



Ji Xiang and Yan Xiang— The Study on Xiang Ritual in West Zhou Dynasty from The Perspective of Dual Attestation

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Introduction

“Xiang Ritual” should highlight the grace given by the emperor, while “Yan Ritual” should show the mercy and kindness to subordinate. Once the seigneurs contributed their successes to the emperor, or have diplomatic intercourses with Zhou court, the emperor would held a “Xiang Ritual”. If the seigneurs just have an audience with the emperor, then the emperor would held a “Yan Ritual”. “Xiang Ritual”, “Yan Ritual”, “Shi Ritual” are all highly adhesive rituals, wouldn’t be held together generally. Customarily, they would attach to knighthood ritual \ diplomatic exchange ritual ancestor worship ritual elderly care ritual audience ritual, while the rituals mentioned above were held. “Xiang Ritual” would be attached to knighthood ritual diplomatic exchange ritual and ancestor worship ritual, “Yan Ritual” would be attached to diplomatic exchange ritual. The content of elderly care ritual in Zhou dynasty is mixed with “Yan Ritual”, “Xiang Ritual” and “Shi Ritual”. Zhou court provide “Yan Ritual” and “Xiang Ritual” at spring and summer, the content are spareribs chopped pork and rice wine enough to toast in return for one round. Zhou court also provide “Shi Ritual” at autumn and winter, the content is rice spareribs and chopped pork, but no wine provided, nor toast either. According to the documentation, the procedure of ancestral temple worship is

“Si-Xian-Guan”. However, the actual worship procedure is inverted, “Guan” first, then “Xian”, “Si” last. Toast in return is the common procedure both in “Ji - Xiang” and “Yan - Xiang”. There are three parts of libations in “Ji - Xiang”, first libation middle libation and final libation. On the other hand, there are nine rounds of toast in return in “Yan - Xiang”, from round 1 to round 9. The grace given by the emperor is called “Xiang”, the written character recorded on handed-down documents is “Xiang”, recorded on oracle bone script and bronze script is “Xiang”. On the contrary, the written character “Xiang” recorded on bronze script is interpreted as contributing food to ancestor, but the written character recorded on handed-down documents is “Xiang”. This research project chooses two cognates “Xiang” and “Xiang” as the main research targets. These two words are highly interconnected, and usually mixed tonometer. The study would focus on the etiquette investigation of “Xiang Ritual” and “Xiang Ritual” in west zhou dynasty.

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Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.