Abstract

Based on the numerous and diversified stories of Yi jian zhi, this dissertation mainly concentrates on the following aspects:

To grasp a better picture of folk’s beliefs in demons, deities, spirits, ghosts and, certainly, retribution;

To deal with a deeper discussion about the social status of women in the Southern Song period. Issues about women, from both moral and society points of views are highlighted objectively.

Furthermore, the crucial relationship between wife and concubines was emphasized to a great extent, for instance, the wife’s unreasonable attitude towards concubines, and the inhumane custom of selling cum buying of concubines.

Comparing Yi jian zhi to Liaozhai zhiyi of the Qing period, differences arise mainly in the conceptual views of women due to different time constraint. The latter is not only an “offspring” of the former, but also, it overrides the former in many aspects. The stories of the latter were more well-rounded captured, and, most importantly, the societal problems of the Southern Song Dynasty were explored considerably in both length and breadth.

Even in this hi-tech era, this kind of beliefs has been deeply rooted among Chinese of all ages and they have become an indispensable sector of the Chinese cultures.