



A Brief Talk on the Close Relationship between Water and Japanese People

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Abstract

Japan is located in the world's rainy Asian monsoon belt, is a country with extremely rich water resources. However, due to its relatively small land area and relatively large population density, Japan's annual per capita precipitation is only 1/5 of the world's average, so it is a country with resource water shortage. In addition, Japan is often hit by typhoons, floods and other natural disasters. There are countless things in Japanese daily life that are closely related to water. Since ancient times, the understanding of the whole nation of Japan on water has been beyond the basic material, the Japanese people have formed a deep dependence on water, who has gradually become a belief in the eyes of the Japanese people, and even for some Japanese people, water has the sacred function of cleaning the body and mind, removing dirt, and purifying the soul, and many Japanese believe that people can get power from water. Water can bring Japanese people back to life. This paper mainly from farming life, Japanese language, Japanese life and Japanese beauty consciousness to explore the relationship between water and Japanese people.

Keywords

Fresh water, Japanese, relationship

Japan is surrounded by the sea, and its territory is basically in the rainy Asian monsoon climate zone. The average rainfall in the past 100 years is about 1,714 millimeters, equivalent to twice the world average rainfall of 970 millimeters. However, due to its relatively small land area and relatively large population density, Japan's annual per capita precipitation is only 530 cubic meters, which is 1/5 of the world's average 2,700 cubic meters. It is a resource-scarce country. In addition, a large part of Japan's water resources are concentrated in Meiyu period and typhoon period. Moreover, the river length is not long, so the water generated after rainfall flows into the sea without being used. In fact, the amount of available water resources is about 60 to 70 percent of the water resources in dry years (TONGKOU Zhi-qing, 1985).

Japan has abundant water resources given by nature, but it also suffers from heavy rain, floods and other natural disasters. Even in the face of the destruction of nature, the Japanese will struggle as hard as they can, as long as there is some hope of survival. To survive, they built reservoirs and DAMS, plowed fields and planted new seeds.

Even today, there are countless things in Japanese daily life that are closely related to water. This paper mainly discusses the close relationship between water and Japanese people from the following four aspects (JINTIAN Yi-chun-yan, 1979).

1. Water in farming life

It is widely believed that the strong emphasis on community in Japanese society was influenced by farming life. The farming life of the Japanese people for more than 2000 years is mainly rice farming. A long time ago, in order

not to miss the good season, farmers had to concentrate a large number of labor force in a short time to work together. And, in addition, the most indispensable thing is water. This means that water is closely related to rice farming in Japan. As mentioned in the introduction, because Japan is located in the Asian monsoon belt, it has a lot of precipitation. At the same time, there are many rivers in the terrain, so Japan has the natural conditions to build paddy fields (ZHONGYE Zun-zheng, 1982). In order to use water, farmers have to build DAMS, canals and other irrigation facilities. The work cannot be done by one person. Therefore, it is necessary for people living in the same place to come together to accomplish this difficult task.

In some years, the Japanese islands have less rain under the influence of typhoons. Therefore, it is important for everyone to work together to defend themselves against severe weather such as floods and droughts. As a result, people who drank from the same river slowly gathered together to form a rural community. The central task of the rural community is to manage water resources and secure the necessary water for People's Daily irrigation. In order to prevent disputes over the use of water for the irrigation of paddy fields, the rural community's elected "water chief" is responsible for the allocation of water. Later, villages were formed by people who shared the same water source. Individuals in this village have absolutely no right to dictate the use of water as they please. It is because people put the interests of the rural community above their own interests that every farmer must pay more attention to the existence of the common organization village in daily life (Li Yu-ling, 2003).

The sense of neighboring village is the common sense generated in the process of using water. In the past, the villages upstream and downstream of the river often quarreled over the interests of the water. As water is related to each other's life and death issues, if it develops to the point of breaking friends and quarrelling, then there will be constant disputes from now on, and even the death of such a tragedy. To avoid a tragedy, village to village talks are held to form a community to cooperate and strive for equal access to the limited water. It is in such a background that the sense of neighboring village comes into being. Even today in rural Japan there is still a tradition of neighbors helping each other and working together.

Thus, for people engaged in rice farming, if they do not use water properly, they will not survive. At the same time, we can also see that the rural community is generated in the process of using water by the Japanese.

2. Water in Everyday language

It is said that because the water in Japan is very clean, there are excellent water everywhere in the mountains and valleys of Japan, so the Japanese people can't help but stop to drink water when walking outside. Such a scene is unimaginable to foreigners.

The characteristic of Japanese people's love for water can be seen in the Japanese language. Words related to water, such as "water drop", "water jade", "water mirror" and "crystal", give people a very clean feeling. Japan has a lot of rain, rivers and water, so there are many words related to water. There are countless monosyllabic words like "river", "jin" and "Zhou".

There are many idioms and proverbs related to water in the daily life of Japanese people. For example the proverb "soup の よ う に う" is described the waste of money. In addition, there are many examples of Japanese using water to indicate interpersonal relationships. Such as "water poor を す" means "pick to pull alienation"; "Water か け controversy" said "the endless debate, lift die bar"; "Water が わ な い" means "character or constitution does not adapt to the new environment" is the "water". "Water と oil" said "never co-existed".

It is worth noting that there are some words in Japanese, although the word water appears, but it does not mean water. For example, "water maker 売" does not mean selling water, but to attract customers such as reception, meal business industry for a living. "water: み" people nor drink water, but the edo period of poor farmers in the field of home without epithet.

3. Water in daily life

Japan is wet and rainy, and Japanese people have gradually adapted to the weather in their lives. Japanese kimonos, wooden clogs and sandals, for example, were created in the process of adapting to wet weather and also to protect against moisture (Edwin O. Reischauer, 1998).

Japanese food culture has also been influenced by water. For example, the Japanese diet contains a lot of fermented foods, such as miso (Japanese sauce), naji (Japanese kimchi) and natto (Japanese bean paste), which are closely related to wet weather. A sweet Japanese sake often consumed with sashimi (raw fish). In Niigata Prefec-

ture, northeast Japan, a kind of sake named "Shangshan Ruoshui" is very popular in the market. Its name comes from the Tao Te Jing of Laozi, a famous ancient Chinese philosopher, which reflects the influence of water on Japanese food culture, as well as the characteristics that Japan is good at absorbing foreign culture.

Many words in Japanese use "water" or are related to "water", reflecting the influence of water on Japanese People's Daily life, as well as their character and view of nature. For example, the four-word word "my field to divert water" warns people not only to divert water to their own paddy fields, but also to have the spirit of collective cooperation. This is because the topography of Japan is large, and paddy irrigation needs the cooperation of multiple households. Again like the phrase "water flows に す" original intention is to point to the river water in a short flow Japan fell into the water quickly washed away, reflects the Japanese people to follow the natural view of nature, but also reflect the Japanese about the unpleasant things always embrace the idea of "let the water flow away", rather than positive for reflection and critique of personality characteristics.

4. Water in Japanese beauty consciousness

In expressing the meaning "beauty" of the Japanese words in "みずみずしい" (weeping) such a term, in the eyes of the Japanese, the state of being "full of water" is beautiful. The Japanese sprinkle water in the yard or in front of the door, not only to keep down the dust, but more importantly, the Japanese believe that the water will make the area become more lively, thus full of life, so Japanese people are used to sprinkle some water in front of the door before guests come to visit. In terms of food, the Japanese tend to eat things that have a lot of water or juice in them. In terms of color, the Japanese prefer to take a little moisture, can make the color of the shade of the boundary blurred secondary color. The Japanese love light colors, and the Yoshino cherry blossom, which are very popular in Japan, are a reddish color close to white.

In addition, the high humidity of Japan also has a great influence on the sense of beauty.

The annual average humidity in Tokyo is nearly 70 percent, with the highest being more than 80 percent in July and the driest being 75 percent in January and February. Nationally, the average annual humidity in Japan is 64 percent, exactly twice the average of 32 percent in France. So, Japan is not a very nice place to live. But the Japanese have never had any resistance to this moisture, and have skillfully introduced it into their lives. It is in such a long-term run-in to cultivate the Japanese unique sense of beauty.

Since ancient times, the Japanese have been interested in clouds, clouds and dew, which are the products of moisture, so they always use these themes in their paintings and literature. Wabi-wabi-sabi and Sabi can only be found in a country with high humidity like Japan.

5. Japanese belief in water

According to a large number of historical records in Japan, the Japanese people have always had a deep belief in water. In the hearts of the Japanese people, water is a sacred existence that can promote rebirth, purify body and mind, remove filth and enrich power. How did the Japanese water-borne poplar come into being?

First of all, Japan is an island country surrounded by sea. Lakes and rivers are widely distributed on the island of Japan. Climate change is very regular throughout the year, and perennial rainfall distribution. So the Japanese have had a real sense of water since ancient times. In their long-term living practice, the Japanese have found that water can wash away dust, magazines and dirt, so they naturally give water the function of physical and mental cleansing. For example, sumo wrestling, the oldest competitive sport in Japan, is so popular in Japan that it is also called the Nation of Japan. And there are two words in sumo movement for "water" and "water into 水"). "Water into 水)" refers to two phase spectrum is in the case of a tie for a long time, with permission of the referee suspended the game. In the process of water into the 水) history need to use "water" gargle. "Lishui" means the water of power, and sumo wrestlers not only gain strength but also cleanse their body and mind through this action.

Secondly, affected by geographical environment and climate factors, the forest coverage rate is very high. In Japan, forests are found not only on hillsides, but also on flat land. After the Yayoi period, the Japanese began to cut down a lot of forests, but there were some areas where the Japanese would never cut down forests. It is the forest of the Kaneshu, a sacred place in the eyes of the Japanese must not be without a forest. Due to the influence of the belief in the period of God, Japanese people have always had animistic thoughts. This deep-rooted thought makes Japanese people naturally believe that the forest is the place where God should take refuge. Therefore, Japanese people have a natural sense of awe and worship for the forest. Forest belief has gradually become a core concept of

Japanese religious thought, which constitutes the main structure of Japanese spiritual thinking. Therefore, in real life, the basic living security of Japanese people also depends on forests, such as food for people to eat and materials for construction. So for the Japanese, the forest represents a kind of reliance and sustenance. The colorful colors in the process of four seasons make the Japanese people more worship for the thousands of amorous feelings of the forest, which has gradually cultivated the Japanese people formed an aesthetic sense of excellent metaphysical beauty. Water is essential to the growth and survival of all natural life. Without water, there would be no life, and without water, there would be no life of plants. Japanese people have gradually derived their belief in water, the source of life, due to their reverence for forests and aesthetic experience of plants. This is where the Japanese belief in water comes from.

6. Conclusion

The nature of water has the duality of "static" and "dynamic". As Japan is good at making use of nature and has the spirit of fighting in harsh environment, its culture and economic development generally show the characteristics of "moving water". However, since the 1990s, the economic growth rate of Japan has slowed down, and the culture has begun to pursue a quiet, clean, comfortable and stable life, showing the characteristics of "still water". At present our country has a high economic growth, thriving cultural development, is full of "dynamic water" the vitality, at the same time we also need to learn the experience and lessons of Japan and other economic developed countries, keep the balance of "static water" and "dynamic water", to promote the steady and orderly development of the whole society.

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