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by Sandrine Marchand (Artois University)

Utopia and nostalgia : convergence of two ideals in Chen Yingzhen and Chen Jo-hsi shortstories

The tension between utopia as « nowhere » and nostalgia as longing for going back to one’s own home exists only until homesickness has not found his remedy, the possibility of going back home. After this climax, Utopia and Nostalgia can share almost the same destiny, that is desillusion and lost.

China appears to some taiwananese writers, since the second and third generations, as an inattainable homeland, a kind of Paradise. Either because of communist ideal either because mainland represents the land of chinese culture, the true China. Since the 80th as it is possible to go back to mainland China, different reactions appear in litterature from plain impressions to desillusion.

As Utopia is a kind of ideal government, two writers Chen Jo-Hsi and Chen Yingzhen have crossed the belief of the communist ideal.

Chen Jo-hsi experimented by herself the return to a land which never been her homeland but for which she felt homesick, a kind of nostalgia for a never seen land we must analyse, homesickness which is also shared by writers as different as Wang Wen-hsing and Chu Tian-wen,

Chen Yingzhen, in two novels Gu xiang and Huixiang wrote about the tension of leaving home and of returning home, this time homeland is Taiwan, but the travel necessarily go through the nowhere of communist utopia.

Returning home is not only a problem of space, it is first of all the experience of the irreversibility of Time. Coming back also means to face that the old days have gone and will never come back, that the longing for true China can only be a dream. Does it mean that nostalgia is first of all an attitude face to human destiny, in this way what could be the differences between greek nostalgia and chinese one ?

For people who believed in a political utopia, not only the dream is broken but also they cannot live in a present time where people have no political ideal anymore.

As nostalgia becomes a form of utopia, a longing for a nowhere, it seems that utopia could follow the opposite direction in finding some answer of its desillusion in the longing for rerturning to homeland.