

A Study on the Main Causes of the Graft and Corruption in Ancient China

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Abstract: Lizhi, the system of social hierarchy, was the pulling power of corruption, while the lack of the lowest social security system was the pushing power. The absolute poverty threatened the social members' physical existence, while the relative poverty threatened the social members' social existence. The luxurious life was the result of accumulation of social wealth and also the root of corruption. Graft was a kind of human beings' instinctive refuse to the social allocation system in politics, while corruption was the result of the human's desires encouraged in the humanitarian society. Once the two elements integrate each other, they set up a mutual cause-and-effect relationship, and became two parts of one criminal process. No graft, the corruption was just like water without source; No corruption, the graft was just like the fruitless flower.

The society under the Dao of Haven died of inefficiency; while the society under the Dao of Man died of human's greed. Throughout our history, most of the ancient regimes were set up by opposing graft and corruption of the ruling class and declined because of their own graft and corruption. So the effective control of graft and corruption depends on the change of the Dao. But the change of Dao means the change of the present interests' structure. It was an impossible thing in ancient China. From this point, the principle of anti-graft and corruption of Qing Gao Zong, "If found, punish; if not, free", was really a gravestone epitaph of the struggles against graft and corruption in ancient China.

Key words: graft and corruption; existence ethics; Lizhi and objectionable practices; luxurious culture

观点选萃

“伦理”的意蕴

常志伟

南京师范大学文学院博士生、江苏省宿迁学院中文系讲师常志伟在来稿中指出：

“伦理”是一个社会现象，只要有人类社会存在，就会有“伦理”出现。“伦”是“仑”的后起字，“伦”的出现承载了“仑”的名词义项“同类”义，“伦”继而又引申出了“条理、次序”义。“理”本是一个动词，在上古汉语中其中心义项是动词义“整理、治理”义，后来辗转引申出了名词义项表示“条理、次序”。“条理、次序”义是“伦”与“理”固化成双音词的语义基础，受汉语词汇双音化大趋势的影响，双声机制确定了“伦”在同义词集合中选择了“理”作为联合对象，语义主次机制以及调序规则的支配决定了只能组合成“伦理”一词而不能联合成“理伦”。通过以上分析可以得出，“伦理”一词的本义是“条理、次序”义，在此基础上生发开来，表示社会中人与人之间约定俗成的条理次序，即人与人之间相处的各种道德准则。在当前有关伦理学的研究中，对有利于各行各业的良性运行的条理、次序以及道德准则的研究则是其应有之义。

(周勤勤 摘编)