<<北京天坛>>

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内容概要

《北京天坛(英文版)》是一部有关天坛的普及读物,在满足建筑爱好者,及旅游者的需求之外 ,它同样是一部精研的学术专著。

著作以天坛建筑群为主体叙述结构,包括建筑的布局规划、建造的过程、空间意境的营造、神性的表达和象征意义,还有天坛的历史由来,以及朝代更替,所带来的天坛整体,乃至各个局部的变化。全书资料翔实细致,用典很多,但并不晦涩,无论是艺术还是史料的典故,都可以说恰到好处。随着阅读的深入,将进一步感受到著作丰富的文化内涵与外延,如中国古代的天崇拜与祭祀礼仪的演变过程,甚至于从中感受到中国文化乃至东方哲学的精神内核,那是有别于西方宗教的"天人合一"的信仰。

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1950年生,清华大学建筑学院硕士毕业,1981年获工学硕士学位,1996年获工学博士学位,1989年1月至1990年7月,英国爱丁堡大学建筑系,访问学者。

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插图: Perceptibly, in ancient Chineseminds, the sons of Heaven who reigned the country had the infinite and far-reachingpower. Whereas, their power were endued by the Heaven. To ensure that they can maintain the power, one of their important responsibilities is to worship and offertheir sacrifices to the sovereign Heaven in an attempt to God's mercy and blessing. Furthermore, China is an agricultural country whose disaster or fortune, bumperor poor harvest, completely rests with the Heaven's will. Emperors in the pastdynasties had to worship the Heaven withreverence and awe, and lived under selfcommunion and self-accusation hoping forall propitious elements and a prosperousand peaceful country. That is one of the main reasons whyemperors think a lot of on the Heavenworship and sacrifice-offering. Here, we need to shift the courseand bring another subject on the carpet. We may ask, since the Heaven has the supreme power, why, during the early Ming Dynasty, did the founding emperor, Zhu Yuanzhang, order to construct the Temple of Heaven and the Temple of Earth together, hold ceremonies ofworshiping the Heaven as well as the Earth, and build Hall of Grand Sacrifice for this purpose? Does the Earth possessthe same power? Actually, it is necessary to inductanother important ancient Chinese idea. Inancient Chinese peoples' minds, although the Heaven may have the similar power as the supreme god in Western Christianity or Allah in Islamism having absolute powerover the world life, there is difference between them. The Chinese always held onedichotomy method of thinking, namely anything has its opposition existence at the sametime, in harmonious coexistence, thus tomanifest the world's substance. For instance, yin and yang, gian and kun, brightness and darkness, gain and loss, and so on. Heavenand Earth, whether in natural or supernatural consciousness, have also been integrated into this category. We can comprehend this easily by ancient words: Nothing better than following Heaven. There is the alternation of day and night, spring and winter, rain-dew and frostsnow. By heart, to open therefore to close, to consume therefore to rest, to be killed therefore to live. The Earth never goes without the Heaven concerned; the Heaven can neverbear from nothing without the Earth.

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媒体关注与评论

There are causes and effects behind the trends of all ages , which seem to contain unavoidable factors. Fortunately , in our times , an awareness of national culture has grown in China as well. And it is in the modern spirit of pursuing scholarly studies to collect material objects and do research about the past Efforts should be made today to seek new development in the bloodstream of tradition. As Chinese buildings represent a kind of engineering technology that lasted for over two thousand years , they form an independent art system. The Chinese culture finds its expression in many buildings , which constitute a large portion of the Chinese art legacy. We must respect the brilliant ancient Chinese culture , we cannot afford to neglect researching the history of these Chinese buildings if we are determined to rejuvenate our nation and carefully sort out and protect the cultural relics of our past generations. If we attempt to awaken society by providing objective academic research , we can contribute to protecting cultural relics and can gradually reduce the damage to them. Even if such a work is a force against the trend of times , there must be no delay , as it is similar to rescuing valuable articles and precious paintings from a raging fire. It is a sacred duty to cherish and protect these valuable Chinese cultural relics. —Liang Sicheng

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