



KOREAN CULTURE: CUSTOMS OF PARTIES AND EVENTS

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ABSTRACT

In this article, you can learn about birthday parties, weddings, and holiday events in Korean culture and their characteristics. Also, we talk about the types of birthday parties, weddings and holidays.

KEYWORDS

Korean culture, events, wedding customs, service marriage, purchase marriage, love marriage, birthday customs, 100th day party, first birthday party, 60th birthday, holiday customs, Chuseok, New Year's Day.

INTRODUCTION

Each country's culture is shaped and developed in its own way, depending on its location, history, religion, and way of life. Culture is a set of symbolic devices and works that define human activity and the importance of that activity. Culture can manifest itself in activities such as music, literature, visual arts, architecture, theatre,

cinematography and lifestyle. Each country has its own unique culture and traditions, with different baby births, weddings, holidays, and funerals. Depending on what the ceremony is, it can be performed only by family members, or it can be performed by inviting relatives and friends. This article will try to explain Korean culture and customs.



If you compare life in Korea with other countries, you can see similarities and differences. If you understand the lifestyle, customs, rituals and characteristics of Korean families, it will be very helpful to learn and understand Korean life and culture. Korea has been traditionally influenced by Confucian culture since ancient times. Therefore, Korean family culture has many similarities with the culture of other countries with Confucian culture, but in the age of globalization and industrial development, Korean family culture is also changing more and more. You can find out about wedding, birthday and holiday ceremonies below.

Wedding customs

In any society, people's birth, marriage, and death are very important events in a person's life. So, one of the ceremonies that Korea especially remembers such events is the wedding ceremony. Marriage is an important act that means the sexual, psychological, and economic union of the parties, but socially, it becomes a clue to forming a home and family, which are the basic structural units of society, and furthermore, it has an important function of preserving the species. Therefore, all societies sanction and legally regulate marriage in some form, depending on the economic and ethnic factors of each society.¹

It is an important and interesting subject to trace the process of change in the Korean marriage

system. Judging from the data related to wedding customs described in “The Story of Weiji and Dongyi,” the oldest document, Korea has been monogamous since before the era of the Three Kingdoms, had mother-wife and father-in-law residence rules, and treats sons and daughters equally. It can be seen that there was a unique marriage system.

The basic framework of this marriage system was inherited as it was during the Three Kingdoms period, and with the development of private property and the social status system, polygamy began to appear in aristocratic societies. Goryeo also inherited the marriage system of the Three Kingdoms Period, and the regulations on incestuous marriage, mother-wife, and Buddha-based residence continued to be maintained. Changes in the marriage system began to appear in the middle of the Goryeo Dynasty, and after the invasion of the Yuan Dynasty, the customs of early marriages were created as the gongnyeo system was implemented. A more profound change took place with the introduction of the same-sex-dongbon marriage system due to the introduction of Neo-Confucianism at the end of the Goryeo Dynasty and the subsequent spread of the laws of the Ming Dynasty. In the early Joseon Dynasty, the issue of polygamy, which was prevalent among the nobility at the time, was discussed, and a system to discriminate between wives and concubines and discriminated against concubines was implemented. The issue of residence

¹ Kim Wan-seop, “Korean Marriage Report,” Korea University Press, 1975.



regulations was controversial from the early Joseon Dynasty, and became the subject of even greater disputes and conflicts in the mid-Joseon Dynasty. The court's attempt to imitate the Chinese style was not carried out, and while a compromise was sought, patriarchal power was strengthened, and early and arranged marriages became prevalent.

The form that is regarded as a traditional marriage system in Korea was generally established after the middle of the Joseon Dynasty, and after the Japanese colonial period and after liberation, the introduction of Western institutions and ideas led to rapid changes in the traditional marriage system. Major changes in the West after liberation include service marriage, purchase marriage, and solo marriage, etc., late marriage and love marriage became prevalent, and polygamy was almost eliminated. The family system and the same-sex family non-marriage system, which were the basis of the strong patriarchal patriarchal family, have been abolished, and now free marriage based on the traditional family utilitarianism and the Western view of marriage is being carried out. In addition, various types of marriages are appearing, such as an increase in divorce and remarriage, single-family households and childless couples' families, and cohabitation.²

Birthday customs

² 60 years of family law revision. Korea Family Law Consulting Center, 2011.

In Korea, birthdays are usually celebrated with family and friends, eating together and exchanging gifts. On birthdays, seaweed soup is usually boiled and eaten. When celebrating a friend's birthday, it is customary to add the words "Have you eaten seaweed soup?" along with the birthday greetings. In Korea, mothers who gave birth recover their bodies by eating seaweed soup, and seaweed soup eaten on birthdays commemorates the occasion and expresses gratitude to parents. These traditions have been handed down to this day. Recently, Korean birthday celebration culture has become similar to that of the West. Give them birthday cards and presents, and celebrate by putting a number of candles on the cake equal to their age. In Korea, age is 1 when you are born, and it becomes 2 years old the next year based on the year other than your birthday. Therefore, when referring to the Western-style age in which the year of birth is set as 0 and the age is calculated based on the date of birth, "man" is added to the word or notation.³

In Korea, the first birthday or the 60th birthday is called 60th birthday, giving a more special meaning. In the past, babies often died shortly after birth. So even if the baby is only 100 days old, a 100-day party is held to celebrate the child who has grown up healthy by that time. After more

³ Social and Cultural Research Institute, Dictionary of Sociology., 2000.



time, when the first birthday is celebrated, we have a first birthday party.⁴

Holiday customs

In the old days, various events were held on a good day, called Ga-il or Ga-jeol, depending on the season, and this became a holiday according to the passage of time. Representative holidays in Korea include Seollal, Chuseok, and Jeongwol Daeboreum. At this time, scattered families gather to worship ancestors and promote family harmony.

In the case of Korea, there were holidays almost every month as an agricultural tradition, but most of the holidays remained only in name or disappeared through the Eulmi Reform, Japanese colonial period, Korean War and modernization during that period. Today, only Lunar New Year's Day and Chuseok remain as national holidays. In North Korea, in addition to Lunar New Year and Chuseok, the first full moon and Qingmyeong are still holidays, so they have a presence.

The first day of the New Year, the first day of the Gregorian New Year, which began to be celebrated on January 1, 1897 in the late Joseon Dynasty after the Eulmi Reformation, is not a traditional holiday that has been enjoyed since ancient times, but is a new holiday introduced in

the modern era, and is celebrated every year as an anniversary where New Year's Day is a legal holiday.

Chuseok or Hangawi is the biggest holiday in Korea celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. In addition to Lunar New Year's Day, if three days including the day before and the day after are legal holidays, a maximum of 10 days of Golden Week will be held.⁵

CONCLUSION

As a result of studying the culture and customs of the Korean people, it can be concluded that the rituals that have been performed by this people since ancient times have many similarities with those of Uzbekistan. It is conceivable that this similarity in tradition has influenced the friendly relations between the two countries. Taking the developed Republic of Korea as an example, we can take the qualities necessary for the people of Uzbekistan and the nation of Uzbekistan, which have similar traditions, and apply them practically for the development of our country.

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