



COVID-19 Related Joss Paper: A Contemporary Cultural Reflection

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Introduction

Joss paper (in Chinese, 金紙) is a rooted traditional culture of the Chinese ethnic. There are several kinds of joss papers that has been used for a long time. However, due to the current rapid cultural change, many new styles of joss papers are introduced and it can reflect the local situation. For example, joss paper produced in the form of i-phone is already in used.

Traditionally, joss paper is used for worshipping. It might be used for ancestor or angel worshipping. It will be placed along with foods during worshipping process. After the process of worshipping is complete, the joss paper will be burnt [1 - 2]. Burning is way that the Chinese ethnic believe that it can directly sent the object to the death persons or angels. The traditional practice of joss paper burning has been last for centuries and the modification by the changing situation overtime can be expected. In this article, the authors present and discuss on the COVID-19 related joss paper, which is a contemporary cultural reflection.

Case studies

Here, the authors collect and present some interesting examples from Thailand, where many new COVID-19 related joss papers have been currently used. In this area, COVID-19 has been existed since January 2020 and it is still the important local problem at present.

A. Face mask joss paper

Facemask is a common preventive apparatus against respiratory infectious disease. The face mask joss paper is already available.

B. COVID-19 vaccination set joss paper

COVID-19 vaccine is the best prevention against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccination set joss paper has just been introduced and widely used at present.



A. face mask joss paper



B.COVID-19 vaccination set joss paper
Figure 1.COVID-19 related joss papers

Discussion

COVID-19 is still the present global public health problem. There are accumulated millions of infection incidence and millions of deaths resulted from COVID-19. It is no doubt that the COVID-19 significantly affect the lifestyle of the people globally. How the current crisis affect the cultural system is interesting. The present article describes the occurrence of new form of traditional cultural object, joss paper, in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The facemask joss paper and COVID-19 vaccination are the specific reflection of the COVID-19 situation via the cultural practice. With a belief that when joss paper is burnt, it will be transferred to the dead persons for usage, several traditional kinds of joss papers have been widely used among Chinese ethnic populations around the world. The new style of COVID-19 related joss papers is an interesting social phenomenon. When there is a significant incidence that affect the people in a macroscale. The reflection via cultural object might occur and can be good historical evidence.

Conflict of interest

None

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