

© Vitaly Glinkin

LIU SANJIE: SONG FAIRY AND HER WORK IN TOURISM

The article examines the legend of the Zhuang people, the largest PRC national minority dwelling in the Guangxi Autonomous Region, about the “Song Fairy” Liu Sanjie. Liu Sanjie (“Third Sister Liu”) is a Zhuang mythological character, an orphan who has a magical talent for singing songs. Various plot versions are recorded, but in general they describe her as a kind and hardworking girl. She sings songs, fights with the landlord, and defeats the poets sent by him in a song contest. In the end, she and her lover die in the river and then ascend to Heaven. In other versions, they both float down the river from the evil landlord’s soldiers. The work examines the history of Liu Sanjie’s appearance, manifestation and use in modern culture, and her character’s transition from a myth to a tourist attraction. The author draws a conclusion about the desacralization of the mythological image and illustrates it with several examples of its partial use in tourism, crime control, anti-COVID measures propaganda etc.

Keywords: *Liu Sanjie, mythology, tourism, mass culture*

Author Info: Glinkin, Vitaly S. — Ph.D. in History, Senior Teacher, Department of Oriental Studies, Faculty of Politics and History, Tomsk State University (Tomsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: glinkinvs@yandex.ru ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8440-3901>

For citation: Glinkin, V. S. 2025. Liu Sanjie: Song Fairy and Her Work in Tourism. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 1: 294–304.

References

- Glinkin, V. S. 2022. *Chzhuany v kontekste natsional’noi politiki Kitaia* [Zhuang in the Context of China’s National Policy]. Tomsk: Veter. 2022. 184 p.
- Glinkin, V. S. 2021. *Etnograficheskie muzei Guansi i kul’tura chzhuan v ikh ekspozitsiakh* [Guangxi Anthropological Museums and the Representation of Zhuang Culture]. *Vestnik NGU. Seriya: Istorija, filologija* 20 (4): 125–134. <https://doi.org/10.25205/1818-7919-2021-20-4-125-134>
- Its, R. F. 1972. *Etnicheskaya istoriya yugo-vosotochnoi Azii* [Ethnic History of the South East Asia]. Leningrad: Nauka. 308 p.
- Jiang Ping. 2015. *Gaige kaifang yilai zhuangzu chuantong wenhua de cunxu yu bianqian* [The Survival and Changes of Zhuang Traditional Culture Since the Reform and Opening Up]. *Guangxi minzu yanjiu* 5: 99–106.
- Kudinova, M. A., D. V. Cheremisin, and S. A. Komissarov. 2019. O semantike osnovnogo siuzhet na pisanitsakh Khuashan’ (Guansi-Chzhuanskii avtonomnyi raion, Kitai) [Semantics of the Main Scene in Huashan Rock-Paintings (Guangxi-Zhuang Autonomous Region, China)]. *Vestnik NGU. Seriya: Istorija, filologija* 18 (4): 51–60. <https://doi.org/10.25205/1818-7919-2019-18-4-51-60>
- Kaup, K. P. 2000. *Creating the Zhuang. Ethnic Politics in China*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. 221 p.
- Li Zhiqiang. 2012. *Chengzhenhua beijing xia Zhuangzu Liaoge wenhua de baochi he chuancheng de sikao* [Reservation and Transmission of Zhuang Liaoge Culture in the Conditions of Urbanisation]. *Baise xueyuan xuebao* 25(2): 70–73.
- Liu Chunhong, and Tang Fengling. 2014. *Fei wuzhi wenhua yichan lüyou de kaifa shi chuancheng tansuo*

- yi Guangxi Pingguo “Liaoge” wei li [Development and Inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage through Tourism: A Case Study of Pingguo Liao Song in Guangxi]. *Chanye Jingji* 5: 198–200.
- Moskalyov, A. A. 1979. *Guangxi-Zhuanskiy i Ningxia Hueiskiy avtonomnye raiony KNR* [Guangxi Zhuang and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Regions of the PRC]. Moscow: Nauka. 154 p.
- Ping, Fen. 2009. Zhuangzu Liu Sanjie xingxiang lishi shanbian yu xiandai jiangou [The History of Changes and Modern Construction of Zhuang Heroine Liu Sanjie]. *Gehai* 4: 9–11. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/41451462.pdf>
- Quan, Liu. 2021. Cultural Exploitation in Chinese Politics: Reinterpreting Liu Sanjie. *Prometheus* 37 (2): 111–136.
- Ren, Xubin. 2023. Liu Sanjie wenhua: cong lingnan minjian wenhua fuhao dao zhonghua wenhua fuhaode qinggan niudai [Liu Sanjie Culture: Feelings Connection from South China Folk Name to all-China Folk Name]. *Nanning Shifan Daxue* 44 (6): 44–50.
- Wang Xianzhi, and Yudi Jisheng. 1999 (1992). *Beauty of Writings About the Marginal Lands*. Beijing: Zhonghua Shuju. 7128 p.
- Xiong Yingwen. 2020. Ontology of Liu Sanji Myth in Works of the Modern Chinese Researchers. *Manuscript* 13 (3): 208–211.
- Xiong Yingwen, and S. A. Mozgot. 2021. Liu Sanjie: The Image of a Woman in the Traditional Folk Drama of Guangxi «Cai Diao». *Journal of Musical Science* 9(1): 100–107.