

Two Headed Buddha Image and Siamese Twin: The Oldest Historical Evidence on Siamese Twin

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Abstract

Historical evidence might be observed from ancient religious object. In medical history, there is also ne evidence in medical science discovered from religious object. In medicine, a condition of twin, Siamese twin is named after a twin from Thailand who has two heads with a jointed body. It is usually claimed as the first evidence of this kind of twin. However, there is some historical evidence supporting that Siamese twin existed and recognized before. An old Buddha image at Russian museum, the two headed Buddha image is the best evidence.

Keywords: Siamese Twin, Buddha, Image, History, Medical.

Introduction

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Historical religious object

The Buddha image is presently kept at a Russian museum (see Figure 1). The image is a Mahayana style image. The image has two heads with a shared body, which is the same description as Siamese twin.

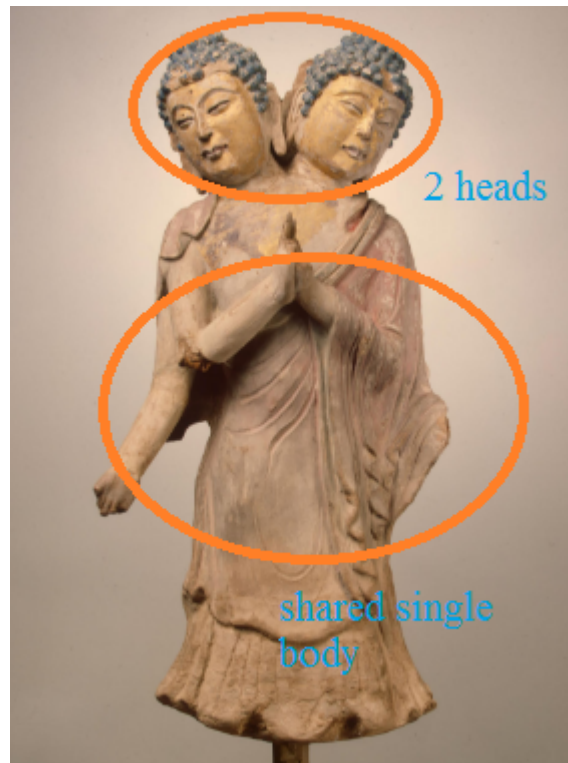


Figure 1.The two-headed Buddha image

Discussion

The double headed image from Russian museum is an interesting historical object. For medical history, it challenges the origin of Siamese twin whose names are In and Chan. According to medical history, Siamese twin is named after a famous Thai twin who was alive in the previous one hundred year. Whether this kind of twin existed before the In-Chan twin is questionable. The Buddha image might reflect real existence of twin or might be a religious wisdom for teaching Buddhist people to look both positive and negative aspects or risk and benefit assessment.

Conflict of interest: None

References

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