

Discussion on the Value and Limitations of the Chivalrous Expert Image in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*

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Abstract: *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* is a novel of chivalrous intricate cases, and the full text describes the intricate cases of official circles based on Bao Zheng and the chivalrous experts' deeds around Three Heroes and Five Gallants. The chivalrous expert images of the three chivalrous expert and the five gallants varies in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, Bai Yutang's chivalry is based on arrogance, Zhao Hu's chivalry has a comic flavor in loyalty, bravery and chivalry, and Lu Fang's chivalry has more than enough loyalty but not enough chivalry, etc., the chivalrous expert images of each subject in the three chivalrous experts and the five gallants also differ. This paper analyzes the origin and value of the chivalrous expert image in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, conducts the analysis of the chivalrous expert image in combination with the gallants such as the northern and the southern chivalrous experts, knows the character image, understands the limitations of the chivalrous expert image, and helps readers understand "Three Chivalrous Heroes and Five Gallants" more deeply.

Keywords: *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, Chivalrous expert image, Value, Limitations.

1. Introduction

The Three Heroes and Five Gallants, this novel of chivalrous intricate cases appeared in the late Qing Dynasty, written by Shi Yukun, the novel contents mainly describe related deeds of the Song Dynasty official Bao Zheng led his men, chivalrous experts Zhan Zhao, Zhao Hu and other people in official circles, and it show the chivalrous expert story of patriotic and loyal to the people and carrying forward chivalry and justice. The plot in the novel is undulating and thrilling, which vividly and distinctly shows the chivalrous expert image of the characters in the story, absorbs countless readers, and it can be said that *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* is a representative work of chivalrous novels of intricate cases the Qing Dynasty. Hu Shi, Lu Xun and others conducted in-depth analysis for *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, and Hu Shi explored the stories of Bao Zheng and Concubine Li in the novel. The evaluation is made for Shi Yukun's creation, it points out that *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* has more inherited parts, while the writing about the chivalrous experts is mostly created, it shows the innovation of *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* in the chivalrous expert storyline [1]; Lu Xun affirms that *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* is very successful in shaping the characters' image[2]. This paper more deeply analyzes the chivalrous expert image mentioned in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, understand the value and corresponding limitations of the corresponding chivalrous expert image in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* and summarizes the value and shortcomings of the image shaping.

2. Tracing to the Source of Chivalrous Expert Image in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*

The chivalrous experts and gallants of *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* have a distinct connection with the chivalrous expert image. From tracing to the source of the

chivalrous expert image, chivalrous expert was first proposed by Sima Qian, who called the ranger and the chivalrous expert together [3]. When mentioning chivalrous expert, the image of a tall and just person easily comes to people's mind, and a chivalrous expert wouldn't hesitate to help his friend at the loss of his life, and even defend those unjustly treated for strangers. Liu Ruoyu points out in his book that the characteristics of a chivalrous expert include kindheartedness and justice, full swing, commitment, and seeking justice. For the chivalrous expert, he often acts on his own will, shows a strong sense of justice, and prize righteousness and benevolence above wealth, values promise and mean what he said, and has the spirit of sacrifice that dares to be the first. The research on chivalrous expert in ancient times reached its peak period in the Qin and Han dynasties, and *The History of the Former Han Dynasty* and *The Historical Records* both set up "Collected Biographies of Ranger" to carry out research on ancient chivalrous experts[4]. Moreover, the figure of chivalrous experts can be found everywhere in ancient literary works, such as the sacrificial spirit of Nvwa Mending the Heavens to save the living and the persistent spirit of Jingwei Filling the Sea, which all show the spirit of chivalry. The spirit of chivalry have a broad manifestation in the novels of Ming and Qing dynasties, the ancient chivalrous spirit in *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* about repaying favors and a promise is as good as a thousand taels; the chivalrous spirit of Sun Wukong curbing the violent and assisting the weak in the *Journey to the West*; and the chivalrous spirit of Liu Xianglian value friendships and defy bigwigs in the *A Dream of Red Mansions*, all show the image of chivalrous heroes, thus showing a colorful chivalrous world for people. The most distinctive feature of the three chivalrous experts and five gallants in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* is their "loyalty and chivalry", *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* also vividly portrays characters from different social classes, these characters show chivalry to some extent, high officials such as Bao Zheng, Yan Zhasan, and Ni Jizu in the government also show chivalry. In addition to the male

chivalrous experts, the upright and kind female chivalrous experts, the chivalrous and loyal servants, and the common people with chivalrous style, together construct a colorful chivalrous world.

In *"The Three Heroes and Five Gallants"*, "The Three Heroes" mainly refers to the southern chivalrous expert Zhan Zhao, the northern chivalrous expert Ouyang Chun and the young chivalrous expert Ai Hu; the five gallants refer to the five men: Jinmao Rat Bai Yutang, Fanjiang Rat Jiang Ping, Chuanshan Rat Xu Qing, Chedi Rat Han Chang and Zuantian Rat Lu Fang. On the basis of vividly portraying the image of the three chivalrous experts and five gallants, it tells a series of stories about Pao Zheng's journey to Dingyuan County and Kaifeng Prefecture during the Northern Song Dynasty, including the stories of "Civet cats born Prince" and "Five Mice Make Troubles in Capital", it vividly creates the image of just and stern "Judge", shows the struggle spirit of the lower class with the help of chivalrous experts and gallants, the just actions of chivalrous experts and gallants who fought against injustice are interspersed in the middle, shows their great chivalry and excellent qualities of serving the country and the people.

3. Value Analysis of Chivalrous Expert image in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*

3.1. The role and value of the character setting level

The Three Heroes and Five Gallants contains three chivalrous experts and five gallants, involving characters, when portraying the image of the chivalrous experts, firstly, the different images of the chivalrous experts are shaped and distinguished in from language and appearance, help readers better distinguish the chivalrous expert image of different characters. There are many characters in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, and the author consciously makes the characters more vivid when portraying character, as the storyline develops, the task character of different chivalrous experts becomes more and more prominent, which helps to highlight the significance of the characters' personalities. When creating the image of chivalrous expert, it is not created randomly like a heavenly steed soaring across the skies, but based on close to the character of the task, sublimating character details, so that the image of chivalrous expert is more visualized and personalized [6]. For example, Ai Hu, the young chivalrous expert, portrayed chivalrous figure is straightforward and resourceful, and despite his young age, he very likes drinking. In the plot of Ai Hu's appearance, it is unfolded around the distinctive feature of "like wine". For example, the eighty-second section in the book shows Ai Hu detained in the prison, Bai Yutang went to visit, he said he only want good wine and not food; then eighty-six section described Ai Hu because of liking wine and is too fond of drink, drink too much to cause the enemy's alarm, consequently, almost lost his life. In the eighty-eighth section, Ai Hu alone presses on, see someone in the roadside shake their fist to eat wine, and he miss accommodation, want to ask for some drinks, as a result, the other party did not care, Ai Hu interferes with the shake of fist, and finally he fight with a few people, Ai Hu have dined and wined to satiety, the fishermen was left to flee. Who could have anticipated that Ai Hu ate and drank to the full, the fishermen turned back to take

a stick to teach Ai Hu, Ai Hu deliberately did not move to let the other side hit a few out of anger, ready to leave, as a result, the fishermen did not let him go, forming a comical scene. From such an image, Ai Hu is naive and young, like wine, the character is frank and straightforward. In addition to portraying chivalrous experts and gallants, *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* also portrays different classes of people such as government officials, relatives of an emperor, and common people. There are clever and smart chivalrous experts among these characters, such as Jiang Ping; there are extremely nauseating corrupt officials, such as Pang Yu; there are also sly thieves. From the perspective of the character traits of Bai Yutang, he is proud and conceited moreover, he is the brash and frank, both can be three visits to Chongxiao House, but also disguise and make friends, Yan Chasan and other people, he will bicker with the little servant, but also tease Zhan Zhao, he left a plaque of "angry cat" for Zhan Zhao. In the vivid portrayal of the character, the character is created through different angles, so that the image of the chivalrous experts are shown more three-dimensional and vivid.

3.2. The role and value of the artistic effect level

The vivid portrayal of chivalrous experts in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* can enliven the atmosphere of the story and convey the author's thoughts. As a novel of chivalrous intricate cases, the plot of *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* is rich, and story performance is more exciting, which focuses on the portrayal of chivalrous characters, and make the story atmosphere more active [7]. The first half of contents depicts by the novel are unfolded with various chivalrous experts helping Bao Zheng to solve the case, which makes the contents of the novel more vivid through the portrayal of characters and plot, and avoids *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* from becoming a case file. For example, the dramatic portrayal of the chivalrous figure makes the characters more vivid and the plot more interesting. For example, Zhao Hu disguises as a beggar to handle a case, Bai Yutang makes friends with Yan Chasan, and Zhan Zhao teases Pang Yu, etc., which add laughs and highlights to the story content based on building comedic scenes. For the chivalrous experts and Gallants, it also expresses the author's affirmation and love of positive characters in the depiction of positive characters. Such actions as chivalry are worthy praise, therefore, for the unexpected actions made by the chivalrous experts in the plot, we can also see the author's praise for the chivalrous behavior, for example, Zhao Hu pretends to be a beggar, Bai Yutang pretends to be a rogue, and lord Ding disguises as a fisherman, under the unexpected excitement of the chivalrous expert, the image of the chivalrous person become more vivid. Moreover, the characters' traits, such as Zhao Hu's brash and recklessness, Bai Yutang's random action, and lord Ding's intelligence and smartness, are also shown more distinctly, which make readers better understand the characters and thus recognize and affirm chivalrous expert under the unexpected chivalrous behaviors.

3.3. The role and value of reading experience level

When mistrials occur, people hope to be redressed with the help of the heroes of the greenwood, just and stern, honest and upright officials and the chivalrous experts and gallants who help people when seeing injustice in the road. The creation of *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* corresponds to the

readers' needs, under the vivid descriptions of the author, it better close the distance between the readers and gives them a better reading experience[8]. *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* shows a parallel story content of Qing official and chivalrous experts, on the one hand, it solves wrongful cases through redress, on the other hand, it shows the world of helping the weak. The story of Bao Zheng is familiar to people, it also means that this literary work has a lot of potential audiences, and portraying the chivalrous expert image in the creation can make the story more interesting and close the distance between readers and the text. For example, the conflict between Zhan Zhao and Bai Yutang in the novel, the earliest began in Zhan Zhao got the title of "Royal Cat", Bai Yutang dissatisfied with this and went to the capital to find Zhan Zhao, and finally used a scheme to steal the three treasures, and left a note "called the Royal Cat cannot run". And then Zhan Zhao went to Xiankong island to find Bai Yutang to fall into the trap laid by Bai Yutang, Zhan Zhao successfully retrieve the three treasures with the help of Ding brothers and five gallants. The unfolded description around the two chivalrous expert makes readers understand the character of Zhan Zhao and Bai Yutang, but also make readers want to explore what will happen between the two, thus leaving readers in suspense. Therefore, from the description of the chivalrous experts' conflicts and behavior, it makes the reader's interest in reading *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* improved while making the image of the chivalrous expert more vivid.

4. Case Analysis of Chivalrous Expert Image in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*

4.1. "Confucian chivalrous expert" Zhan Zhao

No matter in the times of peace and prosperity or in the turbulent days, the chivalrous experts have the role of getting rid of an evil of a great nation and pacifying the problems of a great nation. The chivalrous experts in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* all have this point, among which Zhan Zhao's "Confucian chivalry expert" image is the most prominent. First, kindheartedness and justice and chivalrous style. Southern chivalrous expert is the "Confucian chivalry expert" author concentrate on shaping. Whether he is far away in the rivers and lakes or in the royal or imperial court, Southern chivalrous expert Zhan Zhao's principle of action is "the world's people manage the world's affairs", the principle of helping people in the injustice as a code of action. Southern chivalrous expert Zhan Zhao first appeared in the third episode of *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, hero first rescue people in the Golden Dragon Temple, the hidden village fox pay a debt of gratitude, these stories show Zhan Zhao this character, except that he was granted the title of Imperial Cat in the emperor's audience hall, which had nothing to do with the chivalrous behavior, the novel in many chapters wrote Zhan Zhao's chivalrous behaviors, it shows the image of Zhan Zhao as a chivalrous expert who curb the violent and assist the weak from multiple level. For the people at the bottom of the feudal society, their desire for the appearance of the chivalrous expert to get rid of the cruel and pacify the good people, similarly, chivalrous experts pay more attention to the affairs of the weak, and if they encounter the suffering of the people, they will also step forward. Southern chivalrous expert Zhan Zhao is the image of such a benevolent person who loves the people. Moreover, southern

chivalrous expert Zhan Zhao is chivalrous image who gets rid of the cruel and pacifies the good people, and he gets acquainted with rescue Bao Zheng when rescue people in fear, and has indissoluble bound with Bao Zheng. Subsequently, he and Bao Zheng travels around the rivers and lakes, meet injustice to fight for justice. Second, the desire to save the world. Zhan Zhao also has the desire to save the world, he is set up by Bao Zheng as an introduction to in front of the imperial court to show his three skills, was Song Renzong grants as the imperial fourth-grade guard who can bring the knife, given the name "imperial cat". The emperor and Bao Gong repeatedly urged to catch Bai YuTang, but because Jiang Ping looking for Han Zhang late, Zhan Zhao only goes into the Xiankong island, was trapped by Bai Yutang in the Tongtian Cave. Later, Zhan Zhao believes Bai Yutang really did injustice, no longer obediently stay in the Tongtian Cave, names to see Bai Yutang. And reprimanded Bai Yutang: "visible green forest in the mountains, do not know law and discipline. You are not a monarch, nor a governor, how dare you presume to say the word 'assassin', what you say is the unreasonable." It shows that the southern chivalrous expert embodies his desire to save the world in his entry into the world as an official. Compared to the radical and random Jinmao Rat, Zhan Zhao's character more meets a mean course and the way of forgiveness. Southern chivalrous expert swallow humiliation and bear a heavy load in the Xiankong island, forbear Bai Yutang everywhere, do not show spearhead when handling matters, and this adds thick and heavy in colors to the image of his "Confucian chivalrous expert" chivalrous figure.

4.2. Wise chivalrous expert Jiang Ping

In the images of the three chivalrous experts and five gallants in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, Jiang Ping's image can be said to be the worst among the five rats in the Xiankong island. From the portrayal of the character of Jiang Ping, his body is small, thin, yellow, and thin, like a sick man. But his own skills are excellent, water kung fu is first-class, can do in the water to live, open eyes to see things. Jiang Ping is a Jinling merchant, he is relatively witty and tricky, with a sense of treachery. Jiang Ping's land kung fu is not good compared to the rest of the chivalrous experts, so this person does not easily resort to forces in the novel. From the plot of the robbery of the birthday gift of Pang Ji, Jiang Ping and the rest of chivalrous experts do not take the strategy of open robbery, but based on careful planning, follow the people who send birthday gift of, eat and live with them, look for opportunities to give medicine, so as to rob the ten thousand taels of gold, and then disappears. The Fangjiang Rat played his own witty nature, leaving a piece of ivory sign in the bonsai, writes "no righteous wealth, intend to check it", when getting other people's property at the same time, do not forget to make a joke with others. The portrayal of the witty character of the Fanjiang Rat focuses on the banter with Liu Qing in this episode, in order to subdue Zhong Xiong, Jiang Ping and Liu Qing set a ten-day agreement to steal the hairpin to get Liu Qing's knockout drops. Jiang Ping prepares for stealing and returning hairpin by understanding the character of Liu Qing, the plan can be described as very detailed. From the costume dress, only net scarf on the head without a turban, dress two shoes on feet, so that Liu Qing first relaxes vigilance, and then use the provocation method to let Liu Qing himself remove the hairpin on the table, and then pick up the real hairpin exchange, leave the fake hairpin to Liu

Qing. Jiang Ping return to his own house before saying that he had stolen the hairpin successfully, and dose not return the hairpin, then return the hairpin with the reason of returning the hat, so that Liu Qing is convinced of it. Jiang Ping only glances at Liu Qing's hairpin from the Wufeng Ridge and under the moonlight, and then creates a fake hairpin that mixes the spurious with the genuine, lays the groundwork for stealing and returning hairpins, although Jiang Ping's external image is not pleasing, he is resourceful, For Jiang Ping, his wisdom and resourcefulness make up for the lack of force.

4.3. Buddha chivalrous expert Ouyang Chun

Northern chivalrous expert Ouyang Chun is also the chivalrous character that author carefully creates in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*. Ouyang Chun has blue eyes and purple beard, good looks, and strong force, people called him as the northern chivalrous expert, he is on par with Zhan Zhao, northern chivalrous expert. Moreover, Ouyang Chun is also a relatively special existence in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, when the rest of the chivalrous experts join the government to serve the people, Ouyang Chun choose to roam the rivers and lakes, has a strong sense of justice and ready to help the weak. The most obvious image of the northern chivalrous expert is to be indifferent to fame and wealth, and does as his wishes. In *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, Ding Zhaolan hears about the oppression of the people by Ma Gang, repeatedly sounds out North chivalrous expert, who had a plan in mind to remove Ma Gang, but did not show his face. In contrast, the northern chivalrous expert's peace and calmness is more admirable. Ouyang Chun has his own principles for having a strong sense of justice and ready to help the weak, and he does it without being known as far as possible. After eliminating Ma Gang through some magical means, he told Ding Zhaolan, "To do justice, you should keep it quiet and confidential, rather than revealing your original face, as long as you remove the evil and help the weak. There is no need to let people know". When catching the flower-picking bandits, northern chivalrous expert is credited with defeating Deng Che to make the flower butterflies lose their reliance under his superior martial arts, only let Jiang Ping have a chance to take advantage of it and catch Hua Chong. Northern chivalrous expert does not take credit for this, but instead said goodbye and left the village of Malfara. We can see that Northern chivalrous expert distinguishes his chivalrous and righteous actions from the affairs of official circles very clearly, he helps Jiang Ping's fame, and retires after winning merit. Northern chivalrous expert is compassionate and values life very much. When capturing Ma Gang, the northern chivalrous expert is compassionate and let go of Ma Gang's wife Guo, but Guo make unfounded countercharges, he is sued. When Bai Yutang was ordered to arrest him, northern chivalrous expert win over Bai Yutang, he could have walked away, but because northern chivalrous expert understands the high-mindedness and arrogance of Jinmao Rat, if he walks away Jinmao Rat may make troubles, therefore, northern chivalrous expert save Jinmao Rat three times, and generates ideas idea for the two chivalrous expert

to reconcile from it, and avoid the face of both sides to be affected. After Bai Yutang agrees, he choose to follow him to the capital to explain the truth of the case of the Ma family. We can see that northern chivalrous expert Ouyang Chun acts steadily, does not show the spearhead, when maintaining an independent personality, indifferent to the quality of fame and wealth, he does not work for the official circles, does not work for the bigwigs, adhere to have a strong sense of justice and ready to help the weak and does not leave a name, retires after winning merit.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, there are many chivalrous experts in *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, and different chivalrous righteous characters have different corresponding chivalrous expert image. *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants* shows a complicate plot, the study on the chivalrous expert image should objectively evaluate and understand its value and limitations, restore the true face of the characters, and know the advantages and shortcomings of the chivalrous expert image. For the chivalrous experts such as the southern chivalrous experts, the northern chivalrous experts, and the wise chivalrous experts, the creation of their chivalrous expert image not only promotes the development of the plot of *The Three Heroes and Five Gallants*, but also enriches the plot atmosphere of the novel, and attracts countless readers interested in the undulating story in the characters' respective charms.

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