

Family Council

Family Education Videos on “Love Across Generations” — Build Family with Love, Pass down Virtues

Episode 3: Blessings in the Red Handkerchief

Video’s Transcript

- Dad : Sweetie,
is everything ready for the wedding?
- Elder Sister : Even the wedding dress is ready.
- Baby Sister : She’ll look like a French princess,
absolutely gorgeous.
- Mum : The embroidered hanky has been airing for days...
- Elder Sister : Why keep mentioning that embroidered hanky?
That’s so annoying!
- Mum : ...the mothball smell is gone.
- Baby Sister : Let’s eat. Let’s eat now!
- Elder Sister : Nagging about the hanky day and night,
“heirloom”, “heirloom”... So annoying!
- Baby Sister : I think you’ve gone too far and overreacted.
- Elder Sister : How long have you been here?
- Baby Sister : The whole time.
- Elder Sister : Baby sis, you don’t get it.
Mum insists on me carrying the hanky at the wedding,
but my wedding theme is modern and minimalist,

while the hanky is bright red,
ruining the aesthetics of the entire wedding
and will look ridiculous in photos.

- Baby Sister : Sis, do you know why Mum likes the hanky so much?
- Elder Sister : She got it from Granny. Tradition or something...
- Baby Sister : I remember when we were little,
you always said the hanky was beautiful
and you'd carry it at your future wedding.
- Elder Sister : Did I?
- Baby Sister : You don't remember, but Mum does.
- Elder Sister : Do I look like Mummy?
(Voice over) Mummy is the prettiest of all.
- Baby Sister : Anyway, don't damage it.
I'll use it someday.
- Elder Sister : Mum...
Mum, why the embroidered mandarin ducks on the hanky?
- Mum : Mandarin ducks are always in couples,
and a hanky wipes both sweat and tears.
Together they carry the meaning that
be your married life sweet or bitter,
you two should model on mandarin couples,
supporting each other and facing hardship together.
- Elder Sister : Is carrying this hanky as a bride
a ritual of Granny's hometown?

Mum : The hanky isn't about rituals.
It's about me passing my blessings to you,
giving a mother's most instinctive,
simplest blessings to a daughter.

Elder Sister : Mum, I'm sorry.
I shouldn't have talked to you like that.
I actually like this hanky very much
and I'll surely carry it at my wedding.

Mum : That's my girl!

Elder Sister : Let's try posing with the hanky.
Like this?
How about putting it on your shoulder? How lovely!

Mum : Isn't it? Lovely indeed!
Look at the craftsmanship, beautiful embroidery...

Dr KWOK Ka-yiu,
Daniel : In family communication we sometimes need a "translator".
When we and our parents are at odds,
other family members or friends
are often able to offer us a new perspective,
enabling us to see how we're blinded by emotions.
Yet, it's more important for us
to be willing to listen to them.
Family conversations are often less polished,
sounding somehow blunt,
or even annoying at times.
But as long as we're willing to ask further,
listen more attentively,
and learn to read between the blunt words,
we'll find that
the intentions are always full of purest love and blessings.
Learning to listen is the first step to harmonise family ties.