

A Mother's Day Gift: Passing on Mother's Name 冠母姓：母爱永流传

Have you ever wondered why your last name comes from your father instead of your mother? Historically, most cultures were **patriarchal**. Power and **prestige** were given to men, and only men **inherited** family wealth. Therefore, all children took their father's family name.

你有没有想过为什么你是继承父姓而不是继承母性呢？历史上大多数的文化都是父权社会。男人拥有权力和荣誉，也只有男人可以继承家族财产。因此，所有小孩都是继承父姓。

This seems unfair, for even today in **virtually** every culture, women have tremendous responsibilities. They still **bear the brunt of** domestic chores and, most importantly, bring every one of us into the world. Despite all this, women have yet to obtain the same rights as men in many areas.

这似乎不公平，因为时至今日，女性几乎在所有文化里仍需承担极大的责任。她们仍负担家事，而最重要的便是孕育下一代。尽管如此，女性在很多方面仍未获得和男性平等的权利。

In Asia, on the issue of family names, Taiwan is a notable exception. On this island, there is legislation **pending** to give women the right to **pass on** their family name to their children. Western Europe and North America have already done much to guarantee that women have the same status as men. Taiwan's voice could **herald** a new age of gender equality in this region.

在亚洲，台湾在家族姓氏这项议题上是个显着的例外。台湾提出了让小孩继承母姓的立法案。西欧和北美已经通过许多法案以确保女性和男性拥有平等的地位。台湾的声音可视为这个地区划时代男女追求平权的先驱。

Many women suffer **miserably** in societies where gender **bias** exists. As we all **become aware of** this issue, should we not be **compelled** to do more? Is it not our responsibility to ensure that all people have equal rights and dignity? For Mother's Day, let us give women a gift they have been waiting for: justice and of course, love.

在性别歧视的社会里，女性遭受不平等待遇。当我们意识到这个议题时，我们不该要求自己多作努力吗？确保人人拥有平等权利与尊严，不是我们的责任吗？今年的母亲节，让我们给女性一份她们等待许久的礼物：公正……当然还有，爱。

-by Howard Weston

Vocabulary

prestige [prɛs `ti:ʒ] n. 声望，威望

bear the brunt of 首当其冲 to get the greater amount or larger part of something bad

bias [`baɪəs] n. 偏见

compel [kəm `pɛl] v. 强迫；使不得不

herald [`hɛrəld] v. 预示……的来临

More Information

inherit [ɪn `hɛrɪt] v. 继承; 得到

pending [`pɛndɪŋ] adj. 悬而未决的

pass on 传递

miserably [`mɪzərəblɪ] adv. 悲惨地; 可悲地

become aware of 发觉; 知道

patriarchal [,pɛtrɪ `ɑrk!] adj. 由男性控制[统治]的

virtually [`vɜ:tʃʊəlɪ] adv. 实际上, 事实上