

le, xiànzài gōngshāngyè fādá le,
wèishenme hái yǒu rén shuō dà
jiāting hǎo ne?

Now that industry and commerce are highly developed, why do some people still say that the large family is good?

D: Dà jiātingde guānniàn yǐjīng
yǒu jǐqiānniánde lìshǐ le, yào
gǎibiàn tā, xūyào bǐjiào chángde
shíjiān. Dàlùde qíngxíng wǒ bù
qīngchū, Táiwānde qíngxíng shì
dà jiāting yuè lái yuè shǎo le.
Suǐrán Zhōngguó rén xǐhuan dà
jiāting, juéde dàjiā zhù zai
yìqǐ, hùxiāng yǒu zhàogu, dànshì
gōngshāngyè fādá le, gōngzuòde
jīhuì duō le, xiǎo jiāting yě
jiù yuè lái yuè duō le.

The concept of the large family has already existed for several thousand years. It'll take a rather long time to change it. I don't know about the situation on the mainland. But on Taiwan, the situation is that there are fewer and fewer large families. Although the Chinese like big families and think that if everyone lives together they can take care of each other, industry and commerce are flourishing and there are more job opportunities, so there are more and more small families.

B: Xiànzài dà jiāting yuè lái yuè
shǎo, zǎohūnde fēngsú yě jiù
méiyǒu le.

Now as large families grow fewer and fewer, the custom of child marriage will disappear.

A: Zǎohūn hé dà jiāting yǒu shénme
guānxi ma?

Is child marriage related to the large family?

D: Yǒu guānxi. Zhè zhǔyào^o shì lǎo-
lǐde wèntí.

Yes. It's mainly a question of labor force.

B: Nǐ xiǎng, zǎohūn, zǎo yǒu háizi,
jiāli láodònglì duō, lǎorén yě jiù
kéyǐ zǎo yidiǎn dédào zhàogu.

After all, with child marriage, children are born sooner, the family has more work hands, and the old people can get taken care of sooner.

A: Kěshì zài gōngshāngyè shèhuìli,
duōshù lǎorén dōu yǒu shōurù.
Xiànzài Táiwān yǐjīng shì gōng-
shāngyè shèhuì, zhèiyangde wèntí
yě jiù méiyǒu le.

But in an industrial-commercial society, most of the old people have an income. Today Taiwan is already an industrial-commercial society, so that kind of problem doesn't exist there anymore.

B: Dànshì, nǐ bié wàngle, dàlù hái
shì nóngyè shèhuì, zhàogu lǎorén-
de wèntí hái shì dà wèntí, zǎo-
hūnde fēngsú yě hái shì yǒu.

But don't forget that the mainland is still an agricultural society. Caring for old people is still a big problem, and the custom of child marriage still exists there.

A: Nǐ dàgài nòngcuòle ba, dàlùde
zhèngfǔ zěnme huì tóngyì rénmen
zǎohūn ne?

You must be mistaken. How could the government on the mainland agree to let people marry as children?

^ozhǔyào, "mainly"

- B: Wǒ shuōde shì nóngcūn,¹ shénme zǎohūn na, zhòng nán qīng nǚ a, zhèizhǒng shì zǒng shì hé jīngjī bù fādá yǒu guānxide. I'm talking about rural areas, Things like child marriage or regarding males as superior to females always have to do with an undeveloped economy.
- D: Wǒ shízài bù xǐhuan zǎohūn. Wǒ xiǎng duōshù zǎohūnde rén hòuláide shēnghuó dōu yǒu diǎn wèntí. I really don't like child marriage. I think that most people who are married as children have problems later on in life.
- B: Tèbié shì fùnǚ. Especially women.
- A: Duì le, wǒ tīngshuōguo zhèiyang yìzhǒng shuōfǎ: Zhōngguo fùnǚ méiyǒu jiēhūn yǐqián yào tīng fùmǔde, jiēle hūn dǐ tīng zhàngfude, zhàngfu sǐle dǐ tīng érzide.² Qǐngwèn, Zhōngguo fùnǚ shénme shíhòu cái néng yǒu tāmen zìjǐde xiǎngfǎ, shénme shíhòu cái néng yǒu yìdiǎnr zìyóu ne? Right. I've heard a saying to the effect that before a Chinese woman gets married she has to obey her parents, after she gets married she has to obey her husband, and after her husband dies she has to obey her son. I ask you, when will Chinese women be able to think for themselves? When will they be able to have a little freedom?
- B: Òu, xiànzài méiyǒu rén jiǎng zhèixiē le. Nobody is strict about those customs anymore.
- A: Suǐrán méiyǒu rén jiǎng, kěshì zhèizhǒng chuántǒng sīxiǎng³ hái-shì yǒu a! Nobody is strict about them, but the traditional thinking is still there!
- D: Nǐ shuōde yě yǒu dào lǐ, háishi nàjù huà, jǐqiānniǎnde lǎo guānniàn bú shì hěn kuài kéyǐ gǎibiànde. That's right. It's still the same old story. Ideas which are several thousand years old can't be changed very quickly.
- B: Ñg, búguò wǒ xiǎng, dàlù yě hǎo, Táiwān yě hǎo, jǐshínián lái dōu yǒule hěn dàde gǎibiàn, fùnǚde dìwei yě dōu yǒule tígāo,⁴ chuántǒngde guānniàn yě zài biàn. Yeah, but I think that both the mainland and Taiwan have undergone big changes in the past few decades. The status of women has improved, and traditional ideas are changing.
- A: Ñg, zhèyidiǎn wǒ tóngyì. Mm, that I agree with.

¹nóngcūn, "rural area" (See Unit 6)

²Zhōngguo fùnǚ méiyǒu jiēhūn yǐqián yào tīng fùmǔde: (1) méiyǒu jiēhūn yǐqián is completely equivalent to jiēhūn yǐqián "before getting married". The méiyǒu does not change the meaning. (2) Tīng fùmǔde is equivalent to tīng fùmǔde huà, "to obey one's parents."

³sīxiǎng, "thought, thinking" (See Life in China module, Unit 4)

⁴tígāo, "raise, improve(ment)" (See Traveling in China module, Unit 2)

B: Hǎo, wǒmen dào jiā le. Wáng
Chéng jìnqù zuòzuo ba!

Okay, we are at my house. Come
in for a while, Wáng Chéng, okay?

D: Hǎo, jìnqù yíxià.

Okay, I'll come in for a while.