

Research on Integrity Thought in Traditional Chinese Culture and Contemporary Value

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Abstract—The traditional Chinese culture has continued for thousands of years, and it has tenacious vitality and incomparable continuity. In history, the traditional Chinese integrity thought has the development mode, inheritance-transformation-inheritance. The writer vertically masters the development stages of integrity thought, and makes the research from Yin-Shang and Xizhou period, the Spring and Autumn period, the Han and Tang Dynasty and Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties. The paper makes comprehensive summary on source of integrity in traditional Chinese culture, and analyzes the problems in each period to explore the historical trajectories and rules.

Keywords- *Traditional; Chinese Culture; Source of Integrity*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the long history of Chinese culture, the Chinese nation establishes the ripening ideological and moral value system. In Chinese traditional virtue, the faith of good nature is predominant, and the spirit of autonomy and self-regulation is emphasized, so it focuses on the morality of integrity. The beneficial ingredients of source of integrity in traditional Chinese culture need to be converted and drawn to integrate and accommodate with the present socialist market economic system.

II. ANALYSIS ON INTEGRITY THOUGHT IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE

As one of the traditional virtues in Chinese nation, integrity plays an important role in different periods, especially in the periods with dramatic social changes. Yinshang and Xizhou period is the embryonic stage of traditional Chinese integrity thought. Yinshang advocated worship of god. As the old saying goes, the people in Yin period honored the god, and the people did things with the faith of god. The belief of primitive people for the gods is ingrained, which is representative by the piety and belief on the gods. The people of Zhou entered the central plains, which has the great significance to determine cultural pattern conversion. The cultural reform in Zhou period is representative by the establishment of patriarch system and the system of enfeoffment, and it is the beginning of making rituals and music. The content includes close and honor. And the main representation of integrity is the integrity and loyalty on the monarchy. The rituals established in Zhou

period was inherited and developed by the Confucian, which regulated the life behavior, psychological sentiment and the belief of distinguishing good and evil of people.

The Spring and Autumn period is the forming stage of traditional Chinese integrity thought. And it not only is the era that rites collapsed and music disappeared, but also is the axial age of cultural achievements. The pre-Qin philosophers were distinctive in school style. The Confucian school represented by Confucius thought that faith is the foundation of human, the way of making friends and cornerstone for governance. Based on inheriting the integrity thought of Confucius, Mencius enhanced the inner cultivation of human, and promoted integrity to be one of five cardinal relationships. Xunzi emphasized that integrity is the foundation of government affairs in politics. The Confucianism emphasizes human affairs and stresses fashion. And the Taoism pursues nature and honors natural law. Laozi favored faith, and considered that integrity is the unpretentious morality without any sculpture continuously.

In the early stage of feudal society, integrity thought was consolidated and developed continuously. In the Qinhan period, there was the situation of great unification including the unification of politics and culture. The thought of banning from hundred philosophers, venerating Confucianism was proposed to make the study of Confucian classics rise. Benevolence, righteousness, wisdom and belief was set as five virtues. And the belief started from consolidating the force of governors, and focused on regulating the virtues of the emperor and the subjects. In Sui and Tang dynasties, the feudal influence tended to be stable, especially the culture of the Tang dynasty had the cultural spirit that tolerance brings respect. And integrity became the core of the monarchs governing the countries.

The later stage of feudal society is the stage that integrity was deepened and inherited. It was opposite with the open and cambered Tang culture, and Song culture was closed. Confucianism and study of Confucian classics, and Taoism and Buddhism were the basis of Songming culture. And the period defined integrity as the way of heaven and the nature of human. integrity had become the general social morality. In the period from the late-Ming dynasty to Qing dynasty, integrity thought was integrated and included medicals, education and literature. It advocated the thought of integrating faith and benefit.

In conclusion, traditional integrity culture is based on the agricultural society with the characteristics of blood, patriarchy and grade. It uses the integrity view of Confucianism, and the traditional integrity thought is

enriched in the inheritance process during different periods. In the period, there was much excellent integrity thought which is worthy of inheritance, and there was totalitarianism which needs to be eliminated. With the development of the times, some abuses are the resistance of inheriting and developing traditional integrity culture, which makes it change and develop. History is a mirror from which we not only can see the yesterday, but also can see the today and the tomorrow. We should promote the value of ideology morality in creating brilliant future and explore the channel of enhancing ideology morality from the height of times.

III. CONTEMPORARY VALUE OF INTEGRITY THOUGHT IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE

In the process of formation and development, the ideological content of traditional Chinese integrity thought is enriching. In traditional society, it plays an important and positive role in the formation of respecting morality, coordinating social connections, maintaining the stability and harmony of society, cultivating the people on consciousness of responsibility and obligation of people for the country, society and family, cultivating the spirit of integrity and faith, and purifying social air. With the development of the society and the progress of the times, the traditional integrity thought is not appropriate for the present, but as the basic moral realm, the integrity is still worthy of inheritance and development under market economy. In modern society, integrity thought is the foundation of getting on the life, the basis of career and the proper governance of a state, which plays a positive role in establishing a harmonious society.

Firstly, integrity is the ethical basis of market economy. With the reform and development of economy, the traditional acquaintance society with blood, religion and geography as the core is transformed into modern strangers' society, which breaks through the limitation of blood and geography for individuals. And the communication of people is not restricted by interpersonal relationship in traditional society. With rapid development of information technology, the network shortens the distance of people in the world. Commodity transaction can be finished by rapid and convenient virtual form. And fiduciary relationship becomes one of the important social economic relationships. The major means of economic activities are based on integrity principle. Consumption loan, credit card and letter of credit expands trading market, and transaction with credit is becoming the common transaction way of market players in economic activities. As the ethical basis of market economy, the manifestation of integration is as follows. (1) Integrity is the premise of ensuring healthy operation of market economy. (2) In market economy, integrity is necessary. (3) Integrity is the code of ethics of market economy establishment.

Secondly, integrity is the guarantee of healthy development of enterprises. Integrity plays an important role in market economy. And it provides a precious resource for healthy development of enterprises. (1) Integrity is the spirit food of enterprises. It is a virtual treasure, which can't be

replaced. The major factor if the enterprises can rapidly occupy the market is integrity. And the main source of competence of enterprises is reputation of enterprises. (2) Integrity is one of the important treasures of enterprises. Integrity can create wealth. And the symbol of product quality, brand is the most important representation of integrity. The brand directly reflects the reputation of enterprises in consumers. (4) Integrity is the life of an enterprise.

Thirdly, integrity is the basic principle of interpersonal communication. The ancients regarded integrity as an important criteria for the communication of friends. Confucius sees integrity as a basic criteria for communication of people. Zengzi said that integrity was very important for friends. That is no doubt that the principle of integrity is the first principle and the most basic principle in interpersonal communication. In modern society, social relationship has been a social resource which is good for career. Only the people with integrity can maintain long interpersonal communication and rich social resources. It is difficult to achieve the trust of others without integrity. Only treating others with integrity can work in unity and close cooperation, which can make the communication last. Therefore, only mutual trust can establish good interpersonal relationship.

Lastly, integrity is the basic requirement of improving ourselves. The ancients thought that integrity was the basis of people. It not only is the basic and foundation of all ethics, but also is the headstone for survival and development of the society. Integrity is the necessary basic moral quality of people. And it is the basic standard and criteria of people. In addition, integrity is the important guarantee reflecting self worth. As social being, the most basic social activity of human is interpersonal communication. Self value is achieved from social opinion. It means the positive concept on self value, and it is the required relationship. It not only includes the confirmation of individuals on self survival and the satisfaction on life requirements, but also includes self made of individuals. Above all, integrity is the most basic requirement of interpersonal communication, and is the important guarantee of realizing self value. If there is no integrity, it is difficult for people to survive in the society, and it is difficult to realize self value depending on social practice.

IV. CONCLUSION

Integrity develops and changes with the generation of human civilization society. And it plays different roles under different environment of politics, economy and culture. All in all, traditional integrity is restricted by geography and blood, and has the characteristics of principle powered, consciousness and unipolarity. And the main representation is that integrity is the way of making friends, the foundation of governance and the essential of governing a country, which is the moral realm. We not only need to absorb the quintessence and discard the dross, and combine the frequent problem of society without integrity to find out the ways and solutions solving the problem, but also should make full use of the precious source, integrity.

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