

**Is It a Ritual Literature or a Chapter of the Statutes?**  
**——A Research on the Shi Ling in the Tang-Song Period**

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**Abstract**

Before the early North Song Dynasty, the Shi Ling (the Statutes on Season) was still not a chapter of statutes but a kind of ritual literature. However, some rules of it had been absorbed into laws since the Qin-Han period. And there exist many relevant articles in the Fuyi Ling (the Statutes on Taxes and Corvée), the Jiumu Ling (the Statutes on Livestock), the Yuanguan Ling (the Statutes on Prison Officials), the Yingshan Ling (the Statutes on Construction and Repair) and the Za Ling (the Statutes on Farrago) in the Tang Statutes and the Tiansheng Statutes in the Tang-North Song period, which could be classified into many kinds just like ones on corvée, construction, grazing, executing a punishment, ritual, hunting and so on. As a chapter of the statutes, the Shi Ling appeared in the Qingyuan Tiaofa Shilei that was a code in the South Song. There were six items remaining which originated from the Yuanguan Ling, the Yingshan Ling and the Za Ling in the Tang Statutes and the Tiansheng Statutes. Although the detail even content of the Shi Ling changed in different dynasties regardless of document properties, the purpose for regulating the people to go with the nature law was invariant.

Keywords: Shi Ling, Yue Ling, Tang Statutes, Tiansheng Statutes, Qingyuan Statutes