

# **The Integration and Aggregation of World Buddhist Culture: The Historical Evolution and Contemporary Value of the Art of Wutai Mountain Buddhist Temple Complex in China**

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**Abstract:** Wutai Mountain has formed a distinctive Buddhist architectural complex with its unique Alpine weather, springs and waterfalls, grotesque caves and rocks, geomorphic landscape and far-reaching Buddhist culture, and its architectural complex art has also been endowed with unique religious and cultural characteristics, becoming the current world center of Buddhist Manjusri belief. This paper mainly expounds the emergence of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex and Buddhist culture in China, discusses the characteristics and styles of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex in different historical periods, reveals the relevance between Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex and World Buddhist culture from the perspective of historical evolution, and discusses the contemporary value of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex, including becoming an example of the combination of natural landform and Buddhist culture. It has realized the artistic expression of the innovation and inheritance of Buddhist culture, promoted the spread of Buddhist culture under the guidance of the world's Buddhist Manjusri belief center, and better realized the exchange and integration of World Buddhist culture.

**Keywords:** Buddhist Culture, Wutai Mountain, Buddhist Temple Complex.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Wutai Mountain, located in Shanxi Province in northern China, is one of the four famous Buddhist mountains in China, and is also listed as a world cultural heritage by UNESCO. As an important symbol of Buddhist culture, Mount Wutai has not only witnessed the development history of Chinese Buddhism, but also become a key node in the world Buddhist cultural exchange. The history of Mount Wutai can be traced back to the 1st century AD. since then, it has been one of the centers of Buddhist activities in China. After several dynasties, Mount Wutai witnessed the integration and development of Buddhist culture and Chinese traditional culture. The temple buildings here not only reflect the characteristics of traditional Chinese architecture in architectural style, but also integrate the

elements of Buddhist culture, forming a unique artistic style. For example, the Buddhist temple buildings in Wutai Mountain mostly adopt the structure of double eaves and rest on the top of the mountain, which integrates the symmetrical beauty of Han architecture and the tranquility and harmony of Buddhist culture. Murals and sculptures are particularly prominent in the Buddhist art of Mount Wutai. These works of art not only show Buddhist stories and doctrines, but also incorporate a large number of Chinese elements, such as traditional costumes, historical stories and so on. These works of art are not only the expression of religious beliefs, but also an important carrier of ancient Chinese art skills. With the passage of time, the artistic style of Mount Wutai has experienced a process from simplicity to complexity, and then to the integration of multicultural elements, which reflects the continuous localization and development of Buddhist culture in China. In contemporary times, the status of Mount Wutai as a world cultural heritage not only enhances its influence as a Buddhist holy land, but also enhances its importance in cultural protection and tourism. The Buddhist art of Mount Wutai is not only the protection of the inheritance of Buddhist culture, but also a window for Chinese traditional culture and its exchange with the world culture (Zhang, 2022). By visiting Wutai Mountain, modern tourists and researchers can not only appreciate the profound details of Buddhist culture, but also understand the integration of Chinese traditional art and world culture. The Buddhist temple complex in Mount Wutai is not only a treasure house of Buddhist art, but also a vivid example of the exchange and mutual learning between Chinese culture and world culture. This paper aims to provide a deeper understanding of the integration and dissemination of World Buddhist culture by deeply exploring the artistic evolution and contemporary value of the Buddhist temple complex in Mount Wutai. This research not only has an important contribution to the field of Buddhist culture research, but also has a far-reaching impact on promoting the protection of cultural heritage and international cultural exchanges.

## 1.1 The Emergence of Buddhist Culture in the Buddhist Temple Complex of Mount Wutai in China

### 1.1.1 The Natural Background of the Emergence of Wutai Mountain Buddhist Temple Complex in China

Wutai Mountain has become an important gathering place of Chinese Buddhist culture, which is closely related to its unique geographical location. As one of the earliest land on earth, Wutai Mountain has formed the most magnificent mountain in North China through the geological

activities of "Wutai uplift". This geological history endows Wutai Mountain with unique early geological structure and rich geological relics (Cui, 2023). The long-term crustal movement and water erosion have shaped its unique periglacial landform and cool climate. Such an environment is an ideal place for monks seeking to practice. Wutai Mountain is surrounded by mountains and the river valley is in the middle. The natural terrain provides conditions for resisting foreign enemies and the construction of Buddhist temples. Its secluded and clean environment is conducive to monks' meditation and practice. The region is rich in plant diversity, forming a natural pasture, and because it is located on the Loess Plateau, it has become the intersection of Han and Tibetan Buddhist culture. Successive rulers built temples and held Dharma meetings here, which led to the "June mule and horse assembly" with a long history.

#### 1.1.2 Cultural Background of the Emergence of Wutai Mountain Buddhist Temple Complex in China

Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex is the product of the profound integration of Buddhist art and Chinese culture. Behind its birth and development, it contains a rich cultural background. Shanxi, where Mount Wutai is located, has been the political, economic and cultural center of China since ancient times, and has bred countless brilliant achievements of civilization. On this land, the massiness of history and the prosperity of culture complement each other, providing fertile soil for the formation of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex. Wutai Mountain has a unique natural environment, magnificent mountains and beautiful scenery, giving people a sense of mystery. This natural beauty and religious solemnity complement each other, creating favorable external conditions for the spread of Buddhism (Fang, 2021). Since Buddhism was introduced into China, after long-term exchanges and integration with Chinese culture, it has formed a Buddhist culture with distinctive Chinese characteristics. In this process, Mount Wutai gradually emerged and became an important center for the spread of Buddhism. A large number of believers and tourists came here, making Mount Wutai famous. The Buddhist temple complex in Wutai Mountain not only carries the function of religion, but also is the crystallization of Chinese culture and art (Wang & Cui, 2021). These buildings use ancient Chinese architectural technology and materials, such as wood structure, glazed tile, etc., and skillfully integrate Buddhist culture and artistic elements, such as Buddha statues, murals, sculptures, etc. This unique architectural style and artistic expression not only embodies the architectural wisdom of ancient China, but also shows the far-reaching

influence of Buddhist culture (happy, 2021).

## 2. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE ART OF WUTAI MOUNTAIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE COMPLEX IN CHINA

The artistic historical evolution of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex is not only an important development process of Chinese Buddhist culture, but also a vivid embodiment of the deep integration of ancient Chinese architectural art and religious belief. With their unique shape and style, these temple buildings not only convey the spiritual connotation of Buddhism, but also show the outstanding skills and aesthetic pursuit of ancient Chinese craftsmen (Wang & Cui, 2021). With the passage of time, the scale of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex has gradually expanded, and in the long-term development process, Buddhist culture and art have gradually integrated into the complex. From a specific point of view, the Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple complex has experienced the wood structure in the initial stage, the technical update in the stable stage, the flexible layout in the exploration stage, and the diversified Buddhist temples and fine stone carvings in the development stage. These stages have witnessed the continuous development and evolution of Buddhist culture in China. These buildings not only bear the religious value, but also the precious heritage of ancient Chinese culture and art.

### 2.1 Initial Stage: Wood Structure is the Main Structure to Maintain the Authenticity of the Building Structure

Since the southern and Northern Dynasties, the Buddhist temple buildings on Mount Wutai have begun to emerge, entered a stage of rapid development, and ushered in the first peak in the history of Buddhism. Emperor Xiaowen of the Northern Wei Dynasty visited Mount Wutai in person, setting a precedent for the emperor's tour of Mount Wutai, triggering a large number of temples on Mount Wutai and attracting many monks to practice. By the Northern Qi Dynasty, the number of temples on Mount Wutai had reached more than 200. Some of these temples, such as Bishan temple, Qingliang temple and Foguang temple, have been preserved after many repairs (Zhu & Bai, 2021). However, although the Buddhist architecture of this period was once brilliant, it has not been preserved. At present, the amazing thing is the founder tower of Foguang temple, which has become one of the treasures of ancient Chinese towers.

Foguang temple, located in Wutai County, is located on the hillside of Foguang mountain in doucun town. Looking to the west, it skillfully integrates with the terrain. Surrounded by three peaks in the East, South and North, it forms three distinct platforms and is an outstanding representative of the wooden hall in the Tang Dynasty. The East Hall is 34 meters wide and 17.66 meters deep. Its unique single eave veranda roof design is impressive (Zhu, 2022). The overall structure of the temple is clearly visible, which can be divided into three parts from bottom to top: column grid, paving layer and beam frame, which fully shows the unique characteristics of the temple architecture in the Tang Dynasty. The beam frame structure inside the palace can be divided into two types, one is the regular bright bundle structure, and the other is the rough straw bundle structure. There are only two large forks on the flat beam to bear the weight of the superstructure, showing a very high level of construction technology. These characteristics all reflect the traditional style of architecture in the Han and Tang Dynasties. At the front eave of the hall, there are five houses equipped with plank doors, and one house at the back of the mountain on both sides is equipped with mullion windows. During the development of the early Buddhist temple architecture in Wutai Mountain, its architectural design and materials maintained the authenticity of the wooden architecture in the Tang Dynasty, fully displaying the characteristics of the architecture in the Tang Dynasty. These elements laid a solid foundation for the subsequent development of Buddhist temple buildings.

## 2.2 Stable Period: The Building Technology is Updated, and the Building Components are More Magnificent and Vigorous

During the song and Yuan Dynasties, Buddhism in Mount Wutai developed steadily, and the number of temples reached more than 70. The Song Dynasty was the golden age of Chinese wooden architecture, which provided a valuable background for the ancient architecture of Mount Wutai. Pilu hall, a masterpiece of the Northern Song Dynasty, provides important physical evidence for the study of Song Dynasty architecture on Mount Wutai. The building has five spacious rooms and three deep rooms. The roof adopts the single eave hanging Hill design. There are square pillar stones under the building without any carving decoration. Under the eaves of the house, you will marvel at the exquisitely carved capitals, ornate corners and ornate patchwork. The light shines through the six exquisite partition doors to the Ming room and the secondary room, while the top room emits soft light, and its mullion window is unique. The internal structure of this building shows exquisite craftsmanship, and the beam

frame structure is presented with three rafters and milk bundles in front of and behind, which is amazing. The roof is paved with smooth barrel tiles, and the glazed ridge animals are well preserved, full of the vicissitudes of history. The decoration on the ridge of the roof is even more unique. The peony flowers, grass leaves and patterns rich in geometric beauty are scattered in order, presenting an intoxicating and beautiful shape. On the Buddhist altar inside the building, nine statues of the Yuan Dynasty are quietly worshipped. Compared with the majestic and solid architecture of the Tang Dynasty, the architecture of the Song Dynasty paid more attention to beauty and beauty. In the Jin Dynasty, Buddhist belief flourished, and a large number of magnificent Buddhist temples were built in Wutai Mountain area. It is particularly worth mentioning that there are three outstanding representatives in the architecture of the Jin Dynasty, namely, the Manjusri Hall of Foguang temple, the Manjusri Hall of Fanshi Yanshan temple and the Great Buddha Hall of Wutai Yanqing temple. In the stage of steady development of Wutai Mountain Architecture, the construction technology is constantly updated, and the construction is becoming more and more magnificent and vigorous. Among them, the door and window structure of the Manjusri Hall of Foguang temple is quite similar to the small wooden work regulations in the French style of construction. In terms of structure, the hall of Manjusri made a bold innovation, using only four gold columns, namely two front inner columns and two rear inner columns. This design shows the unique charm of Wutai Mountain Architecture in the period of stable development.

### 2.3 Exploration Period: Retain the Original Structure and Make the Building Layout More Flexible

During the Yuan Dynasty, Tibetan Buddhism was introduced into Mount Wutai and became an important religion in the region. Both emperor yuanchengzong and Emperor Yingzong visited Mount Wutai in person to worship Manjusri. This historical event added religious diversity and influence to Mount Wutai. In the process of historical development, the Buddhist temple buildings in Wutai Mountain not only retain the architectural structure of the previous period, but also begin to explore diversified architectural layout, making the overall Buddhist temple architectural design more flexible. According to statistics, during the Yuan Dynasty, Wutai Mountain added 112 Buddhist temples, making it the only Buddhist resort that accommodated both Han Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism (Liu, 2017). Daxiong hall, located in Guangji temple in Wutai County, is one of the Yuan Dynasty buildings preserved to this day. It was

built in the Zhizheng period of the Yuan Dynasty (1341-1368). Although it has undergone many repairs, it still retains the original architectural style of the Yuan Dynasty. The main hall has five rooms wide and three rooms deep, and adopts a single eave suspended Hill roof design. There is a platform in front of the hall, a partition between the guard room and the second room on the front eave, and a panel door on the guard room on the rear eave. The main hall is designed with reduced columns. The front slot has no column support, but only the rear slot has two thick gold columns, which makes the internal space spacious and shows the flexible structural layout of the Yuan Dynasty buildings. The capitals under the eaves have obvious covered basins and rolling brakes, and the side corners of the shafts are also very obvious, adding a simple and elegant atmosphere. The design of this hall is unique and the structure is extraordinary. In the hall, there are only two gold columns in the rear slot, on which the architrave is placed to support the beam frame, while the front slot uses four rafters and the end is placed on the architrave. The layout of the beam frame, chess, hump and column grid all reflect the typical architectural style of the Yuan Dynasty. In the process of design, the hall draws on the architectural structure and characteristics left over from the previous history, which not only retains the original architectural structure, but also shows a more flexible overall layout. This design left a valuable cultural heritage for the historical and cultural heritage and development of Buddhist temple architecture in the later period.

#### 2.4 Development Period: Diverse Buddhist Temples Appear and Form Communities with Standardized Layout

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Buddhism experienced revolutionary evolution and vigorous development, which led to the four famous mountains of Buddhism Becoming a sacred place for devout monks. At this historical moment, Buddhist architecture has undergone earth shaking changes and flourished. Especially in the Ming Dynasty, the Buddhist prosperity of Mount Wutai reached its peak, and a large number of exquisite architectural works of the Ming Dynasty were preserved. These buildings include the Manjusri Hall of the special image temple, the Buddhist Scripture tower of the Tayuan temple, the Manjusri Hall of the luohou temple, the Mahavira hall, the Leiying Hall of the Bishan temple, the jietan hall and the Mahavira Hall of the Fanshi Princess temple, all of which shine with the outstanding style of Architecture in the Ming Dynasty. The Wuliang Hall of Xiantong temple and other brick and bronze buildings,

such as the copper hall and the copper tower, with their unique building materials and excellent technology, are not only the architectural treasures of Shanxi Province, but also one of the outstanding representatives of Chinese architecture in the Ming Dynasty. Bishan temple, located in Wutai Mountain, is one of the most magnificent temples in the ten Buddhist forests. Most of its buildings were built in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, including the main buildings such as the heavenly king hall, Pilu hall, jietan hall and Sutra Pavilion, all of which originated in the Ming Dynasty. The Leiyin hall has five spacious rooms and three deep rooms, and its top is designed with a single eave veranda roof. In the middle of the rear hall, there is a balustrade, and the roof adopts a single eave roll shed type Xiesheng. The eaves are decorated with stigma, horn and body sections, all of which present a unified five step double ang heavy chess structure, and the shape of ang mouth is like bamboo. The roof is covered with grey cloth tube tiles, and the main ridge is decorated with a glazed ridge tube, with a glazed ridge brake in the middle, and both ends are decorated with a grey cloth dragon kiss. These characteristics make the building complex of Bishan Temple present a unique style and beautiful landscape. The jietan temple is characterized by four spacious rooms and three deep rooms. It adopts the structure of front and rear single step beams, and has a corridor in the front. Its roof is a single eave flat roof structure. In front of the Mingjian of the rear hall, there is a spacious Baoxia, and its roof adopts the single slope rolling shed type Xieshan design (Zhu, 2022). During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, great changes have taken place in the architectural layout of the Buddhist temple in Wutai Mountain. The columns are now arranged in two East-West four rows, which makes the appearance of the building complex more diversified and standardized. The buildings in this period were not only diverse, but also orderly, forming a more standardized building complex.

## 2.5 Fine Period: Attach Importance to Decorative Stone Carvings and Visualize Buddhist Culture

During the period of the Republic of China, the architectural decoration of the Buddhist temple on Mount Wutai showed extraordinary craftsmanship, especially the art of stone carving, which became a focus of attention. The stone carvings of Nanshan Temple, Longquan Temple and Puhua temple are well preserved. They are not only highly similar in skills, but also show common cultural connotations in content (Chen & Li, 2023). Among them, the stone carvings of Nanshan Temple are particularly



outstanding and become the core feature of the temple. The stone carvings of Youguo temple are various, including different religious elements such as Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, as well as various religions, history, literature and fairy tales. These stone carvings vividly depict the scenes of Li Mi's dedication to reading and Zhu Maichen's diligence in learning in the Western Han Dynasty, and vividly show the intersection and integration of history and culture. The Buddhist temple art group in Wutai Mountain not only pays attention to the exquisite appearance design, but also skillfully integrates wood structure buildings with stone carvings and brick carvings, providing a powerful means of visual expression for the inheritance and development of Buddhist culture. These valuable cultural heritages are still well preserved and have a far-reaching impact on the current Buddhist temple architecture and cultural development, which is of vital importance (An, 2023).

### 3. CONTEMPORARY VALUE OF CHINESE WUTAI MOUNTAIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE COMPLEX ART

Among the carved works of art, the hanging angle scroll vividly presents Li Mi's focus on learning with amazing skills, while negative Jing's reading vividly tells the legendary experience of Zhu Maichen's unremitting efforts to pursue knowledge in the Western Han Dynasty. In the Three Kingdoms story, GuanYunChang rode alone for thousands of miles, burned the warship, zhangfei crossed Dangyang bridge, empty city plan and other plots are lifelike, and through these specific stories, profound Buddhist cultural connotation is transmitted. On the basis of paying attention to the fine design of the appearance, the Buddhist temple art group in Wutai Mountain skillfully integrates wood architecture with stone carving and brick carving, and becomes the visual carrier to show Buddhist culture. These valuable cultural heritages have been preserved to this day. In today's Buddhist temple architecture and cultural development, the Buddhist temple art group in Wutai Mountain has a pivotal position. These temple buildings still bear important historical and cultural values in contemporary society. As examples of the integration of natural landforms and Buddhist culture, they have inherited Buddhist culture in innovative artistic forms, which not only shows the core spirit of Chinese Buddhist culture, but also highlights the unique charm of Chinese ancient culture and art. Therefore, these temple buildings are of indispensable significance for promoting the sustainable inheritance and prosperity of Chinese Buddhist culture.

### 3.1 Grand Temple Architecture: An Example of the Combination of Natural Landscape and Buddhist Culture

Wutai Mountain, as one of the earliest land surface on the earth, its origin can be traced back to Archean 2.6 billion years ago. However, in modern times, this ancient mountain has become a place full of vitality and modern charm. During the Sinian period, due to geological movement, Mount Wutai rose to become the most spectacular mountain range in North China. Its unique natural landform not only attracted a large number of tourists, but also became an ideal place for various outdoor activities. Wutai Mountain is now rich in Buddhist cultural heritage. There are many ancient Buddhist buildings here, which represent many historical periods and different architectural styles. These buildings are widely distributed in Wutai Mountain area. From the foot of the mountain to the top of the mountain, each temple, temple and building has its own unique features. Among them, Taihuai town is a particularly important area, because it gathers many famous Buddhist temples, such as Xiantong temple, Nanshan Temple and Tayuan temple. The structural design of these ancient buildings is very ingenious, creating an amazing spatial pattern that complements the surrounding natural environment (An, 2023). Although the ancient buildings in Wutai Mountain are located in remote areas, and incense has been interrupted, fortunately, they are still well preserved. These wooden structures represent the architectural styles and characteristics of the early dynasties such as the Tang, song, Jin and Yuan Dynasties, and also reflect the evolution of Chinese Buddhist architectural culture since the Tang Dynasty. These ancient and magnificent temple buildings are not only valuable components of Buddhist heritage, but also show rich historical and cultural values, which are valuable cultural heritage worthy of appreciation and protection.

### 3.2 Exquisite and Vivid Carved Murals: An Artistic Expression of the Innovation and Inheritance of Buddhist Culture

Wutai Mountain is one of the precious heritages of Chinese culture and art. It has collected exquisite murals for thousands of years, with a total area of more than 2380 square meters. Among them, the murals in the East Hall of Foguang temple in the Tang Dynasty and the arhat murals in the Wenshu hall in the Ming Dynasty can be regarded as masterpieces. Moreover, Mount Wutai is also famous for its diverse art of Buddha statues, including hanging sculptures, stone carvings, metal casting and other forms. It is particularly worth mentioning that the hanging sculpture of "five hundred Arhats of the Manjusri Association" created in 1496 at

the Shuxiang temple in the Ming Dynasty is known as the treasure of the hanging sculpture art. In addition, a discovery of zhongtaiding in 1988 also attracted widespread attention. It was more than 2000 "Chunhua Buddha gold coins", representing the early outstanding achievements of metal casting Buddha statues. In addition, Mount Wutai also contains many valuable paintings, including GuanYunChang's night view of spring and autumn, created by Shen Zhou, an outstanding painter in the Ming Dynasty, the scroll of toroni mantra in the Song Dynasty, and Guanyin silk scroll in the Yuan Dynasty. In addition, there are 80 volumes of the golden character Huayan Sutra during the Wanli period of the Ming Dynasty and a volume of the Heart Sutra written by Emperor Kangxi, both of which are regarded as valuable cultural heritage of Mount Wutai. In addition, the 15 pictures of Sakyamuni Buddha's deeds in the Wutai Mountain collection building are regarded as priceless treasures. Moreover, the eighteen Arhats on the bodhi tree, created by Ding Yunpeng, an outstanding painter in the Ming Dynasty, have a total of 12 pages and have been listed as national first-class cultural relics, which are particularly precious. These precious works of art not only record the history and cultural heritage of Mount Wutai, but also highlight the outstanding masterpieces of ancient Chinese art. In the temples of Mount Wutai, many exquisite murals, sculptures and other art treasures complement each other with ancient buildings. These works of art and the Buddhist architectural community reflect each other, jointly displaying the unique charm of Mount Wutai Buddhist culture and witnessing the prosperity and development of Mount Wutai culture in modern times. As for the temples, the architectural styles of the Tang, song, Jin, yuan, Ming, Qing and the Republic of China are gathered here, and multiple architectural forms such as wood structure, brick structure and copper structure are displayed in one mountain. The appearance and design style of the building are varied, covering a variety of artistic decorations, such as painted sculptures, stone carvings, brick carvings and murals. At the same time, it also contains a series of valuable cultural heritage, such as the horse picture painted by zhaosongxue in the Yuan Dynasty, the Guanyin statue painted by his wife, and the eighteen Arhats painted by Ding Yunpeng on the leaves of Bodhi. In addition, Mount Wutai also has a large collection of Buddhist scriptures, which is a precious Buddhist cultural heritage. Wutai Mountain, a historical treasure, gathers cultural relics and historic sites of past dynasties. It is a blend of Indian Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Han Buddhism, folk religion, Confucianism, Taoism, Jin culture and other cultures and religions. It shows very typical and representative characteristics in Buddhist temple architecture, sculpture

and painting, so it is praised as "an outstanding representative of the history of Chinese Buddhist architecture".

### 3.3 Unique Legends And Stories: Becoming the Center of Buddhist Manjusri Belief In the Contemporary World

Mount Wutai, a special area bearing Buddhist beliefs, has accumulated numerous legends and legends through the inheritance and continuous development of generations, adding a mysterious atmosphere to this place. The landscapes, temples, sculptures and murals here all contain magical and beautiful legends. For example, the magical legend about the Manjusri pagoda has been spread all over the world. The rich traditional history of Manjusri Bodhisattva ashram has a long history. Manjusri Bodhisattva wisely obtained the wisdom of the Xielong stone when giving alms in the East China Sea. The Dragon King of the East China Sea cut the mountain to form the magnificent landscape of Mount Wutai, and the legend of the iron stick held by Wulang after becoming a monk are all shining pearls in the cultural treasure house of Mount Wutai. The Manjusri pagoda stands quietly behind the Abbot's courtyard of the Tayuan temple, only separated by a wall. According to legend, Manjusri Bodhisattva once incarnated as a poor woman, and her hair was mysteriously hidden under the tower. During a renovation during the Wanli period, people were surprised to find that the lady's hair was shining with gold, so the tower was named as the Manjusri pagoda. This legendary story rich in history and culture has gradually formed and developed in the cultural context of Mount Wutai, which has not only improved the status of Mount Wutai in the world, but also bred a profound belief in Manjusri because of its unique Buddhist temple architecture. This belief endows Mount Wutai, a Buddhist resort, with an unusual mysterious color, allowing people to seek inner peace and liberation here. Therefore, it has become a holy land among the souls of many believers (He, 2020; Seal, 2023; Youwei, 2020). Since Buddhism was introduced into China, the belief of Manjusri Bodhisattva has taken Manjusri Wisdom as the core and deepened its connotation and implication. It is this wisdom embodied by Manjusri Bodhisattva that makes his belief unique. For the followers of Manjusri belief, they mainly advocate this wisdom. However, this wisdom is different from our daily understanding of wisdom, which contains a wealth of idealistic ideas. Nevertheless, the tolerance and flexibility shown by this wisdom in dealing with various contradictions still have profound inspiration for today's society. By absorbing the wisdom of Manjusri Bodhisattva, we can transform it into the wisdom of virtue, peace, harmony and ecology to

adapt to modern society. In this way, the ancient oriental wisdom can be reborn. The belief in Manjusri also breeds a universal spirit of compassion, which is not only beneficial to life, but also extends to nature and inanimate entities. The good deeds advocated by Manjusri not only keep Buddhists away from evil deeds and actively turn to good, but also inspire people around to abstain from evil and follow the good. Such influence helps to promote interpersonal harmony, solve social conflicts, stabilize social order, and promote sustainable social progress (Gong, 2023). This spirit strengthens the influence of secular ethics to a certain extent. The Buddhist culture and Manjusri belief of Mount Wutai have deeply affected many people, making their thoughts and beliefs integrated with Buddhist elements and full of strong Buddhist feelings. This cultural belief has gone through the changes of the times and has continued to this day, providing a broader vision for the spiritual world of contemporary Buddhists and enhancing their spiritual strength. This is of great significance and value for promoting interfaith exchanges and integration and safeguarding national unity (Kachru, 1986). Epilogue Through the changes and development of several dynasties, Wutai Mountain has been continuously constructed and improved, and gradually accumulated a large number of diversified Buddhist temple buildings. This series of ancient buildings are famous for their huge scale and spectacular boldness of vision. They integrate the architectural styles and characteristics of various periods in history and show the evolution and continuity of architectural art. These buildings are cleverly built in the position of mountain and water, making full use of the natural terrain; In graphic design, they usually follow the symmetrical layout of the central axis and are balanced on both sides, showing a solemn and magnificent feeling. At the same time, these buildings are also quite ingenious in the use of materials. In addition to traditional wood, they also skillfully integrate materials such as brick, stone and bronze, making them stand out from other similar buildings and become an outstanding model. The structure of Wutai Mountain Buddhist temple shows the evolution of ancient Chinese architecture from the southern and Northern Dynasties to the Republic of China. At the same time, its construction technology also highlights the outstanding achievements of Shanxi folk architectural technology. These Buddhist temples not only carry profound historical and cultural heritage and artistic value, but also breed rich Buddhist culture in the long-term development process. These cultural phenomena are uniquely combined with a variety of religious and philosophical thoughts, including Indian Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism, various folk beliefs, Confucianism and Taoism. This fusion creates a

unique cultural intersection and shows the fusion of the essence of different religions and philosophies. Therefore, these Buddhist temples belong not only to Shanxi and China, but also to the common cultural treasure and heritage of all mankind.

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