

Chopsticks is a Divine Art of Chinese Culture

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Abstract: Chopsticks are the primary eating instrument in Chinese culture, and every youngster has to adopt using technique and controlling of chopsticks. A couple of chopsticks is the main instrument for eating, and the physical movements of control are familiar with Chinese. The Chinese use chopsticks as natural as Caucasians use knives and forks. An analogy of chopsticks is as an extension of one's fingers. Chinese food is prepared so that it may be easily handled with chopsticks. In fact, many traditional Chinese families do not have forks at home. The usage of chopsticks has been deeply mixed into Chinese culture. In any occasions, food has become a cultural show in today's society. When food from single nation becomes in another, it leads to a sort of cultural interchange. China delivers a deep tradition of food culture which has spread around the globe. As a company rises, food culture too evolves resulting in mutations. Each geographical location makes its own food with unparalleled taste and smell. Sullen, sweet, bitter and hot are the preferences of several food items. Apart from being good, they tell us about the people who make it, their culture and nation. The creatures which people apply to eat are not only creatures, but also symbols, relics of that civilization. The pattern of using chopsticks has existed from ancient times among the East Asians, particularly the Chinese.

Key Words: Chinese Culture, Chopsticks, China, Eating Manner and Chinese Food Culture.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Use of chopsticks is well known to the Chinese. Use of chopsticks for the delight of relishing a meal with-in either a family or a social setting is deeply con-ceiled in the spirit of Chinese civilization. Traditional Chinese viewed social dining as a significant component of social life for the family reunion with their children, as Chinese usually had large families of several generations living together. I am interested to know the developmental stage for reaching this important fine motor and social accomplishment. On that point are several versions around the invention of chopsticks (Red Zen Company 2000), or so think that the invention of chopsticks in China began more than 2500 years ago, when two poor farmers were put out of their small town. While looking for food, they came upon a storehouse and stole just about meat. They then hid it deep in the woods. They fixed the meat over a flak. They were so thirsty and unable to wait for it to cool down that they used sticks to pluck the sizzling meat from the osseous tissue and chopsticks were invented. The monks from Buddhist religion spread the use of chopsticks to Southeast Asia in 500 AD. Then, different people from different culture modified their own ways of chopsticks (Red Zen Company 2000). The hints of Chinese chopsticks were rounded, and Japanese ones were placed. This is a consequence of the conflicts in their cuisine rather than a design decision. A roll of rice is handled with a delicate sushi or quail egg with Chinese chopsticks and slender Japanese chopsticks. The Koreans and Thais use flat stainless steel chopsticks. The Vietnamese use Chinese-style chopsticks. It is a significant part of Chinese food culture. Chopsticks are called "Kuaizi" (筷子) in Chinese.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

This report tries to examine the importance of chopsticks as a dominant cultural symbol in China. It brings out their representative values. The part played by chopsticks in customs, rituals, and ceremonies in China are also spotlighted. I attempted to explain how chopsticks skill manipulation among Chinese, and correlation between chopsticks manipulation, eating manner and regulation of using Chopsticks.

3. CHOPSTICKS AS A CULTURAL SYMBOL IN CHINA:

It is a custom in some regions to give chopsticks as a gift to the honeymooners. Into a wedding gift, meaning 'Have Babies Soon', Chopsticks are called kuaizi (筷子) in Chinese, which resembles the pronunciation of two other words: 'soon' (快 kuài /kweye/) and 'son(s)' (子 zǐ /dzrr/). It is a wish to have a baby for newly-married couples and treated as popular good wishes in China. The book of Rites, it was recorded that, chopsticks were used (1600BC-1700BC) during the Shang Dynasty, It was mentioned in Shiji by Si Maqian (The Chinese history record), about 145BC that Zhou, (around 1100BC) the lasting king of the Shang Dynasty, used ivory chopsticks. Experts consider the history of wood or bamboo chopsticks can be dated back to about 1,000 years earlier than ivory chopsticks. Bronze chopsticks were invented in Western Zhou Dynasty (1100BC-771BC). Lacquered chopsticks were found in Mawangdui, China, in

about (206BC-24AD), while Western Han Dynasty has existed. Amber and silver chopsticks became popular in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It was thought that silver chopsticks could detect poisons in food.

4. MATERIALS FOR CHOPSTICKS:

Chopsticks can be made by different materials, like wood, bamboo, metal, stone and compound chopsticks. But, today's customer chooses it based on choice and demand. While Bamboo and wood are more hygienic and therefore it is sensible to employ them.

5. CHINESE TABLE MANNERS WHILE EATING:

When feeding a meal in China, people are required to act in a civilized way, pay attention to table manners and practice better dining habits. In parliamentary law to avoid offense diners should pay attention to the old/other people eat first. While using a bowl, we should pick up our bowl with our thumb along the lip of the bowl, first finger, middle finger the third finger supporting the rear of the bowl and palm empty. When you want to have your favourite dishes, take food from the plates which are in front of you, rather than those in the centre of the board, but don't take in front of others. When seeing your favourite dish, you should not gobble it up as rapidly as possible or put the plate in front of yourself and proceed to consume like a sawhorse. Concentrate on the meal and your accessories, watching TV, utilizing your phone, or taking along some other natural process while receiving a meal is regarded as a tough habit. You should attempt to refill your bowl with rice yourself and use up the first step to fill the bowls of elders with rice and food from the saucers. If elders fill your roll or add food to your arena, you should show respect with thanks.

6. REGULATIONS AND CONVENTIONS RELATING TO CHOPSTICKS:

Chinese people are quite familiar with the use of chopsticks. Even from the age of three years, children start using them, even old people also can use chopsticks. Thus the chopstick is not a mere ornament but an eating aid having functional efficiency. While using Chopsticks, do not wave your chopsticks around in the air too much or play with them and do not give up or skewer food with your chopsticks. Try not to do click your chopsticks together to pull in a noise, utilize them as drumsticks, or to affect anything other than food. Knives are traditionally regarded as fierce in China, and breakers of the harmony, hence are not provided at the board. Some eating places in China have forks available and all will have spoons. If you are not used to chopsticks, you can call the restaurant staff to furnish you with a fork or spoon. But, don't point your chopsticks (or index finger) at others. This is taken as a sign of disrespect. Besides, don't knock on tableware with chopsticks: this is ascertained as a sign of begging. If you want to get something dishes, don't touch food with your chopsticks, this is really crude (and unhygienic). Moreover, while using chopsticks, never ever stick your chopsticks into food, particularly not into rice, only at funerals is chopsticks are used to pose like this.

7. HOW TO USE CHOPSTICKS:

Firstly, carry your chopsticks the right way round. In general, Chopsticks are built with a round end and a square end shape, or with one end pointed. It's helpful to apply the rounded or tapered end to pick up food. In that respect is not just one right path to use chopsticks. A standard procedure to use chopsticks: (A) Keep the lower chopstick into the food and 4th and 5th fingers in the middle of your thumb on top to hold it still. (B) Keep the upper (movable) chopstick, in the same manner, you would have got a pen to write, but with the end protruding more from the fingertips (the same quantity as the lower chopstick). (C) Pick up food by moving the upper chopstick and holding the lower chopstick still. (D) To break up a piece of food into two pieces, exert control pressure on the chopsticks while moving them aside from each other. The Chinese people advocate unity. It is a value but is imparted in family education. If you need a single chopstick, it is easy to get around. But take ten, it gets insufferable. One single chopstick stands for one mankind, ten pairs of people stand for togetherness, unity, and strength. Sometimes the use of Chopstick is like to pay our respect to their ancestors once more. That's why chopsticks carried a great cultural symbol in China.

8. SOMETIMES CHOPSTICKS ARE USED FOR SEVERAL CAUSES:

Chopsticks also express the artistic and aesthetic sensibility of the Chinese people. Tradition, it enjoins us that different colours and materials of chopsticks have specific meanings. They may abide by a position, treasure, luck and hence along. For object lesson, as gold in the modern day, in Shang Dynasty Ivory was defined as the most valuable material. Then, when ivory chopsticks were invented in that period, only the King and Queen could afford to employ them. Silver chopstick which was quite necessary to detect poison in food. When bronze chopsticks were invented in Western Zhou Dynasty (1100BC-711BC), it's same to be assessed as a precious gem. Bronze chopsticks owning a stamp of prosperity, authority, and dignity. And in later times, Gold and silver chopsticks were made up. Particularly, it was cited to, begin with that silver chopsticks could detect poisons in food. Ordinarily, in different Kungfu families, the masters always were really sensitive about tasting food in the old inns. Because some enemies may have the rafts with the inn to master poison them. In parliamentary law to avoid being poisoned, the master always carried a single silver chopstick which was quite necessary to detect poison in food.

9. CONCLUSION:

As we human discover the way to create culture, then find the way to express it, and I found that the chopsticks serve identical functions in the Chinese culture. Hence my attempt at describing and explaining the cultural meaning of "CHOPSTICKS", and without doubt "chopsticks" represent and express so much of the Chinese civilization and the great unwashed. Chopsticks are the living principle in the hearts and intellects of the Chinese masses. Not only by Chopsticks, had they caught themselves in every division of social and economic issues with respect to government and their family value. That's why Chinese are able to earn a significant mark of their comportment in the globe by economics and also for their rich history of cultural value. The Chinese people aren't just keeping saying something's like other peoples do, but, if Chinese people want to do something, then they work on it to make happen, this motivation makes the difference and win them to the top of the current world in many aspects.

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