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## A hit TV series in China skewers cranky old parents

中国一部热播剧讽刺了脾气暴躁的年长父母

It is no mean feat to be one of the top-ten trending hashtags on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter, for 20 consecutive days and counting. "All is Well", a show on provincial television which premiered on March 1st, has done just that.

在中国版的推特——微博上连续 20 天甚至更久成为十大热门话题之一，是一件很了不起的事，3 月 1 日在省级电视台首播的电视剧《都挺好》就做到了。

The show tells the story of a fictional Chinese family torn by internal conflict. The female protagonist, Su Mingyu, is barely on speaking terms with her widowed father and one of her two brothers. The father is a nagging crank who expects his two adult sons to bankroll his lavish tastes. This leads to constant bickering between the brothers, neither of whom wants to be called unfilial.

该剧讲述了一个虚构的中国家庭被内部冲突撕裂的故事。女主人公苏明玉跟她丧偶的父亲以及

两个兄弟中的一个关系不和。这位父亲是个爱唠叨的暴脾气的人，他希望两个成年儿子能供他过奢侈的生活。这导致了兄弟俩之间无休止的争论，因为他们都不想被人说没有孝心。

Many Chinese can relate to the Su family's troubles. The daughter holds a grudge against her father, and especially against her late mother, for having mistreated her while pampering her brothers.

许多中国人都能理解苏家的困境。女儿对父亲怀恨在心，尤其是对已故的母亲恨之入骨，因为父母虐待自己，却纵容两位哥哥。

But the biggest reaction has been to the drama's critique of filial piety. Even today, the Confucian principle of unswerving loyalty to one's parents remains hallowed. Many people say the best measure of adherence to this virtue is whether a son takes good care of his parents in old age.

但观众反响最大的点，则是该剧对孝道的评论阐释。即使在今天，“对父母矢志不渝的忠诚”这条儒家伦理，仍然是神圣的。许多人说，衡量一个人是否坚守孝道的最好方法，是看儿子能否照料好他年长的父母。

In the series, however, the widowed father does not attract much sympathy. He throws tantrums and insists that his eldest son buy him a three-bedroom apartment (the son grudgingly does so). Commentators on social media have taken to calling the father a juying ("giant baby")—a characteristic common among parents in real life, they say. The Su children do their duty, but the audience is supposed to applaud the resentment they express.

然而，剧中这位丧偶的父亲并没有博得很多同情。他经常大发脾气，坚持要大儿子给他买一套三居室的公寓——儿子不情愿地买了。社交媒体上的评论者开始把这位父亲称为“巨婴”，他们说，这是现实生活中的父母普遍存在的一个特征。虽然苏家的孩子们尽到了他们的职责，但观众应该为他们表达的不满喝彩。

——文章来源 / 经济学人

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## 重点词汇

**skewer** /'skju:ər/

v. 用串肉扦串；讽刺

- 英文释义：to put pieces of food, especially meat, on a skewer
- 搭配短语：skewer the mutton
- 英文释义：to criticize someone very strongly

**cranky**/'kræŋki/

adj. 古怪的；脾气暴躁的

- 近义词：strange; eccentric
- 搭配短语：cranky ideas
- 搭配短语：cranky schemes
- 例句：He is always restless and cranky after school.

**no mean feat**

了不起的成就

- 相关词汇：mean (adj. 一般的)
- mean 英文释义：not very great
- 相关词汇：no mean (相当好的，不平常的)
- no mean 例句：His mother is no mean artist.
- 相关词汇：feat (n. 功绩，壮举)
- 近义词：no mean achievement

**premiere**/pri'miə/

v. 首次公演（戏剧、音乐、电影）

- 英文释义：to be performed or shown to an audience for the first time
- 例句：The film was premiered in Cannes Festival.

**on speaking terms**

和睦相处，和好如初

- 例句：She's not been on speaking terms with her uncle for years.

**bankroll**/'bæŋkroʊl/

v. 资助；为...提供资金

- 英文释义：to support sb./sth. by giving money
- 例句：The company has bankrolled a couple of movies.

**bickering**/'bɪkərɪŋ/

n. 争吵

- 相关词汇：bicker (v. 口角，争吵)
- bicker 近义词：quarrel
- 例句：The council finally elected a leader after several days of bickering.

**hold a grudge against**

对...怀有积怨；怀恨在心

- 相关词汇：grudge (n. 积怨，怨恨)

**pamper**/'pæmpər/

v. 娇惯；纵容

- 反义词：mistreat
- 相关词汇：Pampers (帮宝适)

**filial**/'fɪliəl/

adj. 子女的

- 英文释义：connected with the way children behave towards their parents
- 搭配短语：filial duty
- 搭配短语：filial affection

**piety**/'paɪəti/

n. 虔诚；忠诚

- 英文释义：the state of having or showing a deep respect for someone or something
- 例句：Filial piety is one of the virtues to be held above all else.

**unswerving**/ʌn'swɜːrvɪŋ/

adj. (信任或信仰) 坚定的，始终如一的

- 近义词：firm
- 搭配短语：unswerving devotion

**grudgingly**/'grʌdʒɪŋli/

adv. 勉强地；不情愿地

- 相关词汇：grudging (adj. 勉强给予或者允许的)
- 搭配短语：a grudging apology

**resentment**/rɪ'zentmənt/

n. 愤恨；怨恨

- 搭配短语：his resentment at being fired
- 例句：Some people harbour resentments going back many years.