

## *Original Paper*

# On the Philosophy of Life in the Late Poetry of Mu dan Creation

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### **Abstract**

*As an important proposition, Mu Dan's poetry in the later stage has been paid more and more attention, and the understanding of Mu Dan's later poetry content has also been explained in many ways, which also has a lot of open research horizons for today's readers. Through the study of Mu Dan's poetry in the later stage, the author will also have a deeper understanding of Mu Dan's poetry, at the same time, he will also accumulate the previous research results and promote Mu Dan's poetry research to be more concrete and in-depth. Experience Mu Dan's later poetry creation art and profound personality charm. Here, through the study of Mu Dan's later poetry, it goes deep into Mu Dan's life realm, and Mu Dan's later poetry creation to the contemporary. Literature is hungry and has an important influence.*

### **Keywords**

*Mudan, writing late poetry, philosophy of life, important influence*

### **Foreword**

In his later years, Mudan's poetic talent was limited for socio-political reasons, but he still persisted in writing poetry. Mu Dan late poetry after early poetry accumulation and life in the 50s, 60s, poetry more pure, achieve a kind of experience hardship and wise, Dan Ding pure clear life. In such a realm, Mu Dan's late poetry showed the characteristics of philosophical thinking, and poetry is not changed because of the suffering of life. The sudden enthusiasm and profound philosophy in MuDan's poetry, and the poetic expression of poetry, beautiful words and sentences, need to be experienced and carefully read. In this busy world, we need to use such poetry to soothe our wandering hearts, find the little beasts in our souls, and sing our lives in the world full of green and green.

Mu Dan's late poetry is another climax of Mu Dan's poetry, which is the research content that cannot be ignored. The author's study of Mu Dan's poetic life philosophy is conducted in order to have a deeper understanding of Mu Dan's writing situation and his deep philosophy in his later life. This paper focuses on Mu Dan's late poems. The poet's later years are mainly from 1975 to 1976. The poems

mainly include Song of Wisdom, Reason, Reason and Emotion, meditation Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, After Power outage, and other personality forces full of wise thinking and great power. In his later years, Mu Dan's poetry creation had his consistent attention to the national destiny and the critical consciousness of the society, but he more expressed his attention to the individual life, the exploration of human nature and the pursuit of ideals. On the whole, both inheritance is more beyond development, and its creation is more mature, forming its own unique style. This paper focuses on the expression of the philosophy contained in Mu Dan's later poetry, the reasons for the formation of Mu Dan in his later years and the important influence and value of Mu Dan's poetry in Mu Dan's later creation.

### **1. The Philosophy of Life in the Late Poetry of Mudan**

In the gloomy decade of Chinese history, many Chinese intellectuals were heavily oppressed by spirit and body. In such a living environment, Mu Dan never gave up his love for life and stick to poetry. It is in such a suffering life that I wrote profound thoughts and profound philosophical poems, philosophical thinking about the existence of life, deep cognition of individual life, love and gentle treatment of life, making people cannot help but tears overflow their eyes. The profound taste of life contained in these poems, the worries about The Times, the attention to life in the universe, the pursuit of a broad historical vision and deep life thinking. Mu Dan's poems in his later years were mainly written in the year before his life died. The look back on life contained in the poems are simple and profound, transparent after the vicissitudes, and appeal the experienced pain to the calm words. Wisdom and suffering, emotion and reason is later years, Mu Dan had a kind of wise wisdom after the suffering baptism of life, with a gentle aconstitute a contradictory tension in the poem. Wang Zuoliang once commented on Mu Dan's poems later in his life. "Thirty years later, Liang zheng still writes moving. Where—is only emotionally different: meditation, melancholy, sometimes a sudden question... is a cry of inner pain; more often a deep and sad maturity". In the early years, Mu Dan paid close attention to the life society, the cry of darkness, and the pursuit of light. In hnd calm attitude towards the harsh winter of life.

#### *1.1 Tender Autumn Farewell*

Life boat sailing in the boundless sea of life, experienced constant wind and rain, difficult forward in the turbulent waves, taste human changes in temperature, Mu Dan in 40 years to pick up his pen to write the life of the world, bound poetry in the last days of life wrote the soul singing, full of cold, thorough and sad life to deep experience, touching. Under the pressure of cruel politics, intellectual writing space is restricted, Mu Dan did not give up the pursuit of poetry, in the time of life, Mu Dan picked up the pen where he can write, on waste paper, on the old calendar, on the broken envelope, in all can write poetry drag body to pursue their own poetry ideal, leave their own voice in the world. Who can think of when Mu Dan bicycle in nankai university dim student dormitory fell leg after unwilling to tired family, just endure not to treatment, in a pain of night, lying alone in bed and can give

the pain of life with peaceful attitude, always maintain the love of life, the pursuit of the beauty of life, with a pure heart in the face of unfortunate and sad world. At the end of the journey covered by the gray mist, enjoy the autumn peace.

In "Autumn" Mudan wrote:

.....

The shadow of death has not yet come,

All peace, bright and rich colors;

The white clouds flowing through it are talking with the river,

It also needs to enjoy a little happiness of life.

At this time, Mu Dan has known that his time is not much, in the process of waiting for death, waiting for the lonely autumn, autumn in ancient times represents the sad sorrow, Mu Dan is with a quiet and peaceful attitude to enjoy the short happiness before death. Here are red maple leaves, yellow grass, flying geese, distant clear sky, and autumn cool, colorful, quiet life, white clouds through the river in the water, they whisper, how a comfortable life picture, but from a dying lonely old man, read cannot help but make people tears, feel Mu Dan love of life, to life has a pure after thousands of sails of indifferent and elegant. Living is such a beautiful, even if Mu Dan left time is not running out, but in this fleeting time to enjoy the existence of life, gently sniffing the life sent out of the mellow fragrance, the heart slightly swaying, the world is good.

The life of the earth, the colorful view

Has written about his enthusiasm and fury,

Now only the desolate sounds of insects remain,

Green memories, a grass-yellow smile.

It was its tender farewell before travelling,

Then his language had faded;

Why are you holding full of shade,

Do not let it drift down in the wind, page after page.

In the face of death, always maintain a normal heart, the inherent death, the dead world is too strange, the way home is far away, before the unknown journey and life silently love, tender and farewell to life, precious life needs everyone heart care, in this journey to happiness. There are too many things to be said and unspeakable in life, happiness and misfortune need us to be with a kind and wise heart to face, live their own life. Mu Dan sang the song of the wisdom of his last life. In the autumn, the excavation of self-psychology, the contradictions in life and the close world view, the mature and deep rational thinking, and the in-depth insight into life. Mu Dan is in that absurd world, and life tortures him. In such a world similar to separation, Mu Dan's poems in his later years began with the deep thinking of society, reaching on the far other side of life. In this poem that shows reason, meditation and stability, the troubles of The Times and the overload of life are put down, going into reflection and review,

recalling the past and later life journey. In the quiet and warm autumn, in the late world of death, others have become less important, at this time, Mu Dan only hopes to be accompanied by time, quiet and comfortable.

In spite of these misfortunes and sufferings in his later years, Mu Dan still fought bravely against the opposing forces in his life, insisted on treating his life with an optimistic and high-minded attitude, inherited the direction of his poetry writing in his early years, and continued to think incessantly about the life of the universe, the value of individual existence, meditated deeply on life, and faced the approaching death with a penetrating and enlightened attitude. These are my thoughts on the late stage of Mu Dan's creation and the philosophical thoughts under such a situation.

### *1.2 The Song of Life in the Harsh Winter*

Winter is the most important poem of Mu Dan in his later years. The four summary poems forming the whole poem are like a picture spread in depth, which together weave the picture that winter brings people rich experience. The winter written in the poem is obviously not only a natural season, but also implies a certain state of life. After enjoying the cold of winter, the poet is still willing to draw warmth from his memories and expectations for the future. The whole poem speaks in a quiet and gentle tone in a gentle and moving way.

Tao Yuanming had a poem like this: "Even in the midst of the great change of the waves, I am not happy and I am not afraid", and this poem is appropriate to describe Mu Dan at this time. The helplessness and sadness of life are lamentable. Living with all one's strength is only the completion of one's ordinary life, which is an irrevocable destiny given to us by the mysterious world. In his later years, Mudan wrote four seasonal poems, expressing his thoughts on life. Mudan once mentioned his love for seasonal poems in a letter with a friend, "To thank the philosophy of life is also a law. It has nothing to do with reality, and it's okay to look at it ten years later, and it's okay to look at it now...So writing seasonal poems like autumn and winter is also self-indulgent". In the process of writing poetry, one's mood is written, the satisfaction of the hobby of writing poetry is said to be self-entertainment in fact, in such a writing process, the profound philosophy contained therein is also fully expressed.

#### *1.2.1 The Imagery of Life Experience in Winter*

At this point, life has reached a harsh winter, and Mudan has reached the end of his life that he can reach. Here there are lamentations about life, but there is also the frankness of knowing one's fate, there is the compelling loneliness and chill, but there is also a more attentive listening, slowly counting the gentle beating of time, and in the face of death's bashful fearlessness, in this tortuous life, Mudan has accomplished what he can do. In the slow telling, the faint bitterness and the long deepness make people can't help but shake their hearts and minds for such touching emotions. There is no fierce rhetoric and the emotions that swept this run, there is only a faint aftertaste, quiet thoughts and leisurely sighs, the calmness of facing death.

"Winter" is the core image of the whole poem, under which there are a series of dense and rich imagery

groups that together constitute a large imagery system. Make the severity of the “winter” more vivid. “Hillside”, “wilderness”, “frozen river”, “snowflakes flying”, roaring “trees and grass”, these images create a bleak, yellow and sad world for us. There are also warm images such as “gurgling river”, “cicadas and frogs in summer”, “flowers”, “green”, “stove”, etc. In contrast shows the warmth and strength of the poet’s heart, the love of life and vigorous vitality. In stark contrast to the cool and thin world.

MuDan’s later poems inherit the proximity of the winter in the present, like the survival of thin ice; the frozen river (“gurgling river sealed”) symbolizes the special era, in the sinister political environment, people are unable to express their true thoughts; the stove is the source of warmth in the cold winter. It is a place that can remain warm and quiet not because of external experience, comforting those souls who unyielding from the cold winter. Through rich poetic images, the poetic world, and then through these strong sense of pictorial images into the poet’s strong emotional sustenance, showing the poet’s thinking and philosophical perception of life and life.

### 1.2.2 Life Lessons from Winter

In the poem, the poet wrote that way:

I love it in the short-lived days of the light sun,  
Near the window to finish the favorite work quietly;

.....,

I will irrigate my heart with a glass of wine.  
How fast, life has reached the harsh winter.

In this short year, life is so difficult that Mudan laments the passing of life, and the good times are disappearing, and life has almost finished this bitter and warm life. The cherishing of life stems from a thorough understanding of life’s existence, which is reflected in such soothing poetry from the contemplation of social life in the early years of his difficult life to the grasp of life in his later years. On a winter afternoon, sitting at a desk with a bright window, looking out the window at the leaves blown by the cold wind, the flying birds outside speeding past in the obscure high sky, drinking warm wine on such a cold and clear day, waving my poetry on the paper and telling my thoughts on life.

Next:

I love the sleepless nights in the flying snow,

.....

When the vast snow spread under the world of forgetting,  
I want the heat of my feelings to overflow in my heart,  
To warm this harsh winter of life.

The realization and contemplation of life makes Mudan wise and peaceful. At the end of the world of life, there is not much left, and what is left for Mudan is perhaps the precious memories of the past. Although the winter of life is cold and bone-chilling, Mudan’s fiery heart is still beating with cherished

thoughts and love for life, while also writing about Mudan's love for the world. When the blanket of snow covers the whole world, Mudan hopes to use his still fiery heart to melt the cold and silent world, using his own weak strength to warm his own life and also bring warmth to the world. In this cold world, the relationship between people has become indifferent, and the warmth of the past is no longer there. In his later years, Mudan still retains his concern for society, hoping that what he writes can cause people to think, to step out of their own little world, and to make the world a little saner and warmer. Mudan's poetry in his later years is full of his own thoughts on life and deep feelings about life, which flow between the lines of his poems, his thoughts on the existence of individual lives, his meditations and philosophies on life. In this world of setbacks, despite the disappointments and pains, the faint sunlight that leaks from the branches of dead trees still warms Mu Dan's body and soul, beating the drums of his own life in this cold world, warm and touching.

A pot of water is boiling, a white mist  
Pused in the smoky hut,  
Eating, humming a ditty, and still talking  
Boring things in the dull wilderness.

In this poem, a picture of a leisurely life is presented to the reader, a warm room with hot water boiling, white water mist in the air, a quiet and warm atmosphere where the poet eats happily and hums his favorite tune, what a warm life for the poet who has experienced the pain of life, a love of life with an inner mind and a light-hearted and leisurely thought of life's worldly affairs leap onto the paper. This poem, written three months before the poet's death, shows the poet's calmness in the face of death, not as a purely quiet description of life, but as a poem full of far-reaching life. These meaningful images are arranged into a large system of meanings, which together embody the philosophical theme of life's survival, and make people read them with deep feelings and long meanings.

Lu Xun once said, really warriors can face the bleak life, can face up to the dripping blood. Real intellectuals, in silence will not give up the search of thought—frozen river surging with hot magma, life also takes root in this misty world, live warm, live meaningful. Mu Dan for life and thinking is full of poetic meaning, life hard-won, in the process of our growth will experience a lot of things, it is valuable that no matter what can always on the road to keep confidence, love for personal life, keep the pursuit of life, on the road also came across the thinking of life and life existence, why, where people go. Mu Dan is just such a person worthy of the world forever to respect.

## **2. Reasons for the formation of Mu Dan's Poetic Style in the Later Stages of his Creation**

Mu Dan composed his late poetry after the storms of his life, and after the experience of time and his heart, he gave voice to the voice of his time alone. The profound sense of life in his poetry is a combination of his own personal character developed in the decades before, the suffering imposed on him by the times, and his own poetic style.

### 2.1 *A Turbulent Life Course*

In 1953, Mu Dan returned to Tianjin from the United States and became an associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at Nankai University, where he devoted himself to the translation of Russian and English poetry; in 1958, he was accused of historical counterrevolution, transferred to the library and the bathhouse, and was subjected to control, criticism, and reform through labor for more than ten years, and stopped creating poetry. In 1975, he resumed poetry writing and created nearly thirty works, such as “Song of Wisdom”, “After the Blackout” and “Winter”; in 1976, he broke the neck of his right leg. He died of a heart attack the following year, the end of his life, a singable life; he was rehabilitated in 1979, but it was too late. In Mudan’s bumpy life, life gave him too few good times and brought him endless hardships and sorrows. The valuable thing is that he still maintained a tough heart, treating these encounters as a gift given to him by life, facing the world that was so calamitous for him with warmth and kindness, thinking about life, tracing the trajectory of life, and writing down his endless thoughts about life.

### 2.2 *The Influence of Pre-creation on Later Poetry*

As a representative figure of the modernist school of poetry, Mu Dan’s poetic style is strongly modernist, focusing on the unity of reality and the heart in the early stages, and his poems have a broad vision and a strong sense of the times, history and the spirit of reality. In his art, he insisted on opposing the poetic style of Romanticism and devoted himself to the “modernization” of new poetry and the “revolution of sensibility”, aiming to make new poetry a blend of reality, symbolism and metaphysics. He consciously pursued the combination of realism and modernism, and focused on creating new and strange imagery and realms in his poetry. “His poems always point to the deep through the surface of facts or emotions; he pursues the concrete but also transcends it and refers to the abstract. He is in the present world, yet he sees or suggests eternity” These characteristics of the early modernist poetry, though somewhat diminished in the later period, still retain some traces of creativity. For example, the use of imagery and symbolism and the profound philosophies expressed in the poems are mentioned earlier. For example:

Through the review of the whole life, Mu Dan’s “The Tree of Wisdom” lamented the first half of his life, thinking and feeling of reality, and inherits the philosophical style of the early poetry. In the poem of the happy youth love finally disappeared, cold and stiff. Under the merciless blow of reality, love becomes illusory, free and weak, the experience and thinking about love is now painful; another noisy friendship becomes bleak because of the social pattern and the cold wind of life, including the thinking of living life and the relationship between people; and the charming ideal because of reality, finally become a laughing talk. Young look forward to to this time, recall to find that the brilliance of the ideal even never exposed to their humble corner, survival is their only. The feeling in this one is very touching and also thought-provoking.

I have come to the end of my fantasy,  
 It is a floating forest of fallen leaves  
 Each leaf marks a sense of joy

.....

Looking back at the end of my life, the sadness and joy of the past emerged in front of my eyes, white clouds and white dog, the world changes, life but between the fingers, experienced many world ups and downs, now, sadness and helplessness surge in my heart. This technique of inheriting the early perception of the world and life in the corresponding image system is also shown in the later stage. At the same time, there are later life encountered precipitation, more than the early stage has also become deeper and moving, as follows:

There is a joy in the love of youth,  
 It was a brilliant meteor in the far horizon.  
 Some have disappeared,  
 Some fall in front of their feet, cold and stiff.

Young looking forward to the beautiful love, in retrospect, like that can never touch the horizon meteor, never touch, Mu Dan's pursuit of love and disappointment performance incisively and vividly.

Ideal supports Mu Dan in the thorny road, always adhere to himself, but the cold society is mercilessly trampling on Mu Dan's ideal, pay their own all for it, get is absurd punishment, full of endless bitterness.

The way of illustrating one's spiritual experience with such symbols inherits the style of the earlier period, but also adds the life experience and perception of the later period. In addition to these factors, the foreign poetic works that Mu Dan translated later in his life also had a certain influence on Mu Dan, who was restricted from creating poetry during the Cultural Revolution, so he shifted his passion to translating foreign poetry, which was a continuation of the creative process of the earlier period. This is also an important influence on later poetry.

Hold the sudden fountain of life in my hand  
 I just think it's coming from the fresh,

.....

But now, suddenly facing the grave,  
 I looked back a little into the past,  
 I saw its twists and turns of the irrigation of the joys and sorrows,  
 All disappeared in an everlasting desert,  
 That is all my efforts,

"Meditation" is a poem written by the poet at the last stage of his life. Between the lines, he expresses the review and reflection of life and the intelligent expression of thorough understanding. Mu Dan from the youth years, to the passionate youth, and then to ambition to pay, feel helpless old age. Life has

experienced a lot of suffering time, have a clear understanding of the existence of life, once had the life is so fresh, and now fast to the end of life, in the face of the grave, only to find that once all the efforts are just the completion of an ordinary life. Mu Dan's meditation has reached a higher level of life realm, he saw his own life journey, but also realized the meaning of life. In this poem, there are Mu Dan's relevance to real politics and philosophical thoughts about life, which reached a metaphysical height. The irony of real politics, satirize the world of those self-righteous "gods", self-righteous great and lofty, in fact, is but the little actors under this permanent order. In the early stage, the attention and thinking about social politics and the application of symbolic images were expressed in the later stage. In addition, more poetry writing forms formed by more philosophical thinking were added in the later stage.

### **3. The Influence of Mudan's Poetry in the Later Stages of his Creation**

The study of Mu Dan's poetry began since Wang Zuoliang published a Chinese poet in 1946, which has gone through nearly 70 years. The profound ideological connotation in Mu Dan's poetry also had an important impact on the future poets, and the perfect grasp of life in his later years was enough to move several generations. In his later years, Mu Dan's poetry had a great influence in the creative content, skill style, genre characteristics, ideological tendency, personality spirit and the significance of literary history.

#### *3.1 The Power of Personality that Moves People*

Mu Dan wrote to his friends in his later years saying, "I always want to contribute something to poetry, which is the meaning of my life". Mu Dan said in later years this sentence, his life suffered how painful experience, compared with early Mu Dan vigorous life, Mu Dan at this time because of life, bent waist, gray hair, wear rags in the street sweep toilet, in such a life, Mu Dan also still hope to contribute for the later what, complete their ideal pursuit.

Mu Dan has maintained a deep worry in the difficult moment in China, which is a valuable soul of an intellectual member. In "After the Power outage", Mu Dan sees a burning candle early after the night, here he wrote:

It was then when I remembered,  
Originally, overnight,  
There were many gusts required for it to withstand,  
So I took it away gratefully,  
Read about this respectable little graveyard.

As the old saying goes, "A flower is a world, a leaf is a bodhi", seeing this vaulted universe from the tiny sand, which contains the compassion for all living things and. The poet is using this tiny candle to sigh about the changing social life, living with respectable attitude in this sad world. This is a reflection of the intellectuals who persevere in adversity. This spirit inspires future generations to ponder and

better recognize right and wrong, truth and goodness. This spirit of struggle against a desperate and mediocre life deserves our study and contemplation.

### 3.2 *The Artistic Characteristics of the Poem*

Chinese New Poetry began in the troubled years of war and turmoil, and was the precious fruit of many poets' continuous exploration. Together with his colleagues, Mu Dan founded the New School of Chinese Poetry, which pushed Chinese poetry to maturity and had a profound impact on the development of poetry in the future. This superimposition of imagery to graphically express the poet's emotions and thoughts is extremely expressive, and the poem has a richer aesthetic meaning. Deleuze once said, "The writer creates a new language in language, giving birth to a new grammatical or syntactic force". The power of language is moving, and it can penetrate the surface of words to reach the depths of the soul. The poet's poetry in his later years used this art even more skillfully, and the poetic language was more fluent and straightforward, rich in rhyme. Yuan Kejia once said, "Mudan is one of the most energetic and potentially most far-reaching talents among the poets of this generation", in the camp of the new poetry wave of the 1940s, Mudan was one of the leading flag bearers, reaching the height of modernization in poetry in terms of lyrical style and linguistic art. The imagery he created was novel, and the poems were philosophical and at the same time strongly lyrical as the poet says in "Winter":

There is a joy that is the love of youth;  
Another joy is the loud friendship;  
Another joy is the charming ideal.

In this poem, Mudan adopts the technique of overlapping chapters and stanzas to advance his emotions layer by layer, looking back on love, friendship and ideals, and sending his feelings in these light sentences, which makes people move their hearts when reading them. People have to suffer a lot of pain in this life, and life is already full of holes, and the existence at this time is also going to be hollow and empty, both old and cruel. In "Autumn", the poet expresses his expectation of a happy life and his cherishing of life.

This is the poet's summary and look back of his own suffering life. The poet overcomes the suffering and lives strong and optimistic. Through the images such as "lightning", "flame," "leaves", "birds", "and" insects " , here symbolizes strength, struggle, vitality and tenacity. It shows the poet's deep thinking and understanding of the existence of life. At the same time, these poems of Mu Dan's poems not only make me understand the art of image symbol, but also make us think more about life and life. The Western imagery poet Huem argued that "living imagery is the soul of poetry". Mudan describes these systems of imagery saturated with his philosophy of life to form the deep interior of poetry. It also has an important influence on contemporary literature.

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