Abstract

The Da Guan Yuan (大观园) in the novel A Dream of the Red Mansions (Hong Lou Meng 红楼梦) has long been examined in depth. This academic exercise aims to focus on the garden as an utopia, a perfect society for its residents.

Chapter one of this exercise explores the role of a garden image and setting as a representation of an idealistic world. The second chapter looks at the social environment of the garden, highlighting the nature of the inhabitants' activities and interaction. The mental and emotional conditions of the young living in the garden are illustrated in the next chapter. The fourth chapter then analyzes the breakdown of the garden society.

The findings reveal that Da Guan Yuan has indeed served as a perfect society for its young inhabitants. From many aspects discussed in the thesis, it is an utopia epitomizing undying youth. However, as this very ideal is impossible to be upheld in reality, the final collapse of the garden world is inevitable.