

The ancient Tibetan's worship on holy mountains and holy lakes and the biological environment protection of Tibet-Qinghai Plateau

Jiangbian Jiacao

Almost every huge mountain, every big river and every large lake in Tibet-Qinghai Plateau has a beautiful tale. Consequently it generated numerous holy mountains and holy lakes across the highland. The worship of Holy mountains and Holy lakes plays an important role in ancient Tibetan's worships to nature.

The first seeing of ancient Tibetan people who lived on the snow land were towering snow mountains, vast grasslands, magnificent views of nature as well as severe biological situation under less-oxygen environment and unpredictable weather. There was no way that they could understand and explain such a complicated natural phenomenon in a objective environment, as a result, various illusions, delusions, assumptions as well as imaginations were generated in their mind, they were convinced: The transition of sun, moon and stars is powered by a super-natural existence. Mountain has mountain-god, so do water, wind and thunder. All villages and tribes have their own guarding-spirits. In general, all beings in this world were powered by their own guarding-spirits. The faith, dependence, fearfulness, or animosity and aversion to these deities had been gradually converted to the worship to nature. They spiritualized nature to spirit and then humanized the spirit. In another word, giving the beings characteristics of god and then followed the step of god. The thinking of "souls on everything" and natural worship of ancient Tibetan had been generated in this way.

In the opinion of ancient Tibetan, fables and legends, holy mountains and holy lakes, super-natural spirits linked tightly with each other. Even though many nationalities in different regions have their own worshipping holy mountains and holy lakes, it is not as many as Tibetan, also is not as popular as on Tibet-Qinghai Plateau. Those holy mountains and holy lakes closely connect to people's religion, working, custom and daily life. It seems that Tibetan people live with a world of holy mountains and holy lakes. From their worship to holy mountains and holy lakes, we can clearly see the ancient Tibetan's worship to nature.

This worship to nature, especially the worship to holy mountains and holy lakes, demonstrated original environment-protection consciousness of ancient Tibetan and played very important role on biological environment protection of Tibet-Qinghai Plateau. The purpose of this article is to remind people to concern about the biological environment protection of Tibet-Qinghai Plateau by analyzing historical origin and practical function of this special worship to nature.

This is not just a subject in terms of study and theory, more important, it is a practical issue about the lasting development of Tibet-Qinhai Plateau and biological environment protection of Yangtse River and Yellow River, the two rivers that have been considered as mothers of this great oriental land.