

Thai Worldview

1. Komin's nine Thai value clusters

1.1 Ego oriented:

- try to climb the hierarchy of status
- ego orientation: saving face, avoidance of criticism, importance of consideration. The individual is one in a sea of others. Cool heart [*jai yen*] is better than hot.

1.2 Grateful relationship orientation:

- maintain smooth peaceful exterior and personal dignity
- grateful relationship orientation: safe inner world--loyalty, caring, grace and sharing. Outer world is debt, power, presentation show of respect, pragmatic responses.

1.3 Smooth interpersonal relationships orientation:

- don't show animosity. To express anger is immature. Stand politely aside.
- smooth interpersonal relationships. Nonassertive in to protect social pleasantness. Anger a serious sin. Outbursts are unforgivable. Jealousy.

1.4 Flexibility and adjustment orientation.

- situational ethics. Little sense of external absolute laws and morality.
- flexibility and adjustment. Live in the present. Past not important. Future not in focus. Situational ethics--adjust to the demands of the relationship not to principles. Powerful make laws, powerless follow.

1.5 Religious-psychical orientation.

- religious-psychical orientation. Belief in Karma. Superstitious

1.6 Education and competence orientation.

- education is the way to rise in the hierarchy
- education and competence. Seek advancement. Preoccupation with dress.

1.7 Interdependence orientation.

- cooperation is valued
- interdependence. Thai relish their freedom and are disinclined to place their lives in the hands of a group. Groups tend to form and dissolve easily. The word for family is better translated 'household' which has a key person around which all relationships revolve. This patron must manage the household for the benefit of each individual to maintain their allegiance and help. It is very loose--new people enter and people leave at will. Children are given to relatives. Marriages are often common-law. Groups lack discipline as each person tends to go it alone.

1.8 Fun-pleasure orientation.

- work is a necessity, seek pleasure, leisure and easy work

1.9 Achievement-task orientation.

- achievement-task orientation. Not a high value.

2. Underlying themes and counter-themes:

2.1 Hierarchy:

- role clarity: "before appropriate interaction can occur, a person must be defined as being male or female; child, adult or aged; more or less affluent; priest or layman; official or non-official. these definitions are made necessary because each status requires a recognition of superiority or inferiority (Potter 1976, 189).
- in no relationship "is there any provision for the inferior to challenge the wisdom of his superior, to express ideas which his superior might disapprove, to provide direction to his superior's actions (Fieg 1980, 14)." A person should be modest, non-assertive, obedient, polite, subdued--not challenging, frank and aggressive.
- vertical roles take priority over horizontal ones.
- order, control, patron-client ship
- karma

Counter theme: "having fun"--*Samuk*. No one indulging in *sanuk* should be criticized.

- fun-pleasure. Move from work to relaxed fun quickly. *Samuk* or fun is a tension outlet for the Thai and is a Counter theme to ego orientation and work.

2.2 Harmony:

- ego oriented, reciprocity, flexibility and adjustment orientation

2.3 Self:

- move from inside to outside: inside is a world of moral goodness symbolized by mother, protection and sympathy. As one moves out one meets dangers, unreliability, excitement, strangers, and spirits and powers.

3. Problems:

- feeling of being unloved, unwanted and unvalued. --> love and acceptance, groupness
- many feel stuck in a social cell they cannot escape. --> affirmation
- hierarchy --> affirm equality

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1. Order and Hierarchy:

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- vertical roles take priority over horizontal ones.
- hierarchy maintains primary values--order and control
- patron-clientship

1.1 Countertheme: "having fun"--*Sanuk*. No one indulging in *sanuk* should be criticized.

2. Harmony:

- ego oriented.
- reciprocity
- smooth interpersonal relationships
- flexibility and adjustment orientation

3. Self:

- move from inside to outside: inside is a world of moral goodness symbolized by mother, protection and sympathy. As one moves out one meets dangers, unreliability, excitement, strangers, and spirits and powers.

4. Komin's nine variables:

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