

# AN EXPLORATION INTO THE SPECIAL IMPLICATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN CHINESE ROYAL GARDENS

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## 1 ABSTRACT

*Chinese royal gardens have had a long tradition of including agricultural landscape. Taking the ancient monarchs as the research objects, this paper explores several pivotal reasons why agricultural landscape was often included in royal gardens. Firstly, in ancient China, agriculture was the foundation of society, and the monarchs had to show that they valued agriculture and attached importance to their people's livelihood. Secondly, from the monarchs' personal point of view, they generally had a desire to escape reality, and longed for the life of an ordinary farmer, so the agricultural landscape can be seen as a symbol of escapism and this was reflected in their royal gardens. Finally, after analyzing the theories of the early thinkers and the worship of Heaven of the early monarchs, a new and more profound reason can be found for the extension of agricultural landscape into Chinese royal gardens - the ruling class's awe of 'the way of Heaven', which legitimized their dominance according to traditional Chinese thought.*

### 1.1 Keywords

Chinese royal gardens, agricultural landscape, the way of heaven, ritual