



The Significance of Chinese Traditional Wedding Ceremony and Its Value on Modern Society



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01

Introduction



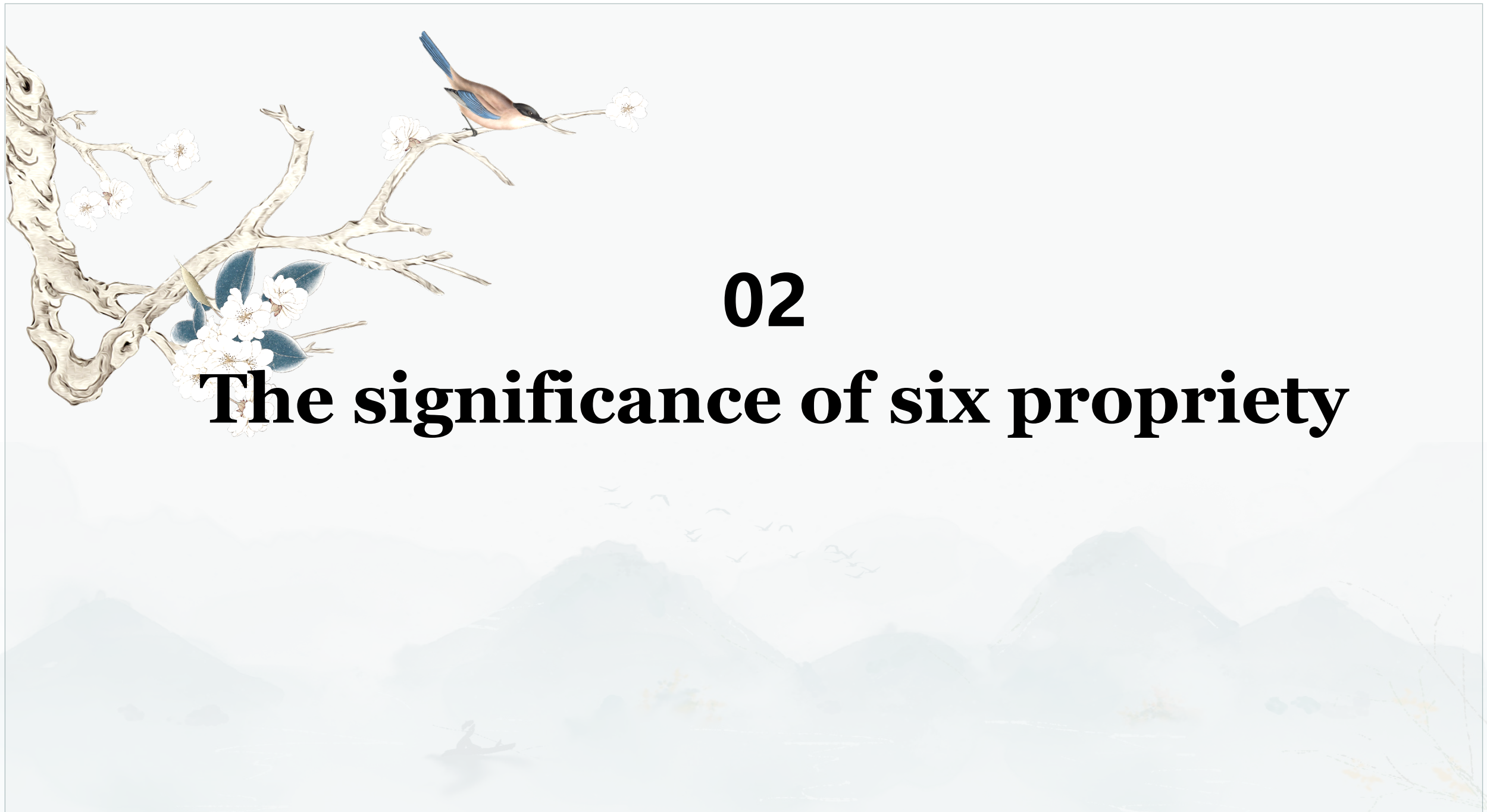
1. Introduction

(Photo by Pixabay from Pexels)

1. Introduction

The propriety of marriage unites two families with different surnames, to commemorate the ancestors with respects and offerings, and produce offspring to carry on the family name and the teachings of the forefathers. Therefore, a noble person would value marriage as an important event.

(昏禮者，將合二姓之好，上以事宗廟，而下以繼後世也，故君子重之。)



02

The significance of six propriety

2. The significance of six propriety (六禮)

nacai

納采

wenming

問名

naji

納吉

nazheng

納徵

qingqi

請期

qinying

親迎



2.1 *nacai* (納采)



(pictures from <https://m.juksy.com/archives/50086?>)

Propose a marriage which is ordered by both parents.

- During the propriety of *nacai*, the bride's father would put on his ceremonial clothes and go to the gate to meet the messenger of the groom.
- Before messengers walk on the step of the ancestral temple, both would ask the other to go first.

nacai (納采)



2.2 *wengming* (問名)



- The groom's father will entrust the messenger to the bride's home to ask bride's name (infant name) and her birth date.

(pictures from <https://m.juksy.com/archives/50086?>)

2.3 *naji* (納吉)



(pictures from <https://m.juksy.com/archives/50086?>)

- The groom's family will take the name and birth date of both groom and bride to the ancestral temple, then ask the wishes of their ancestors.
- If divination is auspicious, they will tell the bride's family through messenger.

2.4 *nazheng* (納徵)



- After *nazheng* the marriage relationship between the two families has been determined.
- The purpose of propriety is modest and respect, and the way of betrothal gifts is to express the sincerity and grateful.

(pictures from <https://m.juksy.com/archives/50086?>)

2.5 *qingqi* (請期)



(pictures from <https://m.juksy.com/archives/50086?>)

Selecting an auspicious wedding date.

- The groom's parents will entrust the messenger to ask the parents of bride's choice with great respect, because they do not want to be self-assertion.
- Then the bride's parents will also decline politely and ask the groom's parent to decide it.

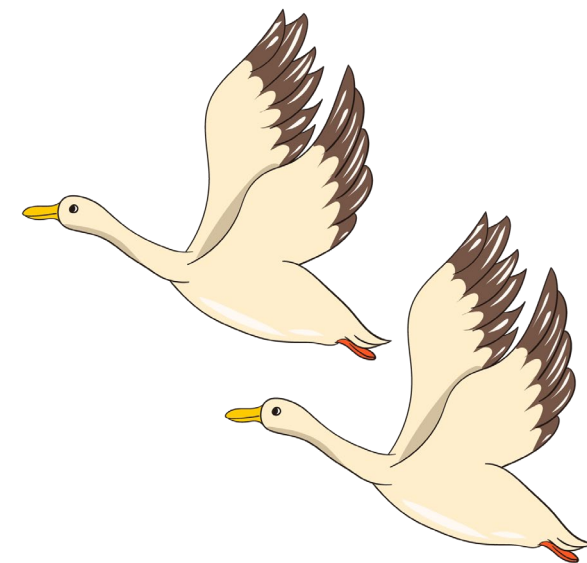
2.6 *qinying* (親迎)

Groom's father will give him a toast. Father says, 'Son, go and marry your bride, from this day onwards teach her how to behave respectfully, and you should also behave in a reasonable way.' The groom says, 'Father, I'm afraid I can't do it well, but I will try. I will never forget what you taught me.'



「父醺子，命之曰：「往迎尔相，承我宗事。勸帅以敬，先妣之嗣。若则有常。」子曰：「诺。唯恐弗堪，不敢忘命。」」

2.6 *qinying* (親迎)



After the groom arrives at the bride's home and presents the wild goose, the bride's parents will personally hand over their daughter to the groom.

2.6 *qinying* (親迎)

Before leaving, parents will repeatedly tell the bride. Father says, ‘you must be prudent and respect, be filial to your parent-in-law without against their wishes’. Besides, mother will tie a silk kerchief to her and says, ‘you must be diligent and frugal, remember to take good care of your family.’ Her concubine-mother will send her a pouch, so that she would think of parents’ teachings when she saw it.



(父送女，命之曰：「戒之敬之，夙夜毋違命！」母施衿結帨，曰：「勉之敬之，夙夜無違宮事！」庶母及門內，施鞶，申之以父母之命，命之曰：「敬恭聽，宗爾父母之言。夙夜無愆，視諸衿鞶！」)

2.6 *qinying* (親迎)

The groom will be considerate to help the bride get on the carriage, and drive for her. After three circuits of the wheel, he handed over the driving to others. Then he will wait outside the door, wait for the bride to accompany her into the home.

「御婦車，而婿授綏，御輪三周。先俟於門外，婦至，婿揖婦以入。」

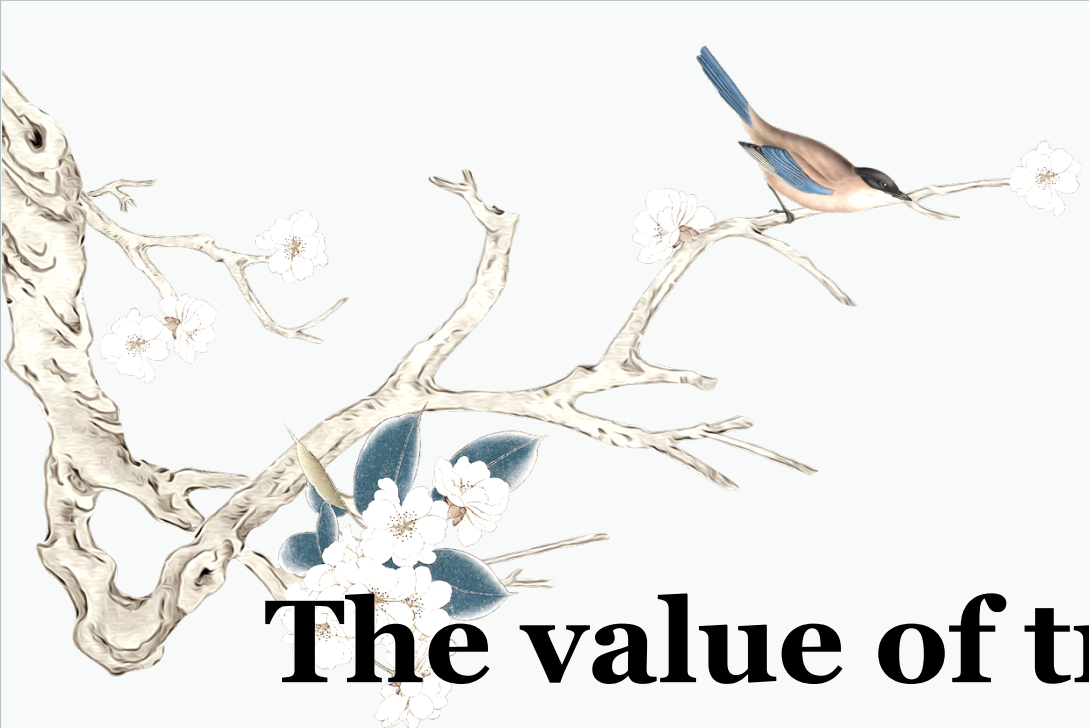




Groom and bride share a bowl of food, and each drinks a rice wine with one half gourd.

「同牢而食，合卺而飲」

(picture from <http://m.baoshan.cn/particle/30196>)

A traditional Chinese ink wash painting of a bird perched on a flowering branch. The bird has a blue back and a brownish-orange body. The branch is gnarled and bears several white blossoms with yellow centers. The background is a light, misty landscape with faint outlines of mountains and a small boat on the water.

03

The value of traditional wedding ceremony to modern society

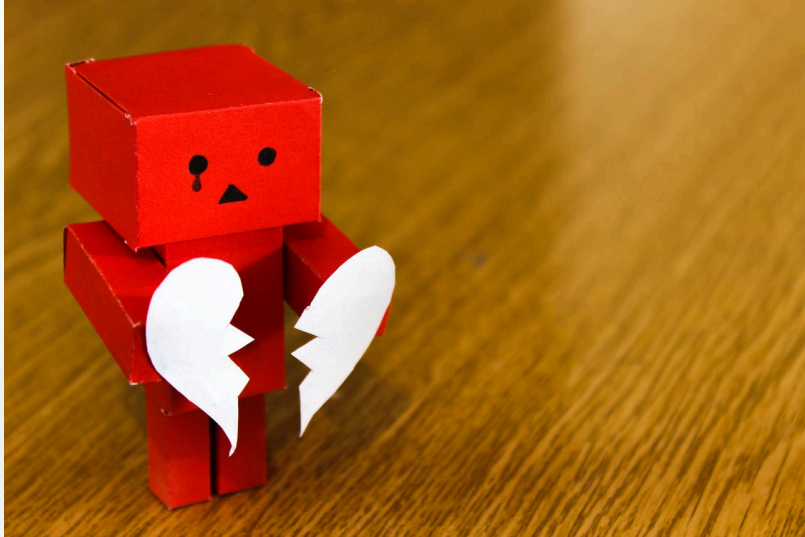
What does Chinese traditional wedding ceremony enlighten us?



(picture from www.pexels.com)

why do so many people end up getting divorced?

- Firstly, it is generally believed that marriage is a matter of two people. So, they could be together impulsively, and break up by emotions.
- Secondly, although there is love between them, but if without respect for each other, love cannot last long in the process of getting along.



(picture from www.pexels.com)

3.1 A rational and prudent attitude to marriage

In ancient China, although marriages were ordered by parents, most couples could live a happy family life together. The reason is that their choice for marriage is not emotional, but a very rational life choice.

- There are 9,471,000 couples got married in China, while 4,154,000 couples registered for divorce in 2019 .
- Couples could be together impulsively, and divorce by emotions.



3.2 Respect comes before love

When people hold a wedding ceremony, they must be respect and prudent. Respecting the propriety comes before couple's love. If not, couples will gradually break up and not close to each other.

「敬慎重正者，言行昏禮之時，必須恭敬謹慎，尊重正禮，而後男女相親。若不敬慎重正，則夫婦久必離異，不相親也。」

- According to Zhejiang Provincial High People's Court, in 2018 there are one third (34.2 percent) of the divorce cases which is because trifles matters.
- **The key is to think for each other.**



04 Conclusion

4. Conclusion



(picture from www.pexels.com)

Family

Prudent
choice

Mutual
respect



Thank you for listening.

