Abstract

Since The Six Dynasties era, women entering the Taoist convent became a trend. In the Tang dynasty, Women taking holy orders became a common phenomenon in the society. As such, Taoist nuns also became one of the themes in the lyrics of The Tang and Five Periods. Coupled with this, the portraits of Taoist nuns in the lyrics by the male literati and Taoist nuns are presented in very different aspects. This is a very interesting phenomenon. As such, we believe that the way the male literati portray Taoist nuns has its deeper meanings.

Before exploring the significance behind the portrayal of the Taoist nuns by male literati, a brief introduction on the historical background in introducing Taoist nuns as a theme in the lyrics would be given in chapter 2. The different ways in portraying Taoist nuns in lyrics by male literati will be presented in chapter 3. In chapter 4, we will be focusing on presenting the different ways in portraying Taoist nuns in lyrics by Taoist nuns. Finally in chapter 5, we will be using the comparative method to illustrate the significance behind the portrayal of Taoist nuns by male literati.

Through the comparison, we can see that male construct is the central idea of the portrayal of Taoist nuns by male literati. The main purpose behind the male construct is to satisfy the sensual desires of the literati.