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Family

Family is the smallest part that made up a society, the basic structure of a family is mother, father and child. Grandma and grandpa are excluded in the basic structure because they are the mother and father of mother and father. If we take the basic structure as a node. Then the “extended family” or “big family”, which is quite popular in Chinese cultures, can be understand as a network made by many nodes. Most networks are not more than eight branches, defined by the ethics of Chinese tradition (But I do not think there are a lot “big families” like this now). This definition is actually very scientific; because we all know that the possibility of getting family diseases will increase to a dangerous level if people married their family members with close blood relationships, (I also will not explain why is that biologically here because it is a waste of time). In this case, a relationship that cross eight family branches will be just enough to count as one family and keeps people away from family diseases.

You know what? I think this, I mean the family diseases, plays an important role in the formation of Chinese traditional culture. Because, without the danger of getting family diseases, I cannot came up with another better idea of why a big family like this can form. Maybe in the ancient days, some people found a regular pattern: most disable children or strange children came from families that the wife has a close family relationships (This “family relationships” means “blood relationships” here, I did not use blood because I have already used it and I am not very happy with this translation) with the husband. People in that age still do not know science very well, so they thought this is the punishment from god. So, of course, they will start to think: if we do not marry people that have close family relationships with us, will we still get strange children? This is a classic “try-fail-retry” model, animals and ancient human beings all discover the world through this method because they do not have a nice and complete system to do researching as we do now. This model always fits the behavior of ancient people, especially in these “belief” things. The case of came up an idea of family is also not an exception (We are still using this old method now; on some subjects that we know a few about, like artificial intelligent, no one knows where to go. Everyone are just crawling in the dark).

After a few “trys”, people cannot find out the answer, so they prefer to let “god” to be responsible for this strange thing. (Caused by the curiosity deep inside the humanity. the curiosity sometimes can be the pushing force of making new researches and developments, but in other cases. This curiosity can led people to confusing because they meet something they have no idea what it is, for example, god. People do not know what god is yet still want to know something about it. That is another topic of course.) To make sure they will now get the same “punishments” from god, people made many laws to put themselves in more and more cages, which we now call them “civilization”. The law of pig family is one of the cages, there might be some other factors that led to the born of family structure, such as people need to be more unite, but none of these factors can led to eight branches big family. Only the precaution of family diseases can, in another sentence, the fear of death.

22:30-23:35