

## **Officials' Parent-Mourning System in the Tang Dynasty-Focus on the Statute of Official Post Removal Due to Parent Death in the Leave Statutes**

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### **Abstract**

The *Statute of Official Post Removal Due to Parent Death* included in Leave Statutes was regulated to solve the issues of giving funeral leaves including official post removal, and an inner-heart mourning system that bears great grief in the heart but does not wear mourning clothes. Official post removal and the foresaid mourning system were not necessarily processed simultaneously. A variety of funeral rules were strictly followed during the official post removal period. Although the mourning system did not require wearing mourning clothes while having great grief, there were still some prohibitions in daily life and official affairs. The *Statute of Official Post Removal Due to Parent Death* applied in the Tang Dynasty was the one continually tried, adjusted and evolved from Wei, Jin, North and South Dynasties. Many details of the Statute had been revised several times during the Tang Regime, with the case of the death of Xiao Si-Ye's stepmother in 662 A.D. giving the most impact. Some regulations in the Statutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Kaiyuan Period had been modified from the Statutes of Yong Hui and the Statutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Year of Kaiyuan Period. For example, according to the three-year mourning period for the death of a parent, only official posts were removed, but the inner-heart mourning system was not required. Officials' post removal was only applied for the death of the biological mother, who may have been divorced by the father or have remarried. However, for the death of the non-biological mother, both

official post removal and the inner-heart mourning system were not required. The Tang regime authorized their officials 30 days of funeral leave to tend to parents' funeral. With regards to Tang Codes specifically regulated for hiding or cheating of the parent funeral, it seems that the *Statute of Official Post Removal Due to Parent Death* was thoroughly enforced in the Tang Dynasty.

Keywords: Tang Dynasty, Tiansheng Statutes, Leave Statutes, official post removal, inner-heart mourning system, funeral leave