Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the auspicious concept of “Chou Yi” classics and commentaries; without involving the arguments of “division of scriptures and commentaries” and “scriptures explained by commentaries”, this paper uses a compromised approach to discuss the auspicious concepts “Yi Scriptures” and “Yi Commentaries”. That is to apply the advantages of “division of scriptures and commentaries” to discuss the auspicious concepts, respectively, in the era when “Yi Scriptures” and “Yi Commentaries” originated and apply the advantages of “scriptures explained by commentaries” to observe the auspicious concepts of “Yi Scriptures” interpreted from the standpoint of “Yi Commentaries”. It intends to collect and organize the initial stage of “auspicious concept” contained in inscriptions and the “auspicious thinking” existed in scriptures and commentaries in “Chou Yi”. Thus, this study examines the inherent and recovery issue of auspicious concepts between scriptures and commentaries of “Chou Yi” in order to discuss and analyze the interaction among the thinking and thinking history of “Chou Yi” scriptures and commentaries. In terms of auspicious thinking, this paper intends to explore the course of its formation and transformation so that people may have more understanding of the content of “Chou Yi” and the reciprocal relationship between “Chou Yi” thinking and the other thinking.

Based upon the above objectives, the first chapter of this paper is an introduction to discuss the research motive and goals of “Auspicious Concepts of Oracle Bone Inscriptions and ‘Chou Yi’ Confucian Classics and Commentaries” and the research scope, including time and materials. Next, previous research results of “auspicious” concepts in “Chou Yi” are explored to understand the current findings; finally, research method and prospect are presented in the article.

In Chapter 2, the background of “Chou Yi” scriptures and commentaries is studied to investigate the possible foundation of thinking; by exploring oracle bone inscriptions from Shang Dynasty, cognition, application and actions concerning ancient people’s auspicious concepts are observed and how they interpret the indication of oracle bones for pursuing auspicious indication and avoiding bad lucks.

Chapter 3 investigates the auspicious concepts in “Yi Scriptures” contained in the oracle bone inscriptions. It also examines the inherent auspicious concept and its development from oracle bone inscriptions in “Yi Scriptures”. During the time between inscription to “Yi Scriptures” divination when a historical transition occurred in the end of Shang Dynasty and early West Chou Dynasty, “changes of thinking culture” is the most significant transformation during the era of Shang and Chou.
Hence, after the cultural transition in Shang and Chou Dynasties, what effect of “Yi Scriptures” divination due to the auspicious concepts and relationship of heaven and human contained in “Yi Scriptures” divination. In response to changes of time, what difference between the divination content presented by the authors of “Yi Scriptures” and the ancient inscription is the focal point stated in this chapter.

Chapter 4 examines the heritage and development of auspicious concept in “Yi Scriptures” from “Yi Commentaries”. From the divination interpretation of “Tuan Commentaries” and “Image Commentaries”, “Chou Yi” is not only an ancient book of divination and also becomes a guideline to deal with life, govern a nation and the world, and to have moral trainings based upon changes of natural revolution. There is philosophical tendency in the development of auspicious concept of “Yi Scriptures” from “Yi Commentaries”. This development is relevant to the cultural and thinking changes during the era of Spring Autumn and Warring States. Hence, this chapter begins with the breakthrough of thinking culture during a core period and what effect of this breakthrough on the authors of “Yi Commentaries”. In response to the issue of times, what is the auspicious concepts and relationship of heaven and human from the authors of “Yi Commentaries”, what do they inherit from “Yi Scriptures” and what are their developments? How is the cultural development of “Yi Commentaries”? These are all the crucial discussions in this chapter.

Chapter 5 is the conclusion to discuss research findings, lessons learned and follow-up efforts to be focused for the study.

Keywords: Oracle bone inscription, “Yi Scriptures”, “Yi Commentaries”, Auspicious, Relationship of heaven and human, Thinking culture.