

On the Cultural Characteristics of Yimu Fang and the Historical Achievements of the Father and Son of Fang Yanqian and Fang Xuanling

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Abstract

Yimu Fang family was the distinguished surname of the North that emerged during the sixteen Kingdoms period. The Fang family are active in official and Confucian inheritors, the father Fang Yanqian and the son Fang Xuanling were trained as famous social elite. Fang Yanqian was filial to his parents, diligent to his study, free from corruption to official and impartial to his family, known as "The best official in the country". Fang Xuanling made masterful plans during wars at the end of The Sui Dynasty, and was good at constructing and scheming. At the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, he spent lots of efforts to put down the war and made great contributions to the establishment and prosperity of the Tang Dynasty. He became a famous statesman and historian in the early Tang Dynasty, and was praised as a good prime minister.

Keywords

Yimu Fang, Cultural characterites, Fang Yanqian, Fang Xuanling, Historical contribution.

1. INTRODUCTION

Yimu Fang family was the distinguished surname of the North that emerged during the sixteen Kingdoms period. In the early years of the Sui and Tang Dynasties, Fang Yanqian and Fang Xuanling were both famous fathers and sons, which made the reputation of this famous family continue and reach its peak.

2. THE CULTURE OF YIMU FANG FAMILY AND ITS FAMILY

Since the rise of the Yimu Fang family, they have been high officials for generations and talent prosperity. Fang Yanqian's seventh heir, Fang Chen, the official Yan for Grand Commandant, moved to Qidi with the Murong family and settled in Yimu (now Zichuan, Shandong). Gaozu Fang Fashou, as prefect of Wei County in Song, the official Northern Wei for Pingyuan general and Jizhou feudal provincial. Great-grandfather Fang Bozu, once served as governor of Youzhou Auxiliary State Government. Fang Yanqian grandfather Fang Yi, once as Song prefect. Father Fang Xiong was filial by nature, clever and honest. State chief secretary, line of Qinghe, Guangchuan two county. Fang Xiong had seven children. Uncle Fang Bao, official to Boling, Laoling satrap. After the death of the Northern Qi, Fang Bao returned to his native land, cultivated himself and died at home. Yanqian brother Yanxu was full of eloquence and learning, once served as Qiansheng, Yidu county magistrate, there was preferential government. The Fang family official is prominent, from this can peep one spot.

The Fang family abode by Confucian ethics, practiced filial piety and preached Confucianism classics and history. Fang Jingbo mourned for his parents, even to be famous for his filial piety; Fang Jingxian and Jingyuan were respectful to brother, brother treated each other respectfully; Jingyuan loved historical biography, brought up, and educated elder brother orphan, did one's best. Fang Jingxian was poor and had no money to learn from teachers in his childhood. His mother taught him MAO Shi and Qu Li by herself. He cut wood by day and recited Confucian classics and histories at night, eventually renowned for talent and to be Chamberlain for Ceremonials Erudite. At that time, the master of Chamberlain for Ceremonials Liu Fang, Privy Counselor Cui Guang marveled at his profound knowledge, had written Five Classics Question more than 100 pieces.

From the point of view of the family cultural characteristics, Yimu Fang family are active in official and Confucian inheritors, these characteristics in Fang Yanqian, Fang Xuanling have a distinct embodiment. It can be said that Fang Yanqian and his son are the crystallization of the Fang family's cultural inheritance.

3. "THE BEST OFFICIAL IN THE COUNTRY" FANG YANQIAN

Throughout his life, Fang Yanqian experienced frequent changes of the Eastern Wei, Northern Qi, Northern Zhou and Sui Dynasty. He inherited the cultural tradition of his family. He was filial to his parents, diligent to his study, free from corruption to official and impartial to his family. He not only made himself famous for his high integrity and bureaucratic talent, but also cultivated such a son as Fang Xuanling, a famous minister of Tang Dynasty, by his words and example.

Fang Yanqian (547-615) lost his father when he was young and was brought up by his mother and brother. Elder brother Yanxun, loved Yanqian nature understanding, personally taught him reading. When Yanqian was seven years old, he could recite tens of thousands of words, considered by clansman to be an unusual talent. At the age of 15, he was adopted to uncle Fang Zizhen, very filial piety to stepmother, deeply loved by uncle. When stepmother died, Yanqian didn't put in any soup for five days. Yanqian served uncle Laoling satrap Fang Bao, also exerted all his efforts, the four seasons output of the precious fruit always leaved uncle, never taste a first. Even in mourning for more distant relatives, one must observe the rules of etiquette and set an example for the whole nation to follow. Later Yanqian followed doctor Yin Lin study, hard work, very studious and learned five classics. Yanqian was fond of literature, and good at calligraphy, Suishu this biography called its "interpretation belongs to the text, proficient in cursive official scribe, elegant has a word debate, the wind is high" [1].

Yanqian, eighteen years old, held the post of the North Qi State governor, Guangning King Xiaoyan conscripted the deputy governor. Laws were lax and county officials were often unable to do their jobs. Yanqian took office, simplifying the law, state solemn and quiet, everyone respected. After the fall of the Northern Qi, Yanqian missed his homeland and lived in seclusion. In the seventh year of Kai Huang (587), Emperor Wen of the Sui Dynasty, he began to serve as an official to Supervisory Censor. After Emperor Wen of Sui pacified the state of Chen, Yanqian ordered the pacification of prefectures, such as Quan and Kuo, called his actions "will" and received a reward and promotion. The left man shoot Gao Jiong asked ministers to comment on the test system for bureaucrats during the Imperial Accreditation Test. Yanqian pointed out that there was a tendency for officials to be either upright or upright, and not worthy of a high ranking accreditation body. The unreasonable phenomenon of "Lofty loneliness straight, not necessarily high name; an obsequious official, turn the first" [2], he hoped the imperial court can add interviews and award meritocracy. Gao Jiong listened and marveled. Then Yanqian severed as Henan Changge county, enlightened the local people with virtue, the people called him the loving father, for him erected a monument to praise virtue. Garden. Empress years (601-604), Emperor Wen sent a messenger over all the counties

which examined the abilities of officials at all levels, Yanqian was awarded the first in the country for his diligence and was promoted to Ruozhou Sima. Because of his reputation at the time, he was also called up as a Sili feudal provincial. In his later years, he was resented by the rulers for being impartial, honest and upright, and not being an official. He was transferred externally to Jingyang (now part of Shanxi province) county. Soon after, he died in office at the age of 69. Yanqian had a clean pedigree, didn't mix with miscellaneous guests. He became friends with famous scholars like Xue Daoheng, Wang Shao, Gao Gou, Li Gang, Liu Yu and Xue Ru. After the establishment of the Tang Dynasty, he was posthumously presented as Xuzhou governor, Linzi County, posthumous title for the decision.

4. FANG XUANLING, A GENERATION OF VIRTUOUS PRIME MINISTER

Fang Xuanling (579-648), who inherited his family status and tradition, made masterful plans during wars at the end of The Sui Dynasty, and was good at constructing and scheming. At the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, when he ruled the peace, he made great contributions to the establishment and prosperity of the Tang Dynasty. He became a famous statesman and historian in the early Tang Dynasty, and was praised as a good prime minister.

4.1. Foresight and Shrewdness

Xuanling was wise from an early age, read the classics and history extensively. Moreover he was proficient in cursive script and writing, had great vision. When the Sui Dynasty, he followed father Fang Yanqian to the capital, at that time, all was at peace, the mixing and quiet, everyone thought the Sui Dynasty had a long history. However, Xuanling quietly said to his father: "There is no merits for Emperor Sui, blindly to confound the people, not for future generations to arrangement. The princes who are not divided by their wives or concubines and luxurious relatives of the emperor inevitably cause internal conflict, not enough to save the country. Now it seems to be peace and tranquility, its death is sufficient to wait." Yanqian listened to these words, for his son's vision was surprised.

When Xuanling was 18 years old, Gao Xiaoji of the ministry of civil affairs, who was famous for being a magistrate, saw Fang Xuanling and was very impressed. He said to Pei Ju, "I have read countless people in my life, but I have never seen such a young man. Fang Xuanling will achieve great things in the future. Unfortunately, I will not see the day when he rises above the clouds."

In 617 A.D, Li Yuan rose up in Taiyuan and sent Li Shimin to attack Weibei. Xuanling heard the news and visited the military gate. Li Shimin once saw him as if encountered old acquaintance, department for the Wei North Road march for the army room. Xuanling was grateful for what he had received help and followed Li Shimin in the battle with all mind and energy. Each time to suppress the enemy, all will compete for treasure, but Xuanling net talent, to the Shogunate. The wise adviser and powerful general secretly interacted with Xuanling, and everyone was willing to do utmost. It was Fang Xuanling who recommended Du Ruhui, a famous prime minister, to Li Shimin. At that time, Du Ruhui was only a member of the Qin Army, Cao Shen Army, and Li Shimin was ready to transfer him to another post. When Fang Xuanling heard the news, he said to Li Shimin, "Although the number of provincial officials of the King of Qin is becoming more and more, none of this is to be regretted. Only Du Ruhui is knowledge of intelligent and has the extraordinary ability to govern the country. If you only want to be the King of Qin, he may not be able to play a big role. If not, no one will be able to manage all the lands." Shimin was shocked: "If you don't tell me, I will almost lose this talent!" From then on, he took Du as his confidant. The talent of Fang Xuanling associated and recommended laid an important foundation for Li Shimin's development, expansion and even his victory. Li Shimin once said: "The Emperor Guangwu of Han had Deng Yu, the gatekeeper benefited. Now I have Xuanling, just as the Emperor Guangwu of Han had Deng Yu, "

In the fourth year of Gaozu's reign (621), Li Shimin set up a literature museum to recruit 18 scholars of literature, called "eighteen scholars" with Xuanling as one of them. Xuanling lived at the palace of the King of Qin for ten years. In the meantime, he built a military command, was quick in thought and prompt in writing. Gaozu Li Yuan commented, "Fangxuanling is astute and knowledgeable, and should be considered as an important task. Every time I do something for my son, a thousand miles away is the opposite."

4.2. Make A Snap Decision and Plan A Mutiny

Li Yuan won the kingdom by the power of the Shimin, originally wanted to be appointed crown prince, the Shimin resolutely refused, that is, to appoint Jiancheng as crown prince, Shimin as King of Qin. Shimin had distinguished contributions, and the palace of the King of Qin had wise advisers and powerful forces. Jiancheng indulged in depravity, and did nothing, worried that the King of Qin might threaten his position, so he took all kinds of measures to strike off Li Shimin. Xuanling saw that the rift between their brothers was deep and that the situation was serious, made a quick decision to find Zhangsun Wuji conspiracy, ready to launch a mutiny. Xuanling's suggestion received a positive response from Zhangsun Wuji. Xuanling and Du Ruhui tried to persuade Shimin to take down Jiancheng and Yuanji. Therefore, Xuanwu Gate Incident, Xuanling made the first achievement. In the first year of Zhenguan (627), Xuanling, Zhangsun Wuji, Du Ruhui, Weichi Jingde and Hou Junji were the first to be rewarded according to their achievements. The King Xing of The State was awarded with a total of 1,300 households.

4.3. Be A Good Official and Forget Himself

When Li Shimin ascended the throne, he joined hands with Changsun Wuji, Fangxuanling, Du Ruhui, Wei Zheng, etc., jointly governed the country, creating the most brilliant "Governance of Zhenguan" in history. In the fourth year of Zhenguan (630), Xuanling replaced Zhangsun Wuji with the position of minister of state, and he was appointed Duke of the State of Wei and supervised the revision of state history. Du Ruhui was appointed right-handed shot. Xuanling and Du Ruhui were best friends. They worked together for the country, known as virtuous prime ministers. In the early Tang Dynasty, the system and etiquette of the state were mostly decided by two people. Unfortunately, Du Ruhui died at an early age, only 46 years old in the fourth year of Zhenguan (630).

In the early Tang Dynasty, due to the harsh decrees of the Sui Dynasty, the common people were full of complaints, Gaozu and Taizong devoted themselves to eliminating cool decrees and ruling the country with benevolence. Shortly after Emperor Taizong of Tang ascended the throne, he ordered Fang Xuanling and Zhangsun Wuji to write the law together. In the eleventh year of Zhenguan (637), Xuanling wrote the twelve volumes of The Laws of the Tang Dynasty which abides by the principle of clemency. The laws formulated by Xuanling were not only implemented in the Emperor Taizong period, but also did not change much throughout the Tang Dynasty, exerting a far-reaching influence on later generations.

Xuanling was called to revise the old rites with Wei Zheng and so on, and decided to make five rites, named New Rites of Tang. From the third year of Zhenguan (629), Emperor Taizong ordered Xuanling to oversee the repair of state history, and successively composed eight official histories, namely the Book of Jin, Book of Wei, Book of Zhou, Book of Northern Qi, Book of Sui, Book of Southern Qi, Book of Liang, and Book of Chen, known as the "Eight Annals of Tang Comply". Among them, the Book of Jin was personally presided over by Fang Xuanling and written in the 22nd year of Zhenguan (649). Xuanling had also pre-edited the Records of Gaozu, Records of Taizong, and Wensi Boyao, and annotated The Pipes. There are twenty of them in the Entire Donovan.

Xuanling had been the prime minister for fifteen years. His daughter was the Princess of Han, and his son, Fang Weiai, married the Princess of Gaoyang. He thought that his power and deal

bountifully had reached the highest level, resigned many times. Taizong did not allow, but canonized him as Sikong. On his deathbed, Xuanling was still worried about the state. He said to his sons: "There is nothing to worry about today. The only thing that has not been done is to crusade against Koryo. The Emperor set out to crusade, the courtiers dare not make a bold remonstrance. I should be ashamed of myself if I did not speak my mind!" Therefore, when he was sick, he wrote a memorial to the throne. He hoped that Taizong would understand the principle of rise and decline, cherish the lives of husbandmen, do not extend the frontiers endlessly, but should influence Koryo with the heart of benevolence and righteousness. Only in this way can he take the country under his control. When Emperor Taizong finished reading, he was so moved that he told Princess Gaoyang, Xuanling's daughter-in-law, "Though Xuanling has been seriously ill, he is still worried about state affairs."

In the 22nd year of Zhenguan (649), Xuanling became seriously ill. Taizong chiseled a wall for the door and constantly sent greetings. And he visited his home in person, shook hands in farewell with grief. Xuanling passed away on July 24 at the age of 70. Emperor Taizong deposed the dynasty for three days, to confer posthumously Grand Commandant, and Bingzhou governor, posthumous title Wen Zhao, buried Xuanling. Fang Xuanling was the fifth among the twenty-four heroes of Ling Yang. Emperor Taizong of Tang personally wrote for him the following words of praise: "He is a genius and talent. Be a good official, and forget himself." [3]

Xuanling understood officials, made every effort to assist the government. He was modest and restrained, to be deeply respected due to character and ability. As a famous prime minister of his generation, Fang Xuanling's great achievements are rarely recorded in the literature, which reflects his mind and state of being good at people instead of pushing his own achievements. It is this kind of noble sentiments, so that he is in an important position, and can be a good ending, to win the life after death of your name, by the people of the time, future generations of respect!

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