

AN ANALYSIS OF TAO YUAN-MING'S “HSIEN-CHING-FU”

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ABSTRACT

There are three existing literary Fu penned by Tao Yuan-Ming at present, including “Kuei-Chu-Lai-Tzu” (歸去來辭) “Kan-Shih-Pu-Yu-Fu” (感士不遇賦) and “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦). Although the number of his existing works is small, each work has its own importance in the history of Ci-Fu (辭賦). Among his works, “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦) stands out as the most exceptional because scholarly opinions regarding the explanation of its main thoughts and philosophy, and the determination of its literary value have always diverged. Hsiao Tung’s An Anthology of Tao Yuan-Ming’s works (陶淵明集) first degraded the literary value of “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦). For long, critics who argued about the literary value of “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦) mostly centered on its lack of remonstrance and they gave severe criticism against the work. There are two reasons why research on this topic should be conducted. On the one hand, the discussion over Fu’s remonstrance has great influence on the determination of Fu’s literary value. On the other hand, “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦) could be regarded as the greatest literary work on the motif of expressing a leisurely and carefree mental attitude. In order to grasp the clear idea of “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦), the author would start by setting out a comprehensive study on its literary context and history background so as to prove that “Hsien-Ching-Fu” (閑情賦) is actually a literary statement which reveals Tao Yuan-Ming’s pursuit of political ideals and the desire not to be a government official.

Keywords: Tao Yuan-Ming, Hsien-Ching-Fu, Shi-Yin, Hsien-Hsie