

Memories of Jiuqu River

I like children running briskly while reading aloud a jingle in Shiqi dialect. The local accent seems to take people through the time tunnel, allowing everything to settle down instantly.

The most unforgettable is Jiuqu River. Today, the Jiuqu River is covered by reinforced concrete and becomes a culvert running under the feet. Now I can only recall it on paper and find it in a dream.

Jiuqu River originates from Wugui Mountain

The earliest name of Jiuqu River is "Jiuqu Stream", which is related to its source. Chanchu Valley is the stream of Wugui Mountain.

The Qijiang River in the past was the sea and was very vast. Due to long-term siltation, it gradually became the Qijiang River today. A large number of sea oysters dug up from the "Shiqi Headquarters Economic Zone" under construction is proof.

Qijiang River is connected with the vast Lingding Ocean. When the tide ebbs and flows, the Jiuqu River presents the wonder of reverse flow.

The emperor and queen mother of the Southern Song Dynasty once visited Jiuqu River

The earliest document that referred to Jiuqu River as Jiuqu Stream appeared in the late Ming Dynasty. The author of this article is He Gongdao (1642-1676), the son of He Wuhu, the prime minister of the late Ming Dynasty. He used to be the commander of Jin Yiwei. He has studied history and is good at poetry and writing. He is a famous patriotic poet.

According to He Gongdao's work, the Jiuqu River in the past was far more than two kilometers, but "a few hundred miles", very long and beautiful. In 1277 AD, the emperor and the queen mother visited the local scenic spots in Xiangshan.

Life by the Jiuqu River

A river is flowing, flowers on both sides of the river are scented. The emotional wave caused by the Jiuqu River is the complex of old Zhongshan people. According to the memories of the older generation, the old Jiuqu River has the artistic conception of a beautiful and harmonious village. Until the reform and opening up, both sides of the Jiuqu River still preserved the landscape and pattern of the water towns in the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China. When I was young, I used to stay with relatives near Jiuqu River on weekends. People from Shiqi who live on the banks of the Jiuqu River have their houses set up with flagstones extending to the edge of the river for washing clothes and vegetables. In summer, many people swim here and children play in the river. I liked to fold paper into a paper boat and put it down in the river, letting it drift far away.

There are many small bridges across the river, which are connected to the street. As the sun sets, boys and girls like to date here at Dengying Bridge. Boats often berth in this area. In addition to selling fish, shrimps and crabs, the villagers also sell local agricultural products, such as taro, sweet potatoes, bananas, and sugar cane. These have not spoiled the romantic scenery of Dengying Bridge, on the contrary, it makes people feel quite alive. When I was young, I liked to play in this area, watching the lights leaking from the wooden windows of the old houses by the river, and listening to the saltwater songs floating in the awning boats. I still remember the scene here.

The Jiuqu River, which once nurtures the people living along the river, has traversed for thousands of years. It is a very poetic river and a river with many stories. In the early 1980s, the Jiuqu River was completely covered due to serious pollution and narrowing of the river.

Text translation
Xie Li



遥想九曲河

欧阳小华

南宋皇帝与太后曾游九曲溪

把九曲河称为九曲溪,最早的文献出现在明末的《九曲溪歌·并记》,照录如下:“九曲溪者,县南之一水也。自西迄南曲折而走,不知其凡几百里。曰九曲者,数极于九也。溪之西则为长洲象角西丫诸村落,溪之南则为天王桥,富春里。其中烟树郁郁,人家如鳞,崩崖断石,朝夕有声;其上则荒城废垒,颓壁危庵。怀古之士,好游之客,过其水滨莫不唏嘘太息,气慕当时。盖宋之季太后少时,帝亡入粤,自崖山至吾香山皆为驻师之地。此邑之人有马公南宝者,迎帝幸其家食荔枝。道由此水至今犹有太后遗迹祠于溪上,忠气义之气,盖虽亘千百世犹将与此水而无尽也。九曲云乎哉!虽然自宋而元自元而今日,其间帝王兴废,河山代谢,人事升沉,指不胜屈,独此水则太后少帝之旧游,马公南宝之故宅至今有能道之者将纵观于汴京之宫阙,江左之偏安,始则坏国事于会宗,继则任平章于似道,英雄什佰无所措手足,生其时不亦难乎?古人有言,一日九断肠,闻斯语岂不谓然?而今而后游于此水,触于此情又将与此水为无尽也。九曲云乎哉。偶与友人停舟其下,循古道,读遗碑凭吊久之,为次其事并歌之曰:九曲兮,水何之,肠断兮,一如斯。石屹屹兮树离离,西风悲兮吹我衣,我将起古人于九京兮,非其时。”

撰写此文的时候何吼道(1642年-1676年)字皇图,号越巢,是明末和南明宰相何吾驹的儿子,曾任锦衣卫指挥使,颇有气节,抗清不仕;他对历史颇有研究,擅诗能文,是著名的爱国诗人,著有《越巢诗集》二卷等。

据何吼道的《九曲溪歌·并记》可知,从前的九曲河即九曲溪远远不只两公里,而是“不知其凡几百里”,很长,也很美,“烟树郁郁,人家如鳞,崩崖断石,朝夕有声”。并且,“独此水则太后少帝之旧游”原来,南宋皇帝与太后曾游九曲溪,当年何吼道言之凿凿:“至今犹有太后遗迹祠于溪上”。

何吼道此文不长,但文采飞扬,笔墨生香,触景生情处,异常沉重,心情悲凉。尤其是,字里行间慷慨悲歌,不得不令人思接千载,忆起了这个令人荡气回肠的宋王朝,这既是一个创立了中国历史上与唐诗并峙的另一个文学高峰——宋词的朝代,也是一个创造了中国古代四大发明中三大发明的年代,更是在中国古代历史上科技史上最出色最优秀的年代。

宋朝分北宋、南宋,南宋更是坐拥全世界最先进科技文化和经济最发达的一个朝代。可是,在冷兵器的时代,“文明往往干不过野蛮,正统干不过流氓。”

蒙古铁骑横扫欧亚大陆后,转而集中力量对付南宋。富裕安逸的南宋怎敌得过在血雨腥风中奔走的蒙古铁骑?宋帝在忠臣将士的护卫下,不得不亡命天涯,退至广东

香山(今中山)。

公元1277年(宋景炎二年)的冬季,当地乡绅马南宝把南宋流亡皇帝赵昀迎进了沙涌家中,马家祠堂成为皇帝的临时行宫。此时,香山成为了南宋流亡朝廷最后一个喘息之地。当此际,从朝廷到民间,不少人闻色变,暗潜而逃。马南宝却反向而行,组织起勤王义军,成为那个时代的逆行者,开启他悲壮的人生!

当地乡民在马南宝号召下,竭力保卫皇帝,守卫严密,较长的一段时间,“元人不得而知”。所以,皇帝与太后得以游玩了当地名胜。可以想象,荡舟九曲河,优哉游哉,何等轻松惬意!可是最终元兵侦知了宋皇行迹。很快硝烟又起,前线失守,皇帝在宋军的护卫下,撤到距沙涌村一百多公里的崖山。

公元1279年的那个春天,宋元大决战爆发,宋军战败,宋少帝与十万之众将士跳海殉国。宋亡,马南宝隐居不降,后寻机重举义旗反元,战败被俘后壮烈殉节,年仅36岁,明清两朝均追表其忠,崇祀乡贤。马南宝浩然正气万古流芳。

前尘滚滚,硝烟弥漫,连接着过去,承载着如此厚重历史的九曲河,怎不令怀古之士,好游之客,过其水滨唏嘘叹息?

然而,几百年的风风雨雨,早已荡涤了九曲河的声音叹息。

“一天门、二门坎、三级石、四方井、五街祖庙、六家祠、七仙街、八卦巷、九曲河、十皇殿。”

我喜欢小朋友用本土的石岐话一边轻快地跑着,一边高声地诵读这段顺口溜。难以割舍的乡音,仿佛带人穿越时光隧道,让一切瞬间沉淀下来。

这是从前流行于香山(今中山)近两百年的地名顺口溜,指的是散落在中山城区及其附近的街道村落著名景点。这些旧时风物,有的至今仍在,徜徉其间,常会勾起思古之幽情;可惜,绝大多数都被现代化的浪潮吞噬或湮没。

最令人难以忘怀的是九曲河。曾经的小桥流水,人家枕河,船来船往,绿树绕墙,一直是优美的所在。曾几何时?九曲河被钢筋混凝土覆盖,成为脚下流淌的暗渠。如今只能纸上追忆,梦里寻回。

九曲河源自五桂山

据《香山县志》记载:“云坛桥涌,源出良字都蟾蜍岭西,合双合山北峡水,至三角塘村前灌为罗婆陂。西折至库涌村前,桂峰、小岭水来会,至砚涌分流。一支迤北九曲入清风桥,绕文庙而西。又名九曲水。过元兴街为东濠,会东关水;又西过南门桥为南濠,会南关水,出登瀛桥。一支迤南折西,过桥仔头,又北为西边涌,东北至登瀛桥河流,过梅基,总名南河。出元坛桥涌前入石岐水,皆平流,可行小船。”

这里描写的“南河”,包括九曲水、东关水、南关水、石岐水。可见,南河并不等同于九曲河,而是包括九曲河在内的四条水道;九曲河也不等同于九曲水这一条水道。但由古至今,人们都习惯将这些水道统称为“九曲河”,南河反而淡忘了。“九”在古代不是实指而是虚指,很多的意思。九曲,其实就是曲曲折折,有很多弯之意。

九曲河最早的名称叫“九曲溪”,这与它的源头有关,“源出良字都蟾蜍岭西”。蟾蜍岭是五桂山的溪洞,溪水充沛,由高到低,由东流向西,其终点是岐海,岐海亦名岐江。

有人说,中山人固执叫河为海,这就错了。以前的岐江的确是海,十分辽阔,是因长期淤积,慢慢变成今日的岐江河。从正在施工中的“石岐总部经济区”挖出的大量海蚝就是明证,唐代左丞相郑愚的诗《泛石岐海》上阙亦可佐证:

“此日携琴剑,飘然事远游。台山初罢雾,岐海正分流。渔浦扬来笛,鸿逵翼去舟。”

这里的“台山”,指石岐以南的南台山,“岐海”指石岐海。寥寥数语,道出当时岐江原来叫石岐海,也曾是个大渔港,船来船往,颇为繁忙。

岐江河与浩瀚的伶仃洋相连,每当潮起潮落,九曲河都会呈现出倒流奇观。岐江涨潮时,河水倒入九曲河,水流浩荡,由西向东,显现出壮观的景象,是为地地道道的九曲河;岐江退潮时,九曲河的水主要是五桂山源源不断的溪涧水,特别纯净,清澈见底,与河底奇形怪状的石头想映衬,美得醉人!晚上的时候,清溪映月,那种景象更是美不胜收。还是用明代著名书画家、香山诗人伍瑞隆的诗形容最为贴切:

“城边溪水碧如葱,城外扁舟渡晚风。日落月来天在水,行人浑入镜光中。”

九曲河旁的人间烟火

一河流淌,夹岸花香。九曲河荡漾起的情感浪潮,是老中山人解不开的情结。

据老一辈回忆,昔日的九曲河就像“周庄”,颇具“小桥流水人家”的意境。直至改革开放前,九曲河两岸还完整地保存着晚清和民国时期水乡风貌和格局。两岸民居依河而筑,依水成街。沿河两岸有古旧砖屋、木屋,横街是有宽有窄的街巷,左穿右行在石板铺就的小路,会有向过往岁月延伸的感觉。年少时,每逢周末,我到九曲河附近亲戚家小住,见居住在九曲河畔的石岐人,其房子都有石板级延伸至河岸边,方便洗衣洗菜。正当夏季,很多人在这里游泳,小孩子在河边玩水嬉戏。我喜欢用纸折成纸船放下河里,任凭它飘向远方……

河道上横跨有许多小桥,桥街相连。据长辈说,在当年的九曲河上,计有清风桥、南门桥、登瀛桥、悦来桥、元坛桥。这五座桥,暗喻“九五之尊”。上述小桥,最负盛名的莫过于位处柏山村的“清风桥”。清风桥由石板砌成,横跨于两岸之间,周围环境是一处风景胜地,茅舍修竹,荷田阡陌,蒹葭苍苍。最宽阔处水面达数百,水清如明镜,可见鱼儿游弋。

清风桥我未见过,想必我懂事时,清风桥已湮灭了。但“登瀛桥”给我印象最深刻,是单桥石拱桥,两侧石雕护栏,桥的半圆拱与倒影在水平的半圆形成一个整圆,远看仿似月亮,非常好看。太阳照在河面上,小船轻摇,绿影婆娑。那古老的登瀛桥,守候着前世的相约,变成一幅绝美的风景画。

浅浅的风景,淡淡如诗。夕阳西下,青年男女喜欢在登瀛桥这里约会。甚至,乌篷船也喜欢停泊在这一带,除了售卖鱼虾蟹,就是当地的农产品,如芋头、番薯、香蕉、甘蔗等。这些并没有破坏登瀛桥的浪漫景致,相反觉得颇有人间烟火气。小时候,很喜欢到这一带玩,看临河老屋木窗里漏出来的灯光,听乌篷船里飘出的咸水歌。对这里的景象,我记忆犹新。

置家,又称艇户,是一种以船为家的渔民,世代以打鱼为生。广泛分布于中山水乡地带。那时候,九曲河里的鱼虾特别多,称为“置家人”的水上人家,小船网鱼,泊在岸边卖水果。船上的艇仔粥、煎堆、茶果等地方特色食品令人垂涎三尺。说起艇仔粥,老石岐人最是熟悉不过。置家人为了生计,以新鲜的河虾或鱼片为配料熬成粥,摇着小艇向游客兜售,艇仔粥由此而得名。

龙舟敲响,五月粽香。端午节赛龙舟,这是石岐的传统习俗,地点就在九曲河。直至五十年代,一年一度的龙舟大赛都是在九曲河举行,并不是现在的岐江河。可见以前的九曲河一点也不窄。

曾哺育和滋养了沿河而居老百姓的九曲河,穿越了千年风雨,是一条颇有诗情画意的河,是一条有很多故事的河。在20世纪80年代初,九曲河因污染严重、河道变窄,而被全部覆盖。

世间许多事物,要一段距离或时间才看明白。或许至今才理解错失,感到痛惜。如今惟有通过一些街名,如“上河泊、中河泊、下河泊、河边街、水关街、水楼街”等“带水”的街巷,去追忆那条承载着无数风情的九曲河。

现在每经过九曲河遗址,我都会想起昔日的九曲河,那澄碧的溪水和那不清不浊的河水,无时不在我心中激荡。真的,盼望那令人魂牵梦绕的九曲河重新复活,再现清风徐来,碧波荡漾的景象。

但我知道,或许会有这一天的到来。

