

Part I

Disaster Chain

Contemporary society has viewed growth and prosperity alone as positives. Conversely, grieving and complaint have been seen as ‘weakness’ and ‘loneliness’. The modern logic of economic growth has dismissed them as shameful and cast aside emotions essential to human nature. Actual human life is a mixture of contrasting emotions. It is by experiencing extremes of despair and passing through the depths of sorrow and suffering that humans reach the peaks of joy, and it is through the coming together of the opposites of joy and sadness that a profound humanity is gradually created. But in the materially oriented contemporary society where ‘emotion’ is a negative, true empathy and relationships of trust between humans are breaking down. In the market economy, the source of the problem can be traced to a social setup which fails to understand human emotionality. It is also reflected in the treatment of the individual which underlies contemporary society. This again raises the question of the conditions for human happiness, which can be seen to stand in opposition to human cooperation centered on organizations.