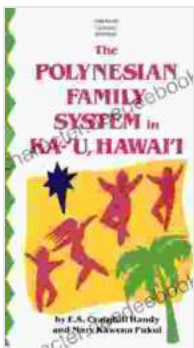


Delving into the Intricate Polynesian Family System in Ka Hawaii

The Polynesian family system, deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of Ka Hawaii, is a complex and multifaceted tapestry of familial bonds and societal structures. This intricate system forms the foundation of Hawaiian society, shaping the lives of its people from birth to adulthood and beyond.

The Aupuni: The Extended Family Unit

At the heart of the Polynesian family system lies the *aupuni*, an extended family unit that encompasses not only immediate relatives but also distant kin, friends, and community members. The *aupuni* provides a sense of belonging and identity, ensuring that individuals are never left alone or without support.



Polynesian Family System in Ka-U Hawaii

by Mary Kawena Pukui

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

File size : 944 KB

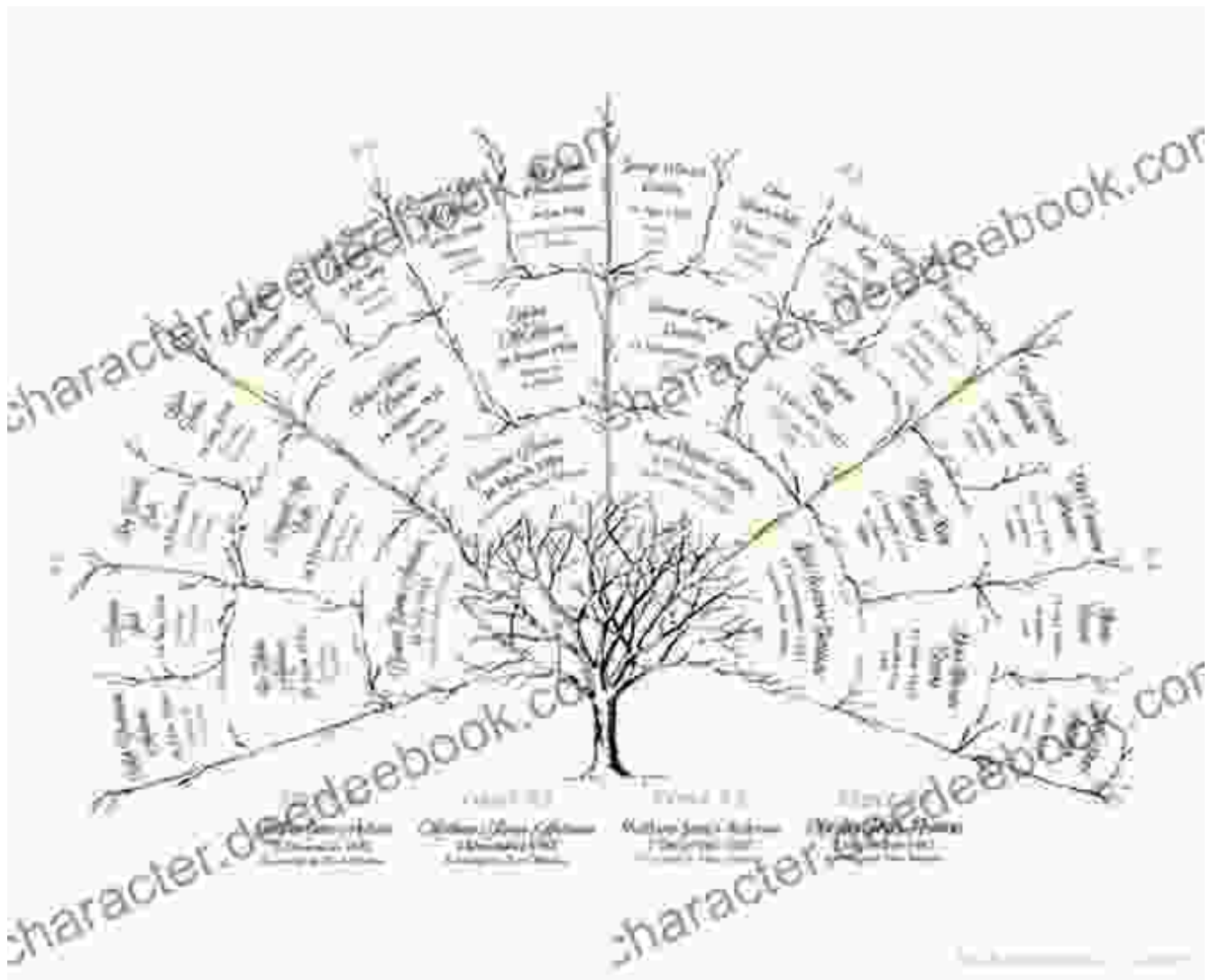
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Roles and Responsibilities within the Aupuni

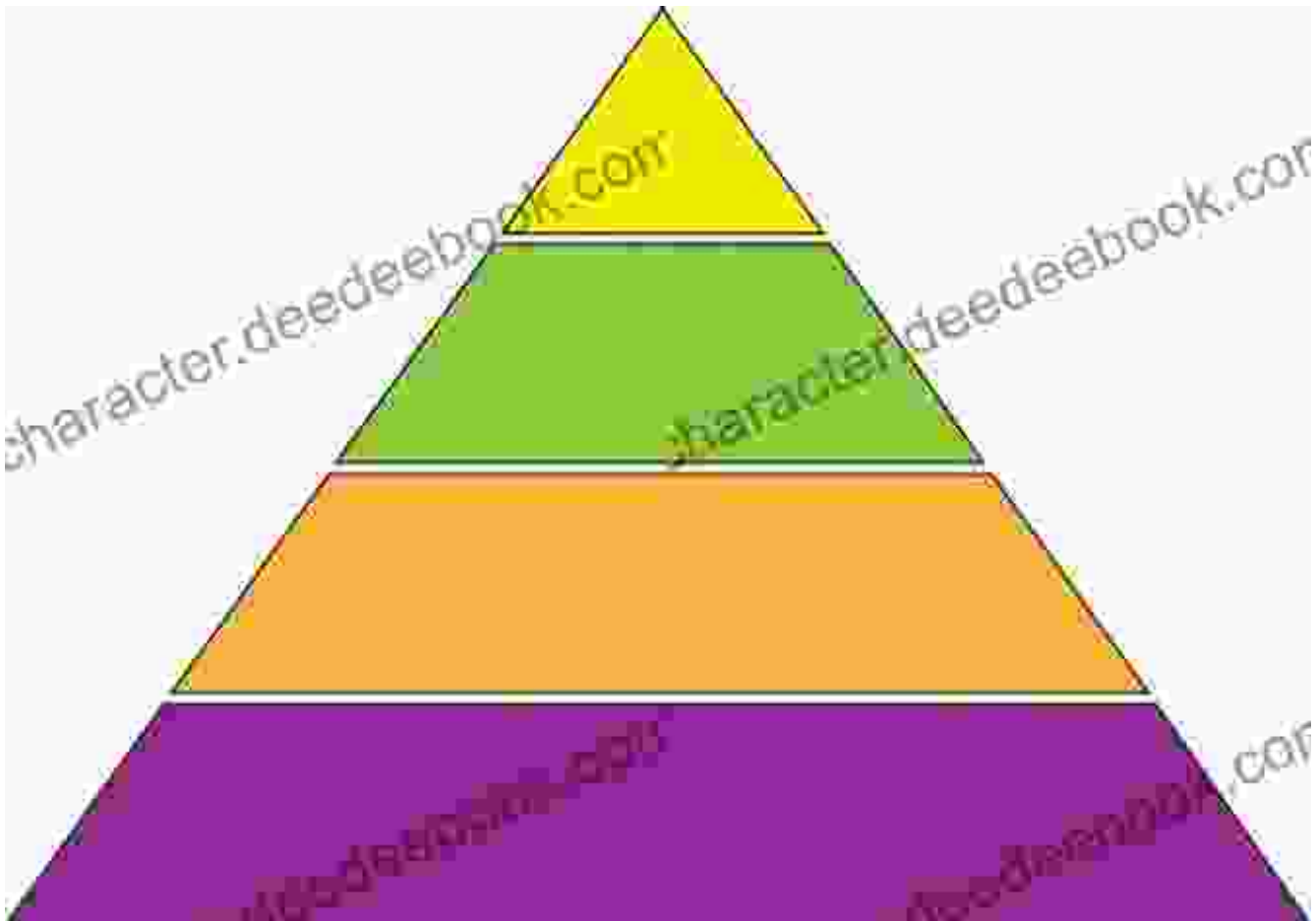
Within the *aupuni*, each member has a specific role and responsibility. Parents are the leaders of the household, responsible for providing for their children's physical and emotional well-being. Children, in turn, are expected to honor and respect their parents and contribute to the household as they grow older.

Grandparents hold a revered position within the *aupuni*. They are the repositories of family history, knowledge, and wisdom, passing down

traditions and values to younger generations. Aunts, uncles, and cousins play vital roles as extended caretakers and mentors, offering support and guidance to their nieces, nephews, and younger cousins.

Hierarchy and Respect: The Foundation of Relationships

Polynesian society is deeply hierarchical, with respect being paramount. Children are taught to defer to their parents and elders, who are believed to have earned wisdom and authority through experience. This hierarchy extends beyond the immediate family to the entire *aupuni* and community.



Non-Verbal Communication and Respect

Polynesians place great emphasis on non-verbal communication. Gestures, facial expressions, and posture convey messages that often go

unspoken. Respect is shown through actions such as bowing, sitting with feet behind oneself, and avoiding direct eye contact with elders.

The Role of Women in the Polynesian Family

In contrast to many other traditional societies, women in Polynesian culture have held positions of great power and influence. They played essential roles in family decision-making, land management, and religious ceremonies. In some cases, female chiefs held the highest positions in society.



The Importance of Whakapapa: Genealogy and Ancestral Connections

Polynesians attach great importance to *whakapapa*, their genealogy and ancestral connections. Each person's *whakapapa* connects them to their ancestors, the land, and the entire Polynesian world. Knowing and

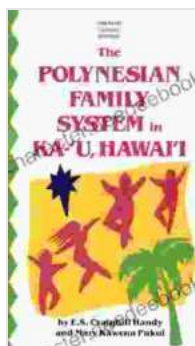
honoring one's *whakapapa* is essential for understanding one's identity and place in society.

Family Ties in the Modern World: Adapting to Changing Times

While the Polynesian family system has undergone some changes in the modern world, its core values and principles continue to guide Hawaiian society. Despite the challenges of migration, modernization, and global influences, the *aupuni* remains a crucial support structure for individuals and families.

Contemporary Hawaiian families are adapting to changing circumstances while preserving traditional values. Extended families still play a vital role, even if they may be dispersed geographically. Technology has become a means of strengthening familial bonds and maintaining connections across vast distances.

The Polynesian family system in Ka Hawaii is a vibrant and enduring tradition that has shaped Hawaiian society for centuries. Its focus on extended family, hierarchy, respect, and the power of *whakapapa* continues to provide a strong foundation for Hawaiian people today. As the world continues to evolve, the Polynesian family system will undoubtedly continue to adapt while preserving its core values and principles.



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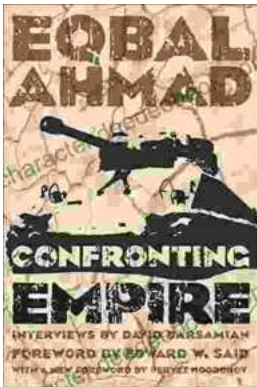
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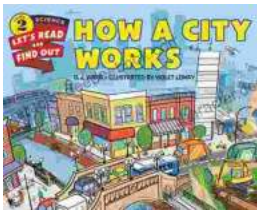
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