

What's New?

Niihama City

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THE ORIENTAL SMILE

By
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It was on April 2nd 2009 I started my journey to Japan from India. I was very excited, for me the time was flying (technically I was also flying); very soon I landed at Narita air port. It does not took much time for me to realize that my world has completely altered, people, their language everything around me was changed. I didn't know what to do, may be I was not mentally prepared for these many changes or may be I underestimated the things.

My scrape started as soon as I landed, I thought of buying some things to eat but actually didn't know which is better, and having no idea of taste and language it was difficult. I want to make call but again it was not as easy as the language was the main barrier.

Only thing I can do is enjoying the scenery without knowing the names of place and flowers. For the first time I saw Sakura. It was really beautiful and serene. Very soon my all excitement die down, I started grumbling and complaining on small things. I become very negative about every thing. Life was really hard and I was not at all enjoying rather I feel disgusted.

With all the negative and grumbled thoughts in mind I was sitting and thinking about my past life in India. Abruptly I feel that my father's words were echoing in my ears, he always says "*no situation is a bad situation, even a*

stop clock gives correct time twice a day, and we are better than a stop clock". I realized that unknowingly I was becoming a pessimist in my attitude. I then decided to be more optimists and to fight back. Though it was not very easy, but I tried.

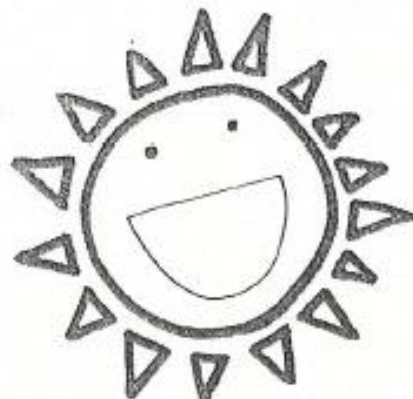
Very soon I observed the oriental smile of Japanese people. This name was suggested to me by one of my friend Mr. Shuzo Inagaki with whom I discussed the same. Oriental smile is actually a simple smile that people pass on to each other when they meet someone. It's very similar to what we do in India. Amazingly no one has ever taught these things, it just comes from within, or may be it comes from our culture.

It's so good to see that in Japan even if they don't know the person, or they meet for the first time they will greet with a smile. In India also we do the same but I never pay any attention on this, but here in Japan it was really helpful for my depressed life. For me a stranger this oriental smile actually gives me encouragement, relief and mental support. It reboots me and gives me strength to talk and to express myself. I wish and pray that people may never leave this beautiful culture and all the small essences of it. They may never forsake this oriental smile. Unknowingly they gave me a ray of hope, a ray of smile

Truly as the drowning man catches at straw I catch the oriental smile. Now I am staying and enjoying my life even more. Thanks to the oriental smile.

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Hello friends, I am Elvis Anup Shukla, 26 yrs an Indian boy. I came to Japan for my doctor research and will stay here for next 3 years. I am a student of Ehime University (noogakubu). I like adventure (hiking), cricket, chess, and dancing. I like to live my life to full.



"Love All Others"

Dalai Lama Appeals to Matsuyama Audience.
(from The Ehime Shimbun Nov. 4 issue)

The XIVth Dalai Lama, the supreme leader of Tibetan Buddhism, who visited Ehime Prefecture following an invitation by the Shikoku District Buddhism Association, gave a lecture on November 3rd, at the prefecture's Martial Arts Budo Hall, in Ichitubo-nishi-machi, Matsuyama.

He called out to the about 5,500 people in the audience saying, "Each of you should, first of all, be aware that you cannot live all alone as a member of society, while living in the 21st century and so you should have love for all others."

The title of the Dalai Lama's lecture was "The Way to Make You Life Happy" and he explained, "There are two kinds of happiness - material and spiritual and spiritual happiness is more important than material happiness." "The materially affluent nations of Europe, the U.S., and Japan are today seeing an increasing number of young people suffering from spiritual anguish. So the prevailing thought that the realization of material prosperity could relieve pains in human heart is nothing short of wrong," he emphasized. Referring to trends in modern society, he also pointed out, "What today's society is lacking most, is thoughtfulness for others or altruistic considerations." He appealed to the audience that, instead of viewing things from a narrow perspective centered on themselves, they needed to have a comprehensive view and a sense of universal responsibility and that they could create peace of mind only when they were filled with love and consideration for others.

At the press conference held in Matsuyama prior to his lecture, the Dalai Lama stressed to the reporters that too much emphasis on religious and racial differences tends to lead only to conflicts and wars and that this could only be avoided by having deep mutual love for others as human beings.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

November 14 ~	A CHRISTMAS CAROL	English
November 20 ~	INGLORIOUS BASTERDS	English
November 21 ~	2012	English
November 28 ~	SAW 6	English
December 5 ~	UP	English/Dubbed
December 12 ~	PUBLIC ENEMIES	English
December 23 ~	AVATAR	English/Dubbed

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama has started new services. Advance tickets are available online from two days to two hours before the movie starts. Also, they have introduced a "Cinema Point System". If you become a member of Cinema, you will get privileges such as ticket discounts or complimentary tickets. Every Thursday "Moms' Club Theater" will be held for people with babies or kids, where the light is kept less dark and sound is lower than usual, so that they can enjoy movies without worrying about the trouble kids may cause.

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



Contributed by Adam Schartup

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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The editors for this month are T. Masuda & K. Kawabata

ONE POINT JAPANESE

(よかったら~)

A: 今年も もうすぐ 終わりますね。Kotoshimo mosugu owarimasu ne.
(This year will end soon.)

B: ええ。Ee. (Yes.)
あっと いう 間に 一年が 過ぎてしまいました。
Atto iu ma ni ichinen ga sugite shimaimashita.
(This year has passed in no time.)

A: 土曜日に、家で 忘年会を するんですが、よかったら 来ませんか。
Doyobi ni uchi de bonenkai o surun desu ga, yokattara kimasen ka.
(On Saturday, we'll have a bonenkai, a forget-the-year party, at my house. Won't you come, if it's alright?)

B: ええ、ぜひ。Ee, zehi. (Yes, with pleasure.)
何か 持って いきましょうか。
Nanika motte ikimashō ka. (Shall I bring something?)

A: じゃ、果物をお願いします。Ja, kudamono o onegaishimasu.
(Well, I'd appreciate it if you brought some fruit.)

A: 冬休みは 国へ 帰るんですか。
Fuyu yasumi wa kuni e kaerundesuka.
(Are you going back to your country during the winter vacation?)

B: ええ。Ee. (Yeah.)
クリスマスは やっぱり、国で 過ごしたいので。
Kurisumasu wa yappari, kuni de sugoshitai node.
(Because, after all, I do want to spend Christmas at home.)

C: わたしは 日本で お正月を 迎えよう と思っています。
Watashi wa nihon de oshogatsu o mukaeyo to omotteimasu.
(I'm planning to celebrate the New Year in Japan.)

A: じゃ、よかったら、家へ 泊まりに 来ませんか。
Ja, yokattara, uchi e tomari ni kimasen ka.
(Then, if you don't mind, why don't you come and stay at my house?)

C: えーっ、いいんですか。
Eeh, iin desu ka. (Wow! Is that OK?)

A: もちろん ですよ。Mochiron desu yo. (Sure.)
一緒に 初詣に 行きましょう。Issho ni hatsumode ni ikimashō.
(Let's go to a Shinto shrine together on New Year's Day.)

A: あー、雨が 降ってる。Aaa, ame ga futteru.
(Ah, it's raining.)

B: よかったら、駅まで お送りしますよ。
Yokattara, eki made o-okurishimasu yo.
(I'll drive you to the station, if you need.)

A: すみません。助かります。Sumimasen. Tasukarimasu.
(Thanks. That would be a great help.)

・よい お年を...Have a good year!

・あけまして おめでとうございます...Happy New Year!

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : 080-3920-0529 (Takako Hattori).

e-mail : pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp

DECEMBER EVENTS

Winter Festival by Junior Chamber - HAMAHAMA SAI

Dec. 20th 10:00~ at Marine Park Niihama

Fishing, flea market, fireworks and more.

Concert by the Niihama Citizens' Brass Band and the Niihama East High School band is also held.

Sunday Flea Market at the Niihama Central Park

Dec. 20th 7:30-12:00

It will be called off when it rains.

Christmas Illumination

*Niihama Central Park

17:00-22:00 from Dec. 1st to Jan. 15th

*Mine Topia Besshi

17:00-23:00 from early December to Jan. 10th

*Aeon Mall Niihama

17:00-22:00 to March

*Dream Tree at Kin'ei Elementary School

17:30-22:00 from Dec. 20th to Jan. 5th

*Rihga Royal Hotel Niihama

from sunset to sunrise until March

