



Elton John & David Furnish's Wedding

By CK Wong 2005.12.23

<http://www.ck-wong.ca/china/elton%20john%20&%20david%20furnishs%20wedding%2020051223.pdf>

Introduction

Elton John and long term partner David Furnish entered a civil partnership on December 21 under the British law. In common people's eye they are married. They are happy after they have achieved this social status. Modern societies have not fully provided such support. In ancient China, this was another story.

Some Famous Gays in China

Gay in ancient China is not unheard. There were two famous stories. The first story described an emperor and his gay partner were enjoying themselves in a drink fest. The partner fell asleep and lied on one of the emperor's robe's long sleeve. Rather than retrieved the sleeve which might disturb his partner, he cut the sleeve.

A second story involved another emperor again. One day someone sent a peach to the palace for emperor to enjoy. Emperor's gay partner liked peach too. The emperor was very happy to share the peach with his gay partner.

These two examples have demonstrated to openness of homosexuality in ancient China. As recent as the Qing dynasty, there were gay specialized brothel house.

Suppressing is not a solution

The cause of sexual preference has been researched and studied. The social attitude has changed from the perspective of abnormal behavior to genetic. All these researches have never done by the Chinese. Yet Chinese had a unique way to deal with this phenomenon. The approach is exactly how the Northern Europe (Denmark, Holland, Sweden, etc) handles marijuana and sex. It is open and available. This cuts down the curiosity and removes the abnormal view points. The availability reduces the excitement or extra kick to do something bad.

By labeling people by their preference (any preference) is a prejudice unless it hurts other or violate others lives. The ancient Chinese accepted homosexuality as a form of life. People do not have to agree but need not against it. This a Zen approach. You leave the situation alone; the situation will evolve in its own way and settle with a solution. Forceful suppression provokes rebellion. Peaceful solution will survive long.

In modern world, many countries find the culture or the social structure of another less developed countries do not align with their culture and label them. If these countries refused to change, they use censorship, embargo and tariff to *motivate* change. For me, international tariff has some practical function for short term as tactical action but it

should not be a long term solution. A global embargo on a country will tip the balance in some way that may not be obvious but the undercurrent will be built.

Perhaps we could learn more from Buddhism which works toward a better self and then world peace in small non-aggressive steps.