# Research on the inheritance and development of Gelao's "treading dance"

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Abstract: Gelao trampoling dance is a kind of national dance with sacrificial nature, which is mainly distributed in Zunyi County, Guizhou Province, China, and Pingxiang Gelao trampoling dance is the most typical. In order to study the inheritance and development of Gelao's "treading dance", we must start from the cultural origin, classify its historical stages, and explore the practical difficulties and development strategies of its inheritance and development. It is also believed that through a large number of theoretical research, it can support the inheritance and innovation of Gelao's treading hall dance, which will be inherited as a characteristic and national culture of China.

Key words: Gelao nationality; Step on the hall dance; Inheritance and development

#### Introduction

Originally used to offer sacrifices to the deceased family members, treading dance has evolved into an entertaining activity and is a special living custom of Gelao nationality. Gelao ancestors worshipped gods and evolved unique and highly ethnic sports and cultural activities, which are valuable spiritual wealth left to future generations and are more worthy of our study and inheritance. Stepping on the hall dance is solemn and simple in sacrificial activities, cheerful and warm in marriage matters, and contains the beliefs and value orientation of Gelao people. Studying the extension of these value orientations can also provide many new ideas for the inheritance and development of national culture.

### 1. The origin of Gelao's "treading dance"

At present, there is no way to verify the origin of Gelao's "treading on the hall dance". More people believe in the legend of "looking for relatives and protecting the corpses". The relevant versions also have subtle differences, but the core content is roughly the same. It is said that long ago, the first ancestor of Gelao had three brothers. The older brother went up the mountain to cut firewood and died without falling off the cliff. The two brothers took their families to look around and found the older brother's body after 49 days. Seeing that there were all kinds of animals eating next to the body of the eldest brother, the children and grandchildren were both sad and angry, so they used their hands and feet to drive away the finches, snakes, insects and ants. Since then, all those who have older people in their homes died have danced in a similar way in the main room, and gradually evolved into today's step dance. It has become an important part of the Gelao people's sacrificial activities to make bamboo flute accompaniment with bamboo poles and offer sacrifices to ancestors in the most pious and sincere way.

#### 2. The history of Gelao's "treading dance"

The development path of Gelao's "treading on the hall dance" is similar to that of other folk sports culture. It develops from national traditional culture to entertainment culture. If it is necessary to divide the historical stages, in fact, it can be analyzed in combination with the situation of Pingzheng Gelao township. Before 2500 A.D., they created the multi-cultural content of the Jiutian hehe culture, the divination and witchcraft culture, the dansha auspicious culture, the bronze drum culture and so on. They were the most populous and intelligent aboriginal ethnic group in Southwest China at that time. The Gelao people's economic source and living environment were stable, so the sports and dance of the famous nationality flourished and developed, and the treading dance was popular in all villages at that time.

In the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China, the "assimilation policy" was strongly promoted in Guizhou Province, making it impossible to hear other languages in Guizhou, let alone the development of national costumes, national dances and national sports culture. At the same time of carrying out the dictatorship policy, local officials also supervised the people, which made the Gelao compatriots have to hide their national identity in order to survive, and the treading on the hall dance, eating the new festival, ox tendon dance and so on also entered a slow development stage. In addition, the turbulent situation in the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China made it difficult for Gelao people to successfully inherit and develop the treading dance.

In modern times, the Gelao people came to the capital Beijing to study, and then officially opened the Gelao environment. In 1956, it was officially listed as Pingzheng Gelao Township, and the Gelao compatriots also started the free development stage of taking charge of their own family. Since 2000, China has gradually opened the curtain of the western development, giving the Gelao people in Guizhou an unprecedented opportunity for development. The development of tap dance is closely related to the national sports culture and national dance culture. At this stage, the Gelao people established Pingxiang village, which was later named "the first township of Gelao in China", making the Gelao people present a spiritual outlook of prosperity and development. Since 2010, Gelao people have introduced cultural communication companies to build a commercial territory on the basis of respecting national culture and traditional culture. It has not only

cultivated a large number of inheritors of national culture, but also revitalized and developed the local economy. It can be said that Gelao people have entered the development stage of national culture modernization.

#### 3. The development dilemma of Gelao's "step on the hall dance"

3.1 Great changes have taken place in people's production and lifestyle

As we all know, the national culture and folk culture are closely related to the life and production mode of local residents. The Gelao people's step on the hall dance cultural activities are naturally an important part of the daily life of Gelao people. With the continuous change of China's social, economic and cultural environment, people's production and lifestyle have also changed greatly, which has also caused a huge impact on the cultural development of ethnic minority areas. After the founding of the people's Republic of China, Gelao's identity as a resident was gradually restored, but the treading dance project was actually carried out by only a few people, and most residents were precarious in the war. Food and clothing became the first consideration of local families. Later, China's economy and science and technology developed unprecedentedly, showing a thriving state, but people went out to work in pursuit of a richer life. That is to say, the number of Gelao residents is decreasing, leading to the emergence of "empty nesters" and "left behind children". Obviously, Gelao also lacks fertile soil for the prosperity of folk culture and sports culture. At this stage, due to the vigorous development of tourism in Gelao nationality gathering areas, foreign culture has also taken root and sprouted in this land, resulting in many contents and forms of trampoline dance. In fact, the trampoline dance we see today is also different from that at the beginning.

3.2 The inheritors of "step on the hall dance" are facing the dilemma of lack

As we all know, national culture is passed on from generation to generation through inheritors and successors. However, under the impact of modern culture, traditional sports are faced with the plight of the lack of inheritors. In addition to the intangible cultural heritage project of Gelao people's step dance, there are still many traditional sports, handicrafts and other projects with national characteristics facing the situation of loss. In the current era, China is in an important period of transformation from agricultural economy to light industrial economy. Interest contradictions extend cultural contradictions and educational contradictions, which will naturally affect the attitude of contemporary young people towards traditional sports, handicrafts and other skills. Gelao people's treading on the hall dance and lion dance on the high platform are all beautiful flowers in the traditional sports culture of the nation. Of course, under the impact of modern culture and digital culture, such sports and characteristic skills are also facing the dilemma of loss. According to the author's investigation, luozezhong, the current inheritor of Pingxiang tap dance, has passed away, and is still electing a new inheritor. We can only rely on the Gelao villagers such as zhouguangyou and lifuqiang to perform. Obviously, this state of development is not durable and continuous, and it is more worthy of our further research and in-depth discussion.

## 4. The development strategy of Gelao's "step on the hall dance"

4.1 Enhance the sense of inheritance of national culture

Stepping on the hall dance is a cultural activity carried out by Gelao ancestors to protect the bodies of deceased family members. It has profound ancestral memory and historical continuity, so it must be inherited and developed in the context of modern culture. The author believes that the Gelao people's treading dance is in the same line with the local national characteristics and culture, close to the daily life reality of the Gelao people, and reflects the spiritual outlook of the local residents. It is the advanced culture of the Chinese nation and socialism with Chinese characteristics, and is an important foundation for contemporary youth to build and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, we must firmly grasp the cultural characteristics of the Gelao nationality, strengthen the management of cultural activities and cultural dissemination of the Gelao people's trampoline dance, so that the Gelao people's trampoline dance culture can go in the same direction and resonate with the modern culture. We should vigorously promote and develop the sport of step dance, pay attention to the positive guidance of cultural communication and public opinion, enhance the awareness of national cultural heritage, and strengthen the excavation, sorting and organization of Gelao traditional sports, so as to provide new opportunities for the prosperity and development of the national culture and traditional sports culture.

4.2 Strengthen the publicity of "step on the hall dance"

The essence of trampoline dance is a sports and dance sport. Therefore, it can rely on the modern sports mechanism and film and television media system for communication, and increase publicity efforts in various communication channels such as news, Internet, advertising, paper media, etc., so as to make this sport known nationwide and across the province. By organizing large-scale cultural and recreational activities and competitions, Gelao people's step on the hall dance has gone out of the local scope and expanded to a wider range of young people for publicity and promotion, so that the unique national characteristics can be displayed in front of the world. Only in this way will more people know and see Gelao people's step dance, and more young people will join in the inheritance and innovation of this intangible cultural heritage project, so that Gelao's traditional sports step dance can be developed and improved. In the future, it is believed that expanding the publicity area and increasing the publicity efforts can revitalize Gelao people's treading dance, so that this intangible cultural heritage project can be spread and become better and better.

4.3 Increase investment in policies and funds

From the perspective of supporting the development of national culture, it is necessary for the state to increase the policy and economic support for Gelao's step dance cultural activities, and make a long-term plan according to the national intangible cultural heritage

projects and the inheritance of national cultural activities, so as to stimulate the prosperity and development of national culture with policy innovation. At present, China's Guizhou Province has carried out the regulations on the protection of ethnic and folk culture in Guizhou Province, and has summed up a lot of experience in the past governance and development. In the future, it is also necessary to give full play to the political functions of policies and promote the prosperity and development of national culture and traditional culture. On the basis of political policies, we should strengthen the planning and organizational support for relevant cultural activities, and make financial departments at all levels actively undertake the responsibility of inheritance and innovation of tap dance by means of attracting investment and funding. The relevant funds will be included in the financial budget and allocated to the successors and successors of trampoline dance, so that they have the opportunity to live stably in the local area, so as to revitalize trampoline dance culture and Gelao folk culture. In addition, we must also do a good job in attracting investment, and at the same time, develop more local recreational and sports events, so that more commercial activities can enter the Gelao people in Ping Township, Zunyi County, Guizhou Province, so that more people can live in the local affluence.

4.4 Building a "step on the hall dance" Cultural Center

The construction of the treading hall dance cultural center plays an important role in the protection and inheritance of the project. The author believes that the construction of this cultural center is an important place for the organization and manpower concentration of step dance cultural activities. Although it has entered the information and digital era, the organization of practical activities such as step dance still needs fixed venues and manpower support to truly revitalize the Gelao step dance culture and characteristic folk culture. Since we live in a digital and information age with common information and developed transportation, it is also necessary to build a relevant online activity platform based on the trampoline dance culture center, which is responsible for sorting out the activity data, pictures and videos, and providing another development path for the mining, protection, research and promotion of Gelao culture. We should not only organize realistic cultural practice activities, but also keep the relevant activity design, specific content, participation and so on, so that more people can know or directly participate in the step dance cultural activities. Whether it is planned and constructed by the government or contracted by individuals to build a commercial cultural center, it is of positive significance for the inheritance and development of Gelao's trampoline dance, and more people can also understand the real Gelao's folk culture and trampoline dance culture through this cultural window. If conditions permit, the publication of relevant books, film and television plays and other works can also lay a solid foundation for the cultural inheritance of the hall dance.

#### **Concluding remarks**

In a word, the Gelao people have entered an unprecedented stage of development after the founding of new China. First, they laid an open and inclusive foundation for cultural development, and then introduced cultural media companies, which also laid a solid foundation for the modern development of today's Gelao's "step dance". However, we should also see the problems in the development of Gelao's "treading hall dance", and make it clear that people's production and lifestyle have changed greatly, and Gelao's treading hall dance also faces the dilemma of lack of successors and successors. Based on this, we must publicize and promote the sense of inheritance of national culture, strengthen the publicity of activities related to trampoline dance, and increase policy and economic support, so that trampoline dance can be truly inherited as a characteristic and innovative form of national culture.

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