the type of legends widely spread is the place that the Taiwaneseness and the subject consciousness of Taiwanese can be found prominently. Form the point of view, the legends face towards the reality but the folktales are disembodied.

Keywords: legend, geomancy legends, Taiwaneseness, identity

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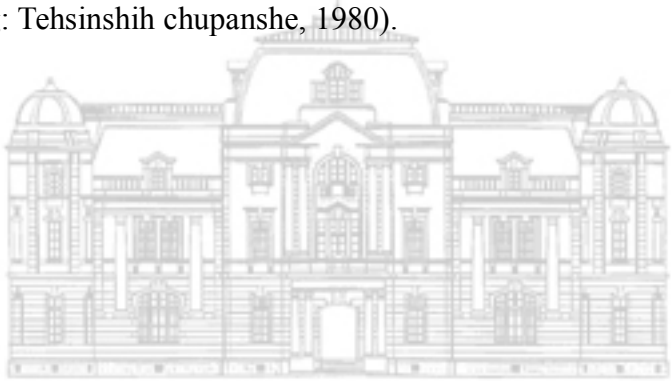
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