

KOREAN CULTURE, NATIONAL TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

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Abstract: Despite recent changes, the traditional Confucian structure of social relations can be seen to have many similarities in Korean behavior. Respect for elders Age and social status are important. Those who are younger or of lower social status believe that they must obey their elders’ wishes without objection. Therefore, in Korea, people are often interested in a person’s age and marital status to determine their position towards that person. These questions are not asked out of idle curiosity. However, you can choose not to respond to them if you don’t want to.

Key words: traditional, Manchuria, Confucian structure, China and Russia., “Chhusok”, western-style, traditional wedding.

Аннотация: Несмотря на недавние изменения, можно увидеть, что традиционная конфуцианская структура социальных отношений имеет много общего в корейском поведении. Уважение к старшим Возраст и социальный статус важны. Те, кто моложе или имеет более низкий социальный статус, считают, что они должны без возражений подчиняться желаниям старших. Поэтому в Корее людей часто интересуют возраст и семейное положение человека, чтобы определить свое отношение к этому человеку. Эти вопросы задаются не из праздного любопытства. Однако вы можете не отвечать на них, если не хотите.

Ключевые слова: традиционные, Маньчжурия, конфуцианское устройство, Китай и Россия., «Чхусок», западный стиль, традиционная свадьба.

Korean traditional culture includes the common cultural and historical heritage of Korea and southern Manchuria before the division of Korea in 1945. Manchuria was an ancient geographical and historical region in Northeast Asia, including parts of China and Russia. As one of the world’s oldest continuous cultures, Koreans exemplify their traditional narratives.

In Korea, marriage is traditionally considered the most important event in life, and divorce is a shame not only for ex-spouses, but also for their families. Nevertheless, the number of divorces has been increasing in recent years. The modern wedding ceremony is slightly different from the traditional one. First, a western-style ceremony is held in a wedding palace or church. The bride and groom are dressed in a tuxedo and wedding dress, respectively. Then on the same day (and usually at the same location),

a traditional wedding ceremony is held in separate rooms and the couple dresses in traditional Korean clothing.

Chere (ancestor memorial ceremony) According to traditional Korean beliefs, when a person dies, his soul does not go to the next world immediately, but only after four generations have passed. During this time, the deceased is considered a family member. On holidays such as Seollal (Lunar New Year) or Chuseok (Harvest Day), as well as on the day of the deceased's death, his descendants hold a cher memorial ceremony. Koreans believe that they can live happily because of the care of their dead ancestors. Rules of behavior and gestures. Koreans place great importance on greeting and thanking. They are always pronounced with a light bow. Koreans do not like excessive displays of emotion and usually limit direct physical contact to a polite gesture or a handshake. Foreigners in Korea are surprised to see girls holding hands. In Korea, touching between people of the same sex who are close friends is totally unacceptable. Public displays of affection between members of the opposite sex, such as kissing and hugging, are not as common today as they once were, but they continue to be considered indecent.



The Night People (literally translated as “Eastern Archers”) inhabited the territory of Manchuria in the third millennium BC. The customs of this people are similar to the current customs of North Korea. According to legend, a creature named Hwanung descended from the sky to earth and met a tiger and a bear who wanted to be human. Only the bear's wish comes true, and Hwanung marries the bear, who later turns into a man. The two had a son, Dangun, who ascended the throne as the first ruler of Korea in 2333 BC. Descendants of this legendary king are said to have ruled the kingdom for over 1,000 years.

Due to the continuous influx of Chinese immigrants into the native tribes of Korea, the whole peninsula takes on the appearance of a mixed population, as depicted in the legends of Wei Man. Immigrant peoples influence various currents of Korean culture, such as shamanism and the influence of Chinese peoples, various changes occur in Korean culture. Also, even though thoughts and worldviews in many areas have adapted to ancient shamanism, the deep absorption of Confucianism by Koreans will not fail to influence all aspects of their lives.

Hansik” is an unofficial “parent’s day”. It is celebrated three times a year. Relatives of the deceased come to the cemetery early in the morning: they pull grass, clean and renew the grave, plant trees and flowers. Food will be brought and a commemorative “desa” ceremony will be held. Placing food on the grave is a sacrifice to honor deceased family members.

First, a sacrifice is made to the spirit of the earth – the owner of the grave. One of the older relatives pours vodka into a glass and pours it three times next to the grave. Then he bows to the grave three times. Only after this ceremony, it will be possible to organize the grave and start planting trees and flowers. If the body is cremated in Korea, in Kazakhstan, Koreans bury the deceased on the third day according to Orthodox traditions.

“Chhusok” a harvest festival celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. This year it started on October 1 and coincided with the Day of the Elderly. On this holiday, there must be sonpkhyon – a rice cake – on the table. It is mixed on a board sprinkled with pine needles. It is considered desirable that all family members wear hanbok and participate in the preparation of sonpyeong. Together they hold a memorial ceremony for the deceased. It is also customary to dance in funny masks during the Chhusok holiday.

Public events have been canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. “Jonson” Korean Center decided to hold charity events on the Chhusok holiday: the Consulate General of Korea handed over 100 Korean masks to ethnic centers in Kazakhstan.

The employees of the center in Okmola region distributed donation baskets containing medical masks, antiseptics and gloves to the elderly. In addition, in the last week of October, they managed to provide large families with many children and low-income families with food baskets in Shuchinsk and Kokshetov.

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