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**Great Britain's Monarchy and Japanese Imperial Family**

Four months have passed since Prince George who is the British king of the future was born. The news of the prince’s birth suggests that British people have a great interest in the royal family. Great Britain's monarchy has many scandals, such as extramarital affairs and divorces, and is followed by paparazzi all the time. Great Britain's monarchy is close to British people because they are delighted with the royal family’s various gossips every day. On the other hand, Japanese imperial family’s scandal news is virtually nonexistent and Japanese people feel that the imperial family lives in a different world. Why are there such differences in journalism and the people's feelings toward the royal families? The differences are affected by a difference of the stances between Great Britain's monarchy and Japanese imperial family.

First of all, two examples as follows obviously show a difference between Great Britain's monarchy and Japanese imperial family. Great Britain's monarchy is open to the general public, but Japanese imperial family is cloaked in secrecy and Japanese people have a feeling of awe for the imperial family.

Queen Elizabeth II is loved by British people and is overwhelming popular. A lot of letter from the people reaches her every day. She looks to all the letters herself and replays to some of them. Her personality can be expressed in a following episode. A couple who was scheduled to held a wedding ceremony in Manchester got to know that Queen Elizabeth II was scheduled to stay in Manchester on the very day of the wedding ceremony and sent her the letter of invitation to their wedding ceremony. They did not expect that the busy queen would actually come to their wedding ceremony, but surprisingly, she and her husband visited at their wedding ceremony on the day. This episode shows the Queen of England and the royal family are close to British people. In this way, Great Britain's monarchy is open and popular for British people enough to exchange letters.

On the other hand, Japanese people feel that Japanese imperial family lives in a different world. This can be expressed in a following episode. In the garden party held by Japanese imperial family in the autumn, Taro Yamamoto, a member of the Japanese National Diet, handed directly a letter to the Emperor of Japan. Yamamoto was criticized strongly and the letter was received by Imperial Household Agency. The letter was not read by the emperor in the end because legal proceedings are needed in order to hand a letter to the emperor. It can be said that Japanese imperial family is guarded by thick walls and is shut off from the general public.

Next, there is a crucial difference between Great Britain and Japan in journalism toward the royal families. Weekly magazines are always on the lookout to expose the private life of the royal family. Great Britain's monarchy is followed by paparazzi all the time. Britain’s presses secretly take the royal family’s photographs from a distance and often report on the royal family’s scandals. On the other hand, Japanese presses don’t report on Japanese imperial family’s scandals and don’t say bad things about the imperial family. Why are there such differences? The reason is the difference of stances between Great Britain's monarchy and Japanese imperial family.

Great Britain's monarchy as well as the prime minister can lead a life like the general public. Therefore, they can act freely and say whatever they want. Because they are not strictly controlled, Britain’s presses can report on the royal family as they like. Moreover, Great Britain's monarchy has a lot of exposure in the media and actively appeals to the people. It can be said that they form an image of friendly royal family.

On the other hand, Japanese imperial family leads a restricted life. The inside affairs of the imperial family are not leaked outside. And, information concerning the imperial family is controlled and censored by Imperial Household Agency. In addition, Japanese imperial family has very strict rules. Therefore, scandals, such as extramarital affairs and divorces, are not allowed.

Lastly, what do British and Japanese people think of the royal families? Generally speaking, Great Britain's monarchy is open to the general public, but Japanese imperial family is hidden under a veil of secrets and Japanese people have a feeling of awe for the imperial family.

In Britain, the Queen of England plays an active part in the fashion world and Prince Charles reads the BBC Scotland weather forecast. You can’t see this kind of view in Japan. The royal family performs official affairs and appears in the media, but on the other hand they have many scandals. They are far from perfect, but their “weakness” actually adds to their charm and attracts the people.

On the other hand, in Japan, Japanese people have limited opportunities for contact with Japanese imperial family and can’t see them except through Imperial Household Agency. Japanese people can’t see them just as they are and can’t know how they are living life. If we keep this way, Japanese people’s interest in the imperial family would gradually reduce.

　Great Britain's monarchy has many scandals and is followed by paparazzi all the time. It is true that they have some disadvantages, such as extramarital affairs and divorces, but their “weakness” actually adds to their charm and gets the people’s sympathy. Meanwhile, Japanese imperial family is hidden under a veil of secrets and Japanese people can’t know how they are living life. And, Japanese imperial family’s scandal news similar to British is virtually nonexistent. Japanese people can know only information is controlled and censored by Imperial Household Agency and can’t see the imperial family just as they are.

In conclusion, the difference of the stances between Great Britain's monarchy and Japanese imperial family affects differences in journalism and the people's feelings toward the royal families. As described above, Japanese imperial family has very strict and traditional rules, but this has a great influence on Japanese people’s interest in the imperial family. Ofcource, Japanese tradition and culture are needed to protect, but the relationship of the imperial family to the people should not be shut off. (1028 words)

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