The Hezhen Nationality Worship of Tiger*

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Abstract: Content abstract: the northeast hezhen ethnic minority in the long historical process, gradually formed a unique characteristics of the fishing and hunting production religion, the worship of the tiger is very outstanding. On the tiger worship the main reason is that the material production hezhen behind, in the surrounding nature of all things and the limit of the cognitive ability, also is the result of hezhen dependence on tiger as production tools and inner admit defeat of its power and yearning. Hezhen tiger worship mainly reflected in the nation's myths and legends, as well as in the production and life, everywhere to fully demonstrate the hezhen nationality to tiger deep admiration of love. Based on the research of the hezhen nationality tiger worship, understand the cultural connotation and spirit is the core, has the certain historical value and practical significance.

Introduction of the Hezhen Nationality

Hezhen nationality is ethnic minorities of the northeast of the China. Hezhen nationality has a long history, the Hezhen tribe originated in the East China Sea Jurchen. Mainly distributed in Heilongjiang Province, Tongjiang City, Fuyuan City, Raohecounty. Hezhen ethnic minority with a long history in northeast of China, although do not have to create the national characters, but the national oral culture is very rich, including folk proverb possesses an important position in the history of ethnic literature, sending out the charm of art. Because of the geographical location is very advantageous, there are large tracts of forest, there are abundant water resources, so it was good at fishing in the river fish, and also good at hunting in the forest. The tiger is widely distributed in the forests of the tiger beast, so Hezhe is not strange, even had an emotional worship.

The reason of the tiger worship of the Hezhe nationality

As many northern nation, the worship of shamanism. They worship the gods, believe that everything has spirit, everything in the world dominated by gods, gods of course also is in charge of the force at the core of everything. Because of the Hezhen people's "animism" and "live", and "worship God, god Vulcan, Jetion,...... The belief and worship from the sky, land, islands, rivers, animals and plants"[1].

The reason of the tiger worship from the primitive belief in the worship of natural things In China, the origin of ancient animal belief very early, "a lot of people from the half and half beast gods image" in The Classic of the Great Wilderness can see. Spread very early "Nu Wa made" folk legend "goddess" is the "human face snake" the image of the goddess, the worship of tiger is also very long, "China's ancient ancestors from animals insects very heavy, so far three thousand years ago sacrificial tiger cat to thank the wild vole by praying, prayer, plagues pests are not primitive beliefs form" [2].
In the long history of fishing and hunting in the production process, the gradually formed a typical fishing culture featuring primitive religious worship. Due to the history of Hezhe to natural grab type based production, "the mainly rely on the gifts of nature and alive, basically no transformation and control of natural ability" [3].

Therefore, the objects of worship in the primitive religious belief are mainly natural, especially the worship of animals. In the eyes of each animal are dominated by their gods, "animal is necessary things indispensable; the reason why people should rely on animal and human life; and rely on things for human beings, is God". The nature of religious Feuerbachs [4]. As the scholar Zhu Tianshun said, "the original religion after the initial period, it mainly reflects the difficult lives of hunting and fishing, occupy the important position of the gods is a fish beast God, followed by the weather such as wind, rain, Thunder God, the God of power. These gods represent the material living conditions which are closely related to their daily life. The first human animal as the main object of worship, which not only because the beast is a threat to them, and they are the main source of animal food "]5].

From this, because of their dependence on nature, poultry, fish intake of animals for food source, and at the same time there are threats from their fear of China's animal origin of the belief in ancient early worship of tiger is also very long, in the long history of fishing and hunting in the production process, the gradually formed typical primitive fishing and hunting culture for the characteristics of religious worship. Due to the history of Hezhe to natural grab type based production, "the mainly rely on the gifts of nature and alive, basically no transformation and control of natural ability"

Therefore, the objects of worship in the primitive religious belief are mainly natural, From this, because of their dependence on nature, poultry, fish intake of animals for food source, and at the same time there are threats from their fear, so naturally worship of them and rose to worship every animal God, "the gods belief, reflects a desire to worship, they naturally on the light, heat and stress, reflects the primitive religious consciousness of things creationism [6]. With extraordinary strength, can freely roamed the forest wilderness of the tiger, naturally become one of the most admired object. Hence: This is the reason the tiger worship, the time of material production is backward and the natural world based on cognitive level. From this, because of their dependence on nature, poultry, fish intake of animals for food source, and at the same time there are threats from their fear, worship in many animal, especially the tiger worship. In the legend about the myth of the tiger, the tiger is generally known as the "forest leader", which is closely related with the traditional mode of production in the hunting. In the eyes of the tiger is a mountain guide all creatures in the forest, the leader wants to survive must rely on "forest leaders" gift.

Although the tiger in the impression of people's evil image, it can lead to fatal disaster, at the same time it has a strong power, can become a king of the forest. However, the powerful and ferocious beast also has its own difficulties, when the difficulties cannot overcome their own solution, it will turn to human help. By human help after the tiger, with the person's character, have a good character, sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. This is the ideal evil transformed into good wishes.

Second, the customs and taboos of the tiger worship

The worship of the tiger in the various parts of the country can be seen everywhere, so the spread of a wide range. In the northeast to the Heilongjiang River Basin and along the coast of Heilongjiang - a Sacachi Liang Cun left very precious paintings, a picture is lifelike portrait of the tiger, and even the northern minorities almost all of the tiger worship bear. The Hezhen very worship of tiger, Tiger Woods enshrined as "leader". When the hunter every time a new hunting, to worship the "forest leader", "prayer for forest leaders" who are able to play the bless hunters prey, harvest and return. Every time before going into the mountains to hunt must be held in the "leader of the forest" ceremony. The ceremony by older and ethnic or tribal leader of noble character and high prestige to host, his age is very high, and it is the core and spirit of tribal leaders, with rich experience in hunting and fishing. Therefore, very ferocious tiger in the forest, in the eyes of the leader is to protect human, human, love fairy Fukuzawa Quartet. Because the early production tools, with much land and few people crude production capacity is very limited, so often the survival in the hopes of the enormous power of the "mountain of God" on the body. "The forest leaders"
control problem of the sons of the food, so naturally become the main object of the worship. Second, the customs and taboos of the tiger worship. The worship of the tiger in the various parts of the country can be seen everywhere, so the spread of a wide range. In the northeast to the Heilongjiang River Basin and along the coast of Heilongjiang - a Sacachi Liang Cun left very precious paintings, a picture is lifelike portrait of the tiger, and even the northern minorities almost all of the tiger worship bear. The Hezhen very worship of tiger, Tiger Woods enshrined as "leader". When the hunter every time a new hunting, to worship the "forest leader", "prayer for forest leaders" who are able to play the bless hunters prey, harvest and return. Every time before going into the mountains to hunt must be held in the "leader of the forest" ceremony.

The ceremony by older and ethnic or tribal leader of noble character and high prestige to host, his age is very high, and it is the core and spirit of tribal leaders, with rich experience in hunting and fishing. In the process of hunting, if you encounter a tiger, but also to retreat three points, but not allowed to hunt tigers. In the history, is prohibit if found in the mountains of the tiger trail, immediately away from. If a hunter accidentally killed the tiger Hezhen, it means that the bad luck was coming. The attendant is awake at night to fear and anguish and regret. In this case, the will that I will be a hunter tigers from the dream in one night. In the dream, there was an old man with a white beard, and he blamed the reckless hunter, "why did you kill my son?" You shouldn't keep track of it, take the road. You shouldn't watch it, if far see it, you should kowtow to greet it." With these words, the old man with white beard but also the hunter to eat a meal, and the sin hunters to listen not to utter a single word reverent and respectful, plead guilty.

After doing such a dream, reckless hunters to the Akejiankeshi family living in the village, all the things that happened to the village in the oldest old man tells the elders to give help, request. So the elders called on all members of the Ake Jan J clan to hold a clan meeting to discuss the matter. At this time the members of the meeting to the whole thing to be questioned, including how to meet the tiger, whether it can avoid the tiger? Why tigers from? Whether it is necessary for tigers from? When the hunter stated in detail the whole course of the incident, the members of the clan had to go through a serious discussion, and finally decided on the basis of the seriousness of the matter and the results of the discussion for tiger hunting. In any case, the tiger is a national taboo. For reckless hunters accidentally killed the tiger in the forest, usually have to accept the punishment, the punishment decision is generally not careful: tigers from hunter to contribute some goods with the apology for worship. These offerings usually include half barrels or three barrels of wine, meat, fish, millet and other wild animals. Within the specified time limit, the hunter accidentally put the tigers from the sin offerings to these elders. The elderly for reckless hunter at the dead tiger gave into wine, dried fish, millet, meat etc.. After doing the job, all the people in the village ceremony and the tigers from hunter to accidentally come with the myths and legends of worship to the tree under the tree. At this point, the elderly began to apologize: tiger, please do not be angry, he killed your child, is out of the intention. He'll be more careful next time. This is he deliberately placed under the banquet for you. Let's drink and forget about the past!" The banquet began, when the hunters first kneeling on the ground, the first cup of wine to older people who presided over the ceremony to say thank you. The old man took the glass and said, "don't hurt the tiger." The hunter said resolutely accidentally tigers from the party began to promise, lively manner. In addition to accept the punishment of the hunter to a drop to drink to accept punishment, all the people in the party and the other can. At the end of the ceremony, and punished the hunter if since that has washed the crime because missed out tigers from guilt. Then he would sleep soundly at night.

Third, Meaning of the tiger worship

Thus it can be seen, the tiger is a ferocious animal, this ferocious animal easily harm to humans, but because it is very powerful, and was known as the "king of the forest", so often by Hezhe worship. In the process of production practice, the worship of tiger and strengthen national identity together. With the development of society, all the special meaning of the tiger had recognized this nation, thus gradually put on the tiger worship to be fixed in the national customs, in order to strengthen the Hezhen ethnic identity. The worship of tiger, that not only has strong power, can human conscience.
So the tiger can good disposition based on gratitude, Hezhe to tiger as objects of worship. This specification Hezhe social ethics to a certain extent, help others also to help themselves, even the beast, also cooperation, to join hands to jointly develop the unknown and mysterious nature.

With gratitude or sincere exchanges, mutual reciprocity beast before the harvest of peace, prosperity, this is to the interpersonal relationship between man and nature, the society more harmonious and orderly; at the same time in order to unite the society. For a long time the number of social population area of Hezhe nationality, "with a scoop with much land and few people, fish roe deer, pheasant fly into the pot, rich natural resources, so the relationship between man and man, man and beast is not competition, but cooperation, solidarity and common development needs of nature. The worship of tiger is closely related with the production and life of hunting and fishing. The ethnic minorities in the northeast is hunting for the generation thrive in Heilongjiang, the Songhua River and the Wusuli River in Sanjiang basin, because of Geographical remote and winter long, so the good heritage of traditional fishing culture. The culture worship of tiger, bear, deer, eagles, fish, trees and inanimate stone river, etc., these are all closely related to the production and life. The material conditions are extremely scarce, the spiritual home is pale the nation, age, pray a good harvest, well-being, travel mental peace lies in the worship of gods of all things. The worship of these things, it is difficult in the original Hezhe fishery production living conditions, relying on personal power to resist natural disasters, looking around the gods give super strength, bless the sons of prosperous, race. Therefore the worship of tiger has become the spiritual sustenance, effectively alleviate the fear of nature, then the pressure of survival. Although the bear worship, to eat meat is because the bears believe this can be like a bear brave courage and strength, but they seldom eat meat, which originated from the heart of the tiger. With the development of the productive forces, the spirit of culture has also been improved, the tiger gradually disappeared for worship, but in its historical and cultural traditions and religious beliefs, tiger worship still occupy an important position in Fuyuan Township and individual old Hezhe people still remember clearly when the tiger worship customs of Hezhe nationality. Through the study of Hezhe tiger worship, can fully understand the traditional culture, spiritual beliefs and customs, have a positive aThe understanding and study of Hezhe tiger worship, for the protection and development of the intangible cultural heritage has important practical significance and important cultural function. We should inherit and carry forward the China minority proverb, full of traditional minority culture research Chinese, protect and inherit the traditional culture of the Chinese nation, is our contemporary every citizen ought to do the duty.

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