Clan System and Dual Organization of the Final Jomon Period in Mikawa Region, Central Japan

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During the Final Jomon period and the Early Yayoi period, distinctive customs spread through the Mikawa region, including two different patterns of tooth ablation (type 4I and type 2C), waist ornaments worn by some males, tooth-filing in some males and females, and re-burial tombs in which the bones of multiple individuals were collected. Among those buried in the tombs at the Yoshigo and Ikawazu sites, which are representative of eastern Mikawa, an area consisting of Atsumi Peninsula and the Toyokawa River Basin, many of the remains with type L waist ornaments had a type 4I tooth ablation pattern, and many of the remains with type Y and V waist ornaments had a type 2C tooth ablation pattern. At both sites, the tooth ablation pattern of most remains with filed teeth was type 4I. The relationship between the type J waist ornament, found with many of the remains at the Hobi site, and the tooth ablation type remains unclear. Multiple burials are observed within groups of type 4I individuals and type 2C individuals, but not between groups of type 4I individuals and type 2C individuals. At the Yoshigo, Ikawazu and Hobi sites, multiple burials are prominent among type 2C individuals, and in some cases type 2C individuals buried together possibly had an interfamilial relationship.

From all of these evidences, the following can be deduced. Type 4I is a group including clan L (tentative name), type 2C is a group including clan Y and clan V (tentative names), and the type L, Y, V and J waist ornaments were regalia worn by the respective heads of each clan. There is a rank distinction between the type 4I and type 2C groups, and it is assumed that clan L, from which many individuals with waist ornaments have been found, ranked highest among the Yoshigo group, and among various clans in eastern Mikawa. In other words, eastern Mikawa was a tribal society consisting of two groups and four or more clans in which the Yoshigo group, and particularly clan L, played the central role for tribal unity. The ratio of type 4I groups and type 2C groups is almost 1:1; however, although the proportion of males and females within each group is almost 1:1 at the Yoshigo and Ikawazu sites, there were more females among the type 4I group and more males among the type 2C group at the Hobi site. If this is considered to be result of some sort of restriction on belonging to these two groups, the existence of a dual organization in eastern Mikawa can be proposed, with each group being regarded as a moiety.

Keywords: waist ornaments, tooth filing, clan, final Jomon period, dual organization, tooth ablation type, Yoshigo, Ikawazu, Hobi, Mikawa