# NEOLITIC POTTERY

# of NORTH WEST CHINA

朱勇年 著

ZHU YONGNIAN

中 国 西 北 彩 陶



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People crisis, but the little heart Road.

Confucius

人心惟危,道心惟微,惟精惟一,允执厥中。此十六字出自《尚书·大禹谈》,为舜帝禅位给大禹时授予大禹的,是儒家、道家乃至古代各家各派所宗的心法。先儒对其解释各异,或说"人心为人欲,道心为天理",故"自人而言,则曰惟危;自道而言,则曰惟微",其中的"危"字一般解释为危机的意思,或从篆书"危"字,训为人字部首,中间是山崖,有人在山崖边危险之义。而"微"字,一般理解为道心乃微妙之天理。先儒曰:"在人则静极而动,恶极而善,本心几息而复见之端也。"(朱熹)或以为"静为见天地之家,一般理解为道心乃微妙之天理。先儒曰:"在人则静极而动,恶极而善,本心几息而复见之端也。"(朱熹)或以为"静为见天地之家;恍兮惚兮,其中有物。窈兮冥兮,其中有精,其中有信"来解释,将"微"字解释得玄妙英名。这些对《尚书》十六字中"危"和"微"的解释,皆各抒已意,或也大体不错,但总觉得有些牵强。以上古时代文字尚未著明,若望文而生义,则未必符合其原始的含义。近一百年来,彩陶的大量被发现,让我们多了不少探究的线索。笔者经过对仰韶、马家窑之化彩陶研究得出:"危"指的是价部或马家窑类型的尖底器(见P53);"微"指的是北板紫微宫(见P103)。就十六字的后两句来看,"精"字从米偏傍,音从青。这里长上帝,也称作"天一"或"太一"。马家窑彩陶中有不少图案与天产有关,其中最主要的就是表示北极紫微宫的图案。这种表现北极紫微宫的图案也是古代祭天时所用的(见P64)。如此,《尚书》十六字的含义就显得非常朴素、直白了,是说人心要象尖底器"危"一样,保持着适中的状态(见P53);而道呢,就是要象天上的星宿一样,在自己应该在的位置,或按照自己正常的轨道运行(就是中地),保持着适中的状态(见P53);而道呢,就是要象天上的星宿一样,在自己应该在的位置,或按照自己正常的轨道运行(就是中地),



众所周知,现代西方文明是建立在中世纪以后对古希腊文明重新认同的基础上的。对希腊半岛古代文明的重新认同,产生了欧洲历史上的文艺复兴运动。文艺复兴的本质是唤回古希腊文明中对人和自然高度关注的精神。对人的关注,产生了人文主义思潮和西方的艺术形态;而对自然的关注则产生了近代西方自然科学。

有人说,今日的中国文化是一种"酱缸文化"。一者,当然是由于现代人对传统文化的误读所造成的;二者,是由于数千年来,历朝历代统治者的不断异化、扭曲,加上外族文化的侵入,使得中华文明的脉络已经变得混乱不堪。如同西方文化从追溯古希腊文明而获得新生一样,或许是到了我们回溯文明本原的时候了。从最原始的,也是最纯粹的上古文明开始,在盘根错节的中华古老文明之树的根部重新抽出一枝新芽,然后获得更加蓬勃的新生,这是就我们所期盼的。

无疑,是近现代彩陶的大量出土为我们这种缅怀、追溯上古文明的文化复兴运动带来了希望。或许,那最初的一缕文明 曙光又将通过彩陶这样一个载体,跨越时空,在我们面前重现 其灿烂辉煌的篇章。

由此,笔者以西北彩陶为契入点,通过对其图案、形制等内容进行比对研究,结合古代文献资料记载,初步解析了其中蕴含的奥秘。大概古人之作略无非是仰观、俯察,远求、近取,一切图案皆适然流出,不假智力,决非现代之人刻意穿凿营谋的所谓"艺术形态"可以与之比拟。得出了皇古时代彩陶图案(初文)是先民们观察天文或考察大地、河流,以及身陷图案(初文)是先民们观察天文或考察大地、河流,以及身边日用事物为出发的,以之为参照进行制作或图画,并由此衍生出各种部落图腾或姓氏以及族徽标识等,其中还涉及到礼制与宗教的建立。

彩陶文化所蕴之广博深奥,每令笔者有望洋向海之叹。以 笔者浅陋之才,奚足以彻底解析其中之奥秘。特以此为抛砖引 玉耳。

学,然后知不足;教,然后知困。——《礼记·学记》 2007年4月12日

作者: 朱勇年







#### **INTERFACE**

Several years ago when I first encountered the Chinese Neolithic potteries in a Moslem's residence in Gansu, I was enthralled by those richly cultured artifacts and their historic significance.

As a keen researcher and professional appraiser for many years, especially in the field of ancient Chinese paintings, my experience aided me in the understanding of prehistoric ceramic identification. Through further research, analysis and experimenting, I have succeeded in summarizing the principles of Neolithic artifacts verification.

Counterfeits of Chinese prehistoric artifacts are appearing at an alarming rate throughout the globe. This has severely undermined our profession. Numerous imitations of Majiayao wares were done at such high standard, even the professionals were bewildered with their authenticity. Hence, it is getting harder to differentiate a genuine artifact from a fake. And this in turn will diminish the status of the collection, dampening the interest among genuine collectors.

This has compelled me to compile this book, which aims to showcase the exquisite collections of Chinese Neolithic unearthed wares, present their prominent features and introduce principles of identification.

The book offers comparative analysis on the surface features of both genuine and counterfeit artifacts.

The field of Chinese Neolithic artifacts is immensely diverse and deeply cultured with significant historic relevance. The content presented herein is by no means an authoritative representation, but an honest sharing of my humble knowledge. The materials I offered in this book hope to provide greater clarity in genuine artifact identification. As the research on this topic was based on morphological analysis, I have to acknowledge the lack of scientific investigation (like C=14 test, etc). The conclusions drawn are relatively cursory; some of which remain hypothesized and certainly in need of further proving by scientific methods.

I sincerely wish that this book will fire up your interest in these beautiful artifacts, like it did to me on that fateful day in Gansu.

Zhu Yongnian



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### 前言

陶器的出现是人类文明的一个重要里程碑。从茹毛饮血的原始人进化到真正意义上的智人,火的运用起着决定性的作用。而陶器的出现,无疑又是这种人类进化史中最重要的篇章。至于出现在古陶上的纹饰和图案更是文字的雏形和起源。在上古时代文字尚未正式诞生时,古陶上的纹样、图案或许在某种意义上就起到了文字的作用。

对于上古的历史,我们以前只能从《世本》、《史记》等简约而模糊的描述中去了解。随着中国近一百年来彩陶的大量发掘(特别是西北地区),使得史前人类那一段遥远而陌生的记忆又渐渐变得清晰起来。传说古人在文字诞生之前是结绳记事的。结绳尚能记事,更何况当时的绘画作品彩陶呢! 秉着如此信念,结合古代文献资料与现代野外考古成果,笔者就古代彩陶中所蕴涵的文明足迹进行了一些初步的探索和研究。



Fig 001 甘肃临夏彩陶发掘现场

## Preamble

The emergence of pottery is an important milestone in human civilization. There is no doubt as to its importance in human evolution. In etymology, Ancient human characters have been represented on the decoration and design of ancient pottery.

The Grand Historian Records and the Shiben are the references from which we can find the truth about the remote era. Large numbers of painted potteries excavated in the past one hundred years in China (especially in northwest China) provide us a clearer clue for our memory on history of human beings of the pre-historical period. It is said that Chinese people used the way of tying knots with ropes to record things in daily life before the Chinese characters were created. We also think that painted design on pottery might have been another way to record things. Based on this theory, together with ancient books, historical documents and modern archaeological finds, the author thinks that the motif of design on painted pottery relates the totems of primitive tribes.



Fig 002

人首彩陶器 马家窑文化 半山类型 高:38cm

Although the word "totem" is a loanword, its corresponding Chinese word 图腾 has a certain relationship with image according to the pictographic feature of Chinese character. So, when ancient Chinese people mention the family names. they actually tell you some related information about totem of their tribe. For instance, the Chinese word 姓 relates female indicating on one hand that people of matriarchal clan society only know their mother but not father, on the other hand that it also relates life and another word 旌 which is the representation of different tribes (see detailed description on page137). Some designs on painted pottery might represent totems of tribes. Totem usually bears the mysterious and inexplicable characteristic (even some totems which still exist in Africa and Australia today are difficult to be comprehended, and only the elders can tell the connotation).

The author just begins to do the relevant research, so, if there are some errors or incorrect points of view in this book, the feedback from reader is welcome.

从某种意义上讲,陶器发展史就是人类文明演变的历史。中国传统神话中的女娲炼五色石以补天①,或许就是指人们将泥土通过烧炼制成陶器这样一个巧夺天工的过程。而古代陶器中大量出现的人神和生殖崇拜文化以及姓氏图腾等内容,又无不蕴藏着深邃的秘密。就陶器本身而言,了解其演变历史,我们就能找到人类文明的源头,就能从中获得现实意义上精神的支撑和创新的源泉。这也是我们致力于研究和收集古陶的意义所在。

从考古学上说,中国彩陶发现的历史是不长的。1921年在河南仰韶村遗址发现了第一批中国彩陶,距今不到一百年。但在这期间,特别是解放以后,中国国家考古队做了大量的发掘整理工作,先后出土了数十万件样本,从而揭开了人类史前文明那辉煌灿烂的一页。通过对已出土的大量样品的分析、比对和整理,我们渐渐得已接近那神秘的皇古文明。

The Chinese traditional myth of Nü Wa is the magical reflection that soil can be fired into pottery. We can find the origin of human civilization by understanding the evolution and history of ancient pottery, so that, we may obtain genuine spiritual support and innovative resource of strength. This is the main reason why we want to research ancient pottery.

Archaeologically speaking, the discovery of ancient painted pottery in China was not that long qgo. It was less than one hundred years until today from 1921 when the first group of painted pottery of China was found at the site in Yangshao village, Henan Province. During this period, especially after the Liberation, a mass of excavations was done by China National Archaeological Team. Over one hundred thousand pieces of the specimens were unearthed which unveiled a mysterious page of history of human being of the pre-historical period. We can take a closer look at the pre-historical civilization through analysis, comparison and restoration of the unearthed painted potteries.

①女娲: "涂山氏名女娲"。(《史记·夏本纪·索隐》引《世本》)

"涂山氏之子谓之女娲,是生启"。(《史记·夏本纪·正义》引《帝系》)

大禹所娶的也是涂山氏。现在有学者将此涂山确定为安徽省境内的当涂山。笔者以为,如此结论似乎有些草率。以《帝系》指出女娲也是涂山氏,如此推论,岂非女娲也是安徽当涂人氏了?以《左传》哀公七年所载"禹合诸侯于涂山,执玉帛者万国"、《吕氏春秋》所曰"禹娶涂山氏女"、《竹书纪年》所记"五年,巡狩,会诸侯于涂山"来看,大禹确实有涂山大会诸侯,以及娶涂山氏之事,但涂山究竟何在?在没有充分明确的证据之前,笔者以为,还是勿草率结论为妥。

"娲, 古之神圣女, 化万物者也, 从女, 呙声"。(《说文·女部》)

"有神十人,名曰女娲之膜,化为神,得栗广之野,横道而处。"(《山海经·大荒西经》)

"登立为帝,孰道尚之?女娲有体,孰制匠之?"(《山海经·大荒西经》)

"女娲, 古神女而帝者, 人面蛇身。"(屈原《天问》)

"女娲氏立治于中皇山之原,继兴于丽。"(《路史》)

"骊山有女娲治处,为临潼肇始,立祠于临潼祀之。"(《长安志》)

"山北有女娲氏谷。" (郦道元《水经注·渭水注·冷水》)

女娲补天: "往古之时,四极废,九州裂,天不兼覆,地不周载,火雌焱而不灭,水浩洋而不息,猛兽食颛民,鸷鸟攫老弱。于是女娲炼五色石以补苍天,断鳌足以立四极,杀黑龙以济冀州,积芦灰以止淫水。苍天补,四极立,淫水涸,冀州平,狡龙死,颛民生。"(《淮南子·览冥训》)

"所谓共工触不周,地维为绝,天柱为折,是言大乱之甚。所谓女娲补天,乃指平共工之乱,功犹补天立极。" (《路史·发挥》)

"昔者,女娲氏炼五彩石以补其(天)阙,断鳌之足以立四极。其后共工氏与颛顼争为帝,怒而触不周之山,折天柱,断地维,故天倾西北,日月星辰就焉;地不满东南,故百川水潦归焉。"(《列子·汤问》)

