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MARRIAGES IN JAPAN

It is customary for people all over the world to wear traditional style wedding clothes when they get married. In Asia, there are Christian style Wedding Clothes, which are generally worn in churches, and traditional dresses. So what kind of clothes do people wear at wedding ceremony in Japan? How the Japanese people act in their wedding and what kinds of history is related to their wedding and what kinds of social problems are there regarding marriage in Japan.

As is commonly known, Japan is a country of etiquette. As one of the most important events in people's life, the wedding also embodies such etiquette. Weddings in Japan are mainly divided into three forms: Shinto style, Church style, Buddha style and Jinzen style.

Shinto Wedding

The Shinto ceremony, as the name suggests, is a form of wedding in which the newlyweds swear in front of traditional Japanese God to join hands and become husband and wife for the rest of their lives. I believe under this ceremony they will be blessed by God. The Shinto-style wedding is a type of traditional Japanese wedding. Japanese people usually choose to hold at a shrine or a pseudo-shrine built by a hotel. There are many theories about the origins of the Shinto-style wedding. The most common one is that the Shinto-style wedding ceremony started in Muromachi period (14–16 centuries of Japan) and was the most popular type of marriage ceremony for the family of military attachés. There are many kinds of wedding etiquette in this ceremony. During the ceremony, the groom wears feather-woven clothing, while the bride wears a dress called “white no-goo” and a white brocade hat. The white silk kimono worn by Japanese brides at weddings was originally the dress worn by Japanese samurai brides in the 18th and 19th centuries when they married. White symbolizes the beginning of a new life and the end of the original one. At the same time, the bride's hair should be rolled up, tied with a tortoise shell comb, and worn, with a hat covering the bun, which means “covering the edges and corners”. The bride's face needs to be painted with powder, and she wears a white hijab and veil. The bride has to change into several sets of clothes at the Shinto wedding. The first time was to take off the white dress and put on a gorgeous dress embroidered with auspicious patterns (such as crane flowers, etc.), and its colors were mainly gold, silver and red. For the first time participating in this ceremony, I had to change into another dark-colored kimono worn by an unmarried girl. This was the last time the bride wore this kimono, marking the end of her innocent girlhood. The female guests at the ceremony must not wear white clothes, this is to avoid stealing the bride's style. The groom should wear a black silk kimono with a striped folded skirt under the kimono, a white folding fan in hand, and white sandals.

GENDER STUDIES

In a Shinto-style wedding, the newlyweds need to be accompanied by relatives and friends of both parties, and the wedding is held in front of the chapel in the front hall of the shrine.

First, the priest recites a prayer for the newcomers, then the newcomers will exchange rings, and then the matchmakers will alternately use the “three-three-nine-degree” cup to toast the newcomers. The bride holds a red-light glass and drinks first, then the groom drinks it, and the bride takes the last sip.

The main process of the wedding before God is divided into: the “Worship ceremony”: the bride and groom, their parents and relatives enter the venue; the “Hands of Water” where everyone needs to enter the venue after washing their hands; and the “Rituals of Xiuxiu” which is a ceremony to exorcise evil spirits and purify the heart. During the ceremony, priests recite sermons and pray for the bride and groom and their relatives; In “The ceremony of congratulations”: the priest announces the marriage of the bride and groom to the gods and prays for blessing; “The ritual of three offerings”: The bride and groom drink three wine glasses alternately, forming a husband and wife marriage contract, which is called “three, three and nine degrees” by “drinking three glasses of wine three times”; The oath is read in front of the gods, and the original manuscript is offered to the gods: “Jade skewer offerings”: jade skewers (popular Tung tree with leafy twigs, wrapped with white cloth strips) are said to have played a role in connecting the hearts of gods and people, and the bride and groom took it from the witch. After passing the jade skewer, it is sacrificed in front of the gods, “two worship, two clapping, and two worship”.

Then there is the “Ritual of exchanging rings”: The bride and groom bring the rings to each other’s ring fingers, which is influenced by the West in modern times; “Kagura Play. Part I”: The performer plays the elegant music and traditional dance; Finally, everyone stands up, the relatives drinking the wine offered to the gods by the shrine maiden means that the relatives of both parties have become mutual relatives. After the priest exits, the bride and groom, matchmakers, and relatives leave the venue in turn, and the ceremony is transferred to the wedding banquet.

Church Wedding

The second type is a church-style wedding, and church-style weddings are divided into several different forms according to different denominations.

Only Christian believers can hold such weddings in churches, especially Catholic parties which have stricter requirements. But in recent years, even if you are not a believer, as long as you receive simple training in the church, you can be like a believer. In a solemn atmosphere, you can walk into the sacred church and hold a wedding ceremony with your loved one, and make a lifelong commitment.

Church weddings are weddings that imitate Christian marriage ceremonies. That is to say, the ceremony is not held in a real church, but in a church-style building built for the purpose of having a marriage ceremony. Now, Christians only account for about 1% of the country’s population, but many people want to have a Christian-style wedding. This is because the media often publicize Christian weddings, which are generally accepted by the public, and the wedding dresses are very trendy and gorgeous, and are very popular among

young people. In this context, hotels and wedding venues, etc. have also started offering Christian weddings to people.

Church weddings are now more common than the traditional Shinto weddings. This is because kimonos cost more than wedding dresses. However, some people will wear a kimono at the banquet after a “church-style” wedding in a wedding dress, returning to Japanese traditions.

Buddhist Wedding

The third type of wedding is the Buddhism wedding, which originated in 1885. The Buddha-style mountain was founded by Tanaka Tomogaku, a monk of the Nichiren sect.

The wedding form established by the “Richshen National Assembly,” but is currently adopted by a small number of people, only 0.8%. This is due to the fact that “Shinto marriage ceremonies have become very popular, and because of “Shinto-Buddha Habitat” (that is, the fusion of Buddhism and Shinto), even as a Buddhist, there is nothing wrong with holding a Shinto wedding ceremony, so for more people a God-style wedding is adopted. In this type of wedding, a kind of white paper called “paper hanging” is cut into thin strips of paper and wrapped around a branch, which means that the soul of the deceased relative will be transferred. where they come back, stay healthy and safe forever. Both men and women should read the marriage contract in front of the Buddha statue. In addition, when the jade skewer laying ceremony is held at the wedding, it must be presided over by the person who is close to both the mountain and the man and woman.

Jinzen Wedding

The last form is the wedding which also takes place in front of people, which is also the wedding form closest to the modern Chinese wedding ceremony. A pre-person wedding is a type of wedding held in a public place such as a hotel. First of all, the bride and groom, accompanied by the guarantors of both parties, fill in the registration form, sign and seal the form at the marriage registration office, and become legally recognized legal couples.

The invitations are sent out two or three weeks before the ceremony. In addition to parents, siblings and other relatives, those invited to attend the ceremony also have friends, leaders of the workplace, and colleagues. For the counterpart himself, the wedding is not only a ceremony for the bride and groom to share joy and blessings with relatives and friends, but it is also a rare opportunity to express their gratitude to these people for their long-term love, support and cultivation. At the wedding, the bride and groom wear gorgeous dresses, with two held sets of flowers, and are then welcomed the guests. The guests attending the wedding were also dressed in festive costumes, especially the bride’s girlfriends, who were dressed up brightly, adding to the icing on the cake for the wedding ceremony. The guests send warm congratulations to the bride and groom in turn, and some even sing and dance to help the wedding. According to the custom of the oral script, at the end of the wedding feast, the bride should read aloud the letter she wrote to her parents, recalling the parenting kindness of her parents during the period when she was brought up by them.

Conclusion: Marriage in contemporary Japan

Japanese people consider marriage to be a major turning point in life, so they are extremely cautious about marriage. The complexity of etiquette reflects the seriousness and responsibility of the Japanese concerning marriage. It is worth mentioning that in recent years, more and more Japanese young men and women have chosen different forms of marriage ceremonies, not only holding many unique beginning ceremonies, but also increasingly different kinds.

Just like how I pay attention to weddings, different countries have their own etiquette for different occasions. In today's globalized world, exchanges between countries are becoming more and more frequent. If the etiquette of each other is not respected in foreign exchanges, it will cause friction at light level, and disputes at worst. Today, when peace and development have become the mainstream, we must take the initiative to learn etiquette of other countries.

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