ABSTRACT

In contemporary literary studies Bai Ju-yi is generally considered to be 'a realistic poet' and his theory of poems is considered to be realistic one. People usually pay attention to his 'poems of parable' than to his other literary works. In Bai Ju-yi's collection of poems there are only 172 'poems of parable', which only hold a relatively small part in all his 3800 poems. In fact, most of his poems cover life comfort, enjoyment, sentiment and miscellanies. So it is rather one-sided for people to fix their attention only on his 'poems of parable' .

Works by Bai Ju-yi can be divided two stages. The earlier stage mainly covers poems of parable while the later stage mainly of mind comfort. But the circle of literary criticism has always regarded his earlier works as realistic ones, Bai' theory is regarded not consistent with practice. I thought Bai's poems of parable cannot completely represent his whole literary practice. What really influences his poem creation is not his 'poems of parable' but attitude towards Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism.

The purpose of this thesis is to look on Bai's literary activities as a whole and also focus on his mind concerning Buddhism, and through prosperous Buddhist culture in Tang Dynasty and some works by Bai Ju-yi to analyze the close relation between Buddhist culture and poems.