**death/死亡(Sǐ Wáng)**

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| Final Remarks | WU Fei, Didier Sicard | 31 May2022 |

Didier Sicard: It seems there are major differences about the concept of death between the two cultures. In European culture: 1) there is no body cosmology nor before nor after death 2) Because there is no connotation from the ideogram as in China, an European word is always open to interpretation. The meaning comes from there and is always moving 3) the continuity of the family is much less important than in Chinese culture, even it remains important to refer on grandparents and have grandchildren. There is no immortality for family even in a popular meaning. History of family does not occupies, with exception, much in European intellectual system 4)funerals is more for survivors than for dead persons 5)there is no special judgment on the dead person at the moment of his death 6)the death of young people or sudden death always brings emotion, instead the one of old people 7)the demand of medical euthanasia or assisted suicide (5%) is growing up 8)last but not least the end of death penality is considered as a humanistic attitude. On the contrary of what said my colleague, the mortal life in Europe is absolutely not seen negatively and sacrifice is seen as the best destiny for a person.

Wu Fei: While I understand death from a more philosophical perspective, Prof. Sicard studies it from a historical and intellectual one. There is much in his essay that could balance my ideas, and I enjoy reading it very much. In modern civilization that is more humanistic and secular, medical euthanasia and the end of death penalty have contributed a lot to the contemporary theory as well as practice of death in human society. There is a quite similar transformation from pre-modern time to modern era in China. The value of familial continuity was very important in ancient China, but now it is much less. Funerals have been greatly simplified in modern China too. There are also some voices about medical euthanasia and end of death penalty in China as in the West, but not so strong or influential. There are still quite some debates about these issues in Chinese society due to jurisprudential and ethical reasons. It could be expected that both would be accepted much more in the near future. As many other ideas, those about death are also converging. There are still, however some ideas that are quite particular to China, that still persist. For instance, the judgment of the dead is still important in Chinese culture. The death of the young of course brings stronger emotion, but that of the elderly is seen as a happy ending and hence treated with a quite calm attitude, accompanied by a sense of history.