

Lectures 07-08
The Aesthetics of Social Relationships
(Courting among Courtiers & The Awareness of Things)

0. Intro

- How to succeed in Heian court society among the “good people”
- Female-male relations

1. Decline in prestige of official (Chinese) education

- a. Fewer envoys to continent
- b. Family inheritance vs. merit
- c. Seen as irrelevant by some aristocrats

2. Rise in the rule of taste (vs rule of law)

- a. The fine art of discernment (*sadame*)
- b. Beauty as basis for social behavior & social/moral virtue (image is everything)
 - *mono no aware* as aesthetic ideal
- c. Things ruled by taste and beauty

3. The aesthetics of sex and love

- a. The scope of male-female relations (promiscuity and restraint)
- b. Tasteful courtship
- c. The form and content of physical sex