

Original Paper

The Value Implications and Practical Path of the Spirit of Diligence, Thrift and Saving in the New Era

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Abstract

The spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality was first mentioned in the report of the Twentieth National Congress, which is rooted in the fertile soil of Chinese culture and is an important spiritual code for the new era. The spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality is a spiritual wealth for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation, a spiritual code for coping with all kinds of risks and challenges, and a spiritual guarantee for stimulating college students' sense of responsibility. Standing at a new starting point and embarking on a new journey, to cultivate the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality, it is necessary to enhance the cognition and tell the Chinese story of the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality; to strengthen the supervision and improve the system and mechanism of practicing frugality; to base on the innovation and give full play to the nurturing effect of scientific and technological empowerment; and to set an example and create a strong atmosphere for learning from the exemplary.

Keywords

Spirit of diligence, Thrift and saving, Value implication, Connotation of the times, Practice path

1. Introduction

"Thrift, the common of virtues" (Chen, 2006), the twentieth report clearly put forward the spirit of thrift and frugality. This is the first time that the traditional virtue of thrift and frugality has been raised to the spiritual level, and it is a combination of scientific research and judgment with the development requirements of the new era, which has a unique value of the times. Standing in the new historical position, to continue to inherit and carry forward this spirit, we should earnestly draw the ideological essence and cultural essence contained therein, clarify its generative logic, profoundly grasp its connotation of the times, and understand its value implication, which is of great theoretical and practical significance to enhance the people's moral standard and civilization, improve the civilization of the society, and realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese-style

modernization.

2. The Value Implications of the Spirit of Diligence, Thrift and Saving

The spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality has run through the century-long struggle of the Chinese nation, and still has important contemporary value in the new historical conditions.

2.1 It is the Spiritual Wealth for the Sustainable Development of the Chinese Nation

The spirit of diligence, thrift and economy is deeply rooted in the fertile soil of Chinese history and culture, inherited from the traditional virtues of five thousand years of civilization, and it is the inherent power of spiritual strength to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and it can play a majestic power in the process of realizing a modernized country that is coordinated with the spirit and the material. The spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality in the new era pays more attention to renewing civilization at the ideological and spiritual levels, and provides moral nourishment for cultivating new styles and new outlooks with the characteristics of the times by carrying out practical activities to change customs and sing the main theme of civilized practice in the new era. As for cultivating one's moral character, "cultivating one's moral character through quietness and frugality" will be the main theme of civilized practice in the new era. As for the family, we put thrift and diligence in a prominent position in the construction of family customs, such as "The Book of Commandments", "The Book of Tseng Kuo-fan", "The Book of Discipline and Thrift", "The Book of Yan's Family Tradition", "The Book of Zhu Zi's Family Tradition", so as to convey the idea of thrift and diligence through the culture of the family customs. In the aspect of ruling the country, "the beginning of extravagance is the step of danger and death" is a warning lament. The culture of thrift and frugality is also embedded in the cultures of various ethnic groups, such as the Han Chinese, who say that "success is achieved by thrift and diligence is the key to success", the Buyi, who say that "there is no messy eating and burning of firewood", the Zhuang, who say that "eating and drinking are in front of our eyes, but the flow of water is long and happy", and the Uygur, who say that "the flow of water is long and happy". "The Uyghur saying, "If you spend it, it's all gone; if you save it, it's enough," and so on, all demonstrate the important role played by thrift and frugality in the lives of various ethnic groups. "People without thrift will not stand, families without thrift will not prosper, and the country without thrift will perish." Thrift and frugality may seem trivial, reflecting the personal cultivation, reflecting the back and forth of the people's hearts, fundamentally speaking, is about the rise and fall of the country's fortunes. From ancient times to the present, a rule of ancient wisdom, a proverb, all for us to interpret the spiritual wealth of thrift and frugality, we need to continue to inherit, carry forward the spirit of thrift and frugality, for the new era into the continuous source of strength.

2.2 It is a Spiritual Code Provided to Cope with Various Risks and Challenges

Diligence and thrift is not a past tense, but a proceeding tense. The contemporary value of the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality has an immeasurable effect on the future development of China and even mankind. Since the 45th anniversary of the reform and opening-up, China has realized a great leap

from "catching up with the times" to "leading the times", with unprecedented economic strength, significant enhancement of the comprehensive national power, and the people's life stepping up to a new level, with the people's need for a better life becoming more and more extensive. Today's world of change and chaos intertwined, a century of change to accelerate the evolution of the international order and political system changes to accelerate the instability and uncertainty of the external environment, to protect and conserve resources and security is related to the development of the country's overall situation. At present, our country is still in and will long be in the primary stage of socialism, the basic country has not changed, the per capita resource possession is small situation has not changed. In the field of real life, the phenomenon of food and beverage waste is alarming, energy consumption, production and operation waste is serious, food security, energy security and industrial security and other issues are increasingly prominent, and the economic field is facing many challenges. In addition, uncontrolled human demands on nature and emission of pollutants will cause land degradation, frequent natural disasters, biodiversity reduction and other ecological security issues. In the face of all kinds of emergencies, it also gives us a wake-up call to have thrifty and frugal thinking and crisis awareness. In the face of such problems, we need to recognize the reality that fostering the spirit of thrift and frugality is not only able to maintain the existing achievements, but also to effectively curb all the phenomenon of waste and prevent the resurgence of the forces of corruption, which is a timely response to these risks and challenges.

2.3 It is the Spiritual Guarantee to Stimulate College Students' Sense of Responsibility

"Knowing responsibility is the beginning of a great man; practicing responsibility is the end of a great man" (Liang Qichao anthology, 2020). Young college students are not only important members of the family's prosperity, but also pioneers of the times in the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, they should take the initiative to bear the responsibility and be brave to do their duty. Cultivating the spirit of thrift and frugality can nourish the family virtues and social virtues of young college students, make them rationally recognize their role in society, and stimulate their own responsibility to return to their families and contribute to society. On the one hand, education on the concept of saving can enable young college students to take responsibility for their families. Let the youth in life more rational, less blind, clear the boundaries of bad consumption concepts and healthy consumption concepts. In life, young college students sharpen their courage to take responsibility for the family, reduce unnecessary expenses in life, share the burden of life for the family, and build family happiness with responsibility and commitment. On the other hand, the education of saving concept can enable young college students to take responsibility for the society. The root cause of the crisis highlighted by some consumption chaos in the society is the problem of values. Cultivating the spirit of thrift and frugality can enable them to strengthen the control of their own desires in subconscious consumption, and take the responsibility of protecting the environment by reducing or even avoiding uncontrolled consumption behaviors. They can cherish the fruits of others' labor in the collective society, do not intentionally destroy public property, do not waste public resources, and can put social

morality into vivid practice. Only by becoming young people of the new era with pure hearts and sound morals will they be able to embrace the "greatness of the nation" and enhance the spirit of dedication and courage to take on responsibilities.

3. Scientific Connotation of the Spirit of Diligence, Thrift and Saving

The era is the soil of the spirit, and the spirit is the temperament of the era. The spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality is the spiritual wealth accumulated by the Chinese people in their practical struggle, and it is a powerful spiritual source for walking the new road of catching up. With the continuous development and change of social practice, the connotation of the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality will be constantly enriched and refined. Specifically, there are the following four levels of connotation:

3.1 Being Diligent and Thrifty in the Family and Prospering with Thriftiness

"Be diligent in the state, be frugal in the family" (The Writing Group, 2015). This level is the basic principle of the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality, and establishes the concept of healthy and moderate consumption. Rational consumption is in order to meet the needs of production or life and the reasonable consumption of wealth, in their own economic affordability, neither over the top, nor curb, for social production and reproduction to provide the necessary accumulation, is the necessary conditions for the continuation and development of all societies. Eliminate waste it is aimed at some of the "face project", talk about ostentation and other wasteful boycott, but refused to waste does not mean that not consume, a frugal, mainly moderate consumption, to avoid excessive waste. On the basis of rational consumption, not wasteful, so that resources can be optimized use, to play the maximum benefit. The new era of people's material life has been greatly improved, the pursuit of higher enjoyment of life, rational consumption, promote economic growth at the same time, to avoid unnecessary waste, improve resource utilization, improve their quality of life, to develop a healthy and moderate consumerism, and promote the formation of a harmonious relationship of development between man and man, man and society, man and nature.

3.2 Rational Consumption, Eliminate Waste

This level is to establish a healthy and moderate consumption concept. Rational consumption is in order to meet the needs of production or life and the reasonable consumption of wealth, in their own economic affordability, neither ahead of, nor curb, for social production and reproduction to provide the necessary accumulation, is the necessary conditions for the continuation and development of all societies. On the basis of economic practicality, saving expenses, reasonable consumption, enhance the balance of family financial income and expenditure, the pursuit of a balanced standard of living and material consumption, it is a social responsibility. To be with the rational use of resources, respect and protect the environment, follow the principle of fair and reasonable consumption. And eliminate waste it is some "face project", talk about ostentation and other wasteful resistance, refusing to waste does not mean do not consume, is to avoid unnecessary waste. The new era of people's material life has been greatly improved, the pursuit of higher enjoyment of life, in the development of healthy and moderate

consumption concepts at the same time, improve the quality of life, the realization of the maximum efficiency of the use of resources, and promote the formation of a harmonious relationship of development between man and man, man and society, man and nature.

3.3 Saving Resources, Green and Low-carbon

Simple and moderate, green and low-carbon embodies the characteristics of the new era of a civilized and healthy life style. This concept of life and China's traditional culture of advocating thrift, the unity of mankind's concept of life, is a very contemporary connotation, worth highly advocated in the context of the new era of green and healthy way of life. The essence of a simple and moderate, green and low-carbon lifestyle is to form a harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature with the wisdom of the "Great Taoist Way", and to form a living structure and order of life in line with the construction of a beautiful China. The deeper significance lies in the implementation of the basic national policy of saving resources. Choose durable goods, buy less disposable goods; do not follow the trend of buying fast-changing electronic products; choose low-carbon travel, give priority to walking, cycling or public transportation; turn off the lights when people leave, turn off the power of electrical appliances in a timely manner; use water for multiple purposes, conserve paper, and do not waste by ordering food; use energy-saving products, focus on green environmental protection; and make use of unused items for renovation and utilization or donations, and so on. From this perspective, advocating a simple life, promoting green and low-carbon, and raising the awareness of all people to conserve is also a concrete practice of maintaining national resource security, advancing the construction of ecological civilization, and promoting high-quality development. Advocating the development concept of simplicity and moderation and the value orientation of saving resources, green and low-carbon are a sustainable development concept, and they complement each other. They are both a life philosophy and a life habit, coexisting in the ideological connotation of the spirit of thrift and frugality.

3.4 Cleanliness, Benefiting the Nation and the People

This level is the destination and landing point of the spirit of thrift and frugality. If the wind is clear, the atmosphere is correct, if the atmosphere is correct, the heart is unanimous, and if the heart is unanimous, things will be accomplished. Only a clean and righteous economic environment can maintain a stable and healthy economic and social development; only a clean and righteous social environment can promote the construction of spiritual civilization and improve the degree of civilization of the whole society. At this level, more attention to the spiritual level of enhancement, only a clean and upright society can better benefit the country and the people, the two are mutually reinforcing relationship (Liu & Qu 2022). The spirit of thrift and diligence, as a model of excellent traditional Chinese culture, not only from the initial first to meet the basic requirements of the material level to the formation of moderate, reasonable consumption concepts, to develop a green and healthy lifestyle, but also more emphasis on the spiritual level of saving the simple to remove the complexity of the original source. Practicing this spirit means changing the negative habits of laziness, slackness, and hedonism,

promoting a clean, healthy, and upwardly mobile style, eliminating the dross, and doing what is good for the country and the people. This level is important to mobilize the enthusiasm of all the people, time, focus on the practice of serving the people, in-depth practice, understanding of the people, to participate in the common practice, everyone can become the spirit of inheritance and promotion of the promoters and implementers, subtle purification of the social atmosphere. In a positive, healthy and civilized social atmosphere, everyone enjoys a platform for development and opportunities to realize their own values, so that personal happiness, social progress and national wealth and strength to achieve a win-win situation.

These four aspects are closely linked and interconnected, forming an intrinsically unified whole, promoting the coordinated development of both material civilization and spiritual civilization in the process of upgrading them, and realizing the all-round development of human beings. Its connotation needs to be constantly enriched and developed with practice.

4. Specific Path to Practice the Spirit of Thrift and Economy

The value of the spirit of diligence, thrift and economy is to promote this spirit on the basis of inheriting the traditional Chinese virtues, to create a good social atmosphere, to improve the civilization of the whole society, and to add bricks and mortar to the achievement of the great cause. Practice is the best interpretation of the spirit of thrift and frugality, saving or wasting seems to be only about personal choice of action, which also reflects the degree of civilization of society. To take root in the rich fertile soil of Chinese culture, and to find the path of practice on the socialist modernization.

4.1 Enhance Awareness and Tell the Chinese Story of the Spirit of Thrift and Frugality

With thrift and frugality as their mode of production, state of life and wisdom of existence, Chinese people have created a splendid Chinese civilization for more than 5,000 years, and also produced many rich, interesting and philosophical stories of thrift and frugality. It is necessary to tell good stories of diligence, thrift and frugality in the way of storytelling to raise the level of people's awareness of the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality. In the view of Noddings, "in daily classroom teaching, character educators and caring theorists use stories a lot to guide" (Nell, 2017), using true stories, twisted plots and rich characters to bring students to a specific situation, so that students can feel and think, and resonate with them. From the traditional culture, we should dig out the story of "family customs and family training" and "classic ancient books"; tell the revolutionary story of "red rice and pumpkin soup", "eating bark and digging wild vegetables"; tell the story of "red rice and pumpkin soup"; tell the story of "red rice and pumpkin soup"; tell the story of "eating bark and digging wild vegetables"; tell the story of the revolution. The revolutionary story of "red rice, pumpkin soup", "eating tree bark and digging wild vegetables"; the story of diligence, thrift and frugality of "models of the times"; the story of diligence, thrift and frugality of national leaders. ... With the theme of diligence, thrift and frugality, we will give students comprehensive and deep insights into the ways of behavior, attitudes of life and mental state to give students comprehensive and profound enlightenment.

You can carry out storytelling sessions, speech contests, drama performances, comedies and other forms with the theme of diligence, thrift and frugality to make the story of diligence, thrift and frugality of the Chinese nation deeply rooted in people's hearts. In schools, we should emphasize the combination of inside and outside the classroom and the extension of extracurricular reading, so as to help students truly understand the spirit of the Chinese nation's diligence and thrift and the value of the spirit of diligence and thrift in the new era. In kindergarten and the early grades of elementary school, we should guide students to acquire good habits of thrift and frugality; in the middle and upper grades, which is an important period for the development of students' moral ability, we should guide students to understand the significance of natural resources to the existence and development of human beings, improve their ability to control material desires and enjoyment, and form the moral quality of saving resources and the sense of responsibility for ecological and environmental protection; in the university stage, we should pay attention to green consumption habits and the importance of the spirit of the new era. In the university stage, we should pay attention to the education of green consumption habits and green lifestyle, explain the relationship between green consumption and green life and thrift, and make them understand that thrift is a rational choice of human behavior and an important part of social life.

4.2 Strengthen Supervision and Improve the Institutional Mechanism for Practicing Thrift and Frugality

The promotion of the spirit of diligence, thrift and frugality cannot be separated from the protection of the system, to avoid formalization and going through the motions, to institutionalize the constraints and increase the supervision, as a way to promote the institutionalization of this spirit and normalization. Adhere to the social supervision mechanism and moral mechanism combined supervision system. The state and government have done a good job in the top-level design of institutional arrangements and laws and regulations, integrating the spirit of thrift and frugality into laws and regulations, policies and systems, and social governance, and giving full play to the safeguarding role of the law in maintaining social order, establishing civilized customs, and fostering the relationship between human beings, between human beings and society, and between human beings and nature. China's Constitution in 2021 the implementation of the "Civil Code of the People's Republic of China" provides for civil subjects engaged in civil activities of the code of conduct, that is, "civil subjects engaged in civil activities should be conducive to the conservation of resources, the protection of the ecological environment" (2020). This is the legal expression of thrift and frugality, and the rule of law to a new height of the construction of society. Give full play to the role of the rule of law in solving outstanding problems in the field of morality, and give full play to the value orientation of the positive role of social norms such as citizens' conventions, township rules and regulations, students' codes, industry norms, and group charters in social governance. Increase the legislation and supervision of the Internet, purify the network ecology, optimize the network moral environment. The atmosphere of social public opinion and positive and healthy, all kinds of organizations and media in society should control the ecological pattern of public opinion. Do a good job of positive publicity and guidance, expand the

influence of advanced examples of role models, and create a good atmosphere of thrift and frugality in the whole society. With the socialist core values as the guidance, we should create a good social environment, so that the masses have more opportunities to participate in the development of society, and motivate and guide them to form the spirit of thrift and frugality.

4.3 Based on Innovation, Utilizing the Nurturing Efficacy of Technological Empowerment

Information technology in today's society is changing day by day, and the emergence of big data, cloud computing, Internet of Things, etc. not only influences the way of production and life of human beings, changes the thinking structure and cognitive ability of human beings, but also influences the way of educating people in the school education and the acquisition of curricular resources and other changes. The education of the spirit of thrift and frugality in the new era needs to be vigorously promoted by information technology, instead of just adopting traditional education methods. We can use big data and cloud computing to show the food waste, clothing waste and travel emission data of the whole country or even the whole world, so that students can realize more intuitively from the big data that in order to change the whole ecological environment, it is necessary to start from changing themselves and from everyone's diligence and thrift; the education of diligence, thrift and frugality needs a wider sharing of information, so as to let students know the survival of the world's other materially scarce areas, and understand the survival of living in the modern society. The education of thrift and economy requires more extensive information sharing, so that students can learn about the survival of other material-poor areas in the world and understand that the thrifty and frugal behavior of every individual living in modern society will have a great impact on the whole human society and the earth's environment.

The development of information technology has also made it easier for students to participate in programs such as the "Used Clothes Exchange Platform", "Textbook Recycling", "Online Drifting of Extracurricular Books", "Ecological Footprint Virtual Computing Space", and so on. "Ecological Footprint Virtual Computing Space" and other practical activities, so that the activities themselves will lead to the practice of thrift and frugality, low-carbon environmental protection, and improve the effectiveness of thrift and frugality in social life practice.

4.4 Demonstrate Exemplary, Create a Strong Atmosphere of Learning Models

The power of role models is infinite. Do not think forward, rest on the status quo is the biggest danger. Although the current "CD-ROM action" in the community has become a trend, but the resource crisis and environmental pressure still exists, we have to stop the urgency of wastefulness into the efficient development of thrifty and frugal style, to uphold the ideological style of thrift and frugality, to establish a good image.

We should pay attention to the role of advanced representatives in practicing core values and promoting new social customs. Can be selected around the advanced moral models, the most beautiful people, models of the times, to make outstanding contributions to the various industries model, commendation and publicity, the formation of a group of starry role models model group pattern. Using the influence and proliferation of the media to actively publicize public welfare, voluntary activities, social and

moral models and role models of the times, to create a good atmosphere of social opinion and positive and healthy value orientation. The image of exemplary models can be materialized to show people a three-dimensional, vivid and close social image, so that the spirit of the brain into the heart. Wide use of various forms of publicity to stimulate people's ideological identity, emotional resonance and willingness to emulate. China from penniless to comprehensive well-off, countless revolutionaries of the old generation in the war for the country's death of the sob story, every model of the times and role models in the service of the people's deeds, are in action to highlight the charm of the times of thrift and frugality.

5. Conclusion

"A porridge and a meal, when thinking of the place where they came from is not easy; half a thread and half a wisp, always remember that things are difficult." The maxims of the sages are still of profound revelation. A touching story, a model of the times, are interpreting for us the valuable spiritual wealth of diligence and thrift. It comes from the depths of history, emanating different spiritual connotations in different times, the spirit of diligence, thrift and conservation in the new era should be based on these lovely images of respectable and lovely to stimulate people's deepest emotional resonance, with the practice of resonance with this virtue, to create a diligent and thrifty, to see the wise and virtuous, virtue of the world's social trends. Grain of rice is small, see the civilization cultivation; saving things small, can help Xing Guo An Bang, carry forward the spirit of thrift and frugality need more than 1.4 billion people to act together, from the drop to do, from now on to do, from their own, do not give up the end of the day, day by day, will be able to high-quality civilization for the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation to inject a steady stream of spiritual energy.

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