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The "Iemoto" System

Takeshi Yamagishi

By the word "Iemoto", literally an "original house", is here meant the "originator" of a school in characteristic Japanese art or ceremony, such as "Cha-no-yu" (tea-ceremony), "Ikebana" (flower arrangement), etc.

The "Iemoto" system consists of an originator or head master and his pupils or followers. In the "Iemoto" system there are so many rules which must be strictly observed by the members of the group.

In the present essay the writer, from the sociological point of view sees into the relations between the head master and his pupils, studying some of the fundamental regulations that should be kept by the pupils.

The "Iemoto" must keep the traditional forms of art and faithfully hand them down to posterity. The faithful observance of the forms means the maintenance of the traditions and authority of the original house. The present writer regards the pupils' respect for the traditional forms and the original house as the fundamental element to the "Iemoto" system.

It may be said that the problems of the "Iemoto" system should inevitably be studied in relation to those of the characteristic Japanese family system. And as to this point the writer intends to make a thorough investigation in the near future.