



# The Portrait of Du Liniang

*From Mudan Ting By Tang Xianzu*

Audience: Feminist Conference



# Introduction to Mudan Ting



玉茗花開四百年丹青摹寫尚如  
前情深偏俠適宜從樂苑明燈藉此傳  
贈川先生由家巨擘其四哲傳奇芳芬  
排側情文相生若人評為佳仙佛形  
自參乎天人國不假文章之美聲容之  
威也端其生年當明嘉靖庚戌為公元  
一五五零迄今一凡五零適應四百載而  
愈覺滋傳其有懷高義松張榜拂  
謹賦短句以志景行之懷  
德清俞平伯題 宣齋書



若士先生小像

道光戊戌初夏江都陳作霖敬摹



# Values of Ming Dynasty China

01



**Daoism &  
Confucianism**

Notions of Gender Equality prevalent amongst Daoists spiraled downwards with the rise of Neo-Confucianism

02



**Women's  
Future**

1. Servitude
2. Entertainers
3. Childbearing/rearing

03



**Filial Piety**

Family Above All Else

# Ming Dynasty Women

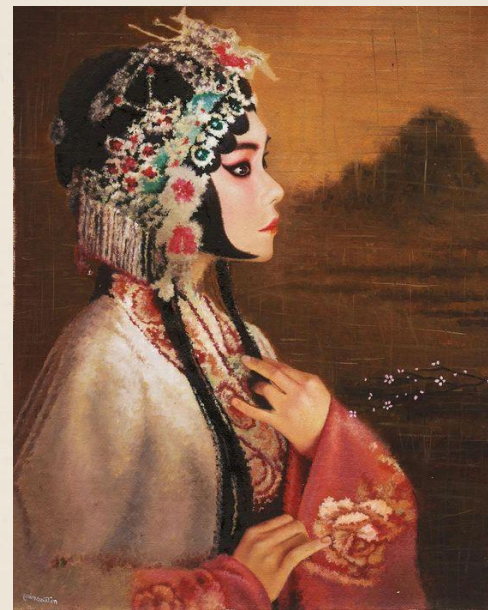
Confined to home  
Chaste until marriage  
Bound Feet  
Conventional Faces

## Paintings

Individuality  
Demurity  
Identity



# Why did Du Liniang paint a portrait?



# Scene 26: Portrait Examined

Guanyin?

Chang E?

Mortal Girl?



# Thank You!

## 論文

### Works Cited

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# The Poems

However close the likeness  
viewed from near at hand,  
from farther off one would say  
this was some airborne sprite.  
Union in some year to come  
with the "courtier of the moon"  
Will be beneath the branches  
either of willow or apricot.

Du Liniang



The excellence of the painting  
is nature's inspiration,  
A sprite either of heaven  
or of earth below;  
The "moon-palace union"  
may be near at hand or far  
But hopes of spring are lodged  
in willow and apricot

Liu Mengmei