

「Association with foreigners」

In 1965, I got acquainted with an American's family in Yokohama through my club activities of English Studying Society in my university. During English conversation with them, we came to a topic on the famous novelist, John Steinbeck. I said, "I only know the title of one of his best works, Angry Grapes." They burst into laughter. I was taught that it is "The Grapes of Wrath." Around 1977, I stayed with them in America for a month. During my stay there, they accompanied me to Disneyland in Los Angeles. I enjoyed myself there very much.

A few years before 1995, I got acquainted with an American psychiatrist living in U.S. by way of NIFTY SERVE, a former name of @nifty. We both were absorbed in computer games so deeply that we frequently contended online against each other between U.S. and Japan. The games were Command&Conquer, Starcraft, and Diablo. But, yesterday's enemies could be today's friends, indeed. In due course, we agreed to work out a plan to cope with the strong common enemy of Computer named Diablo. The head quart of the strategy meeting was set up at his house in 1996. I visited then and stayed with his family in U.S. for about a week. At his home, we fought a good fight against Diablo in a good collaboration. While I was fighting with my sword face to face with Diablo, my war buddy aimed his bow at the enemy from behind a door a little far away. The strategy was excellent we firmly believed but in vain. We were completely defeated in quite a short time. The enemy was extremely strong. We did not want to talk over the game of Diablo any more, murmuring "it is not so interesting a game." And we began to further enjoy Ultima Online as a next game. His family visited us in Tokushima in 2002, and I visited them again in U.S. in 2007. Cheers for our friendship! (^-^)

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「Stay in Hannover」

The following is based on my vague memory and poor English. I stayed in Hannover in West Germany from September through October in 1973, and afterwards travelled a month in Belgium, England, and France. I enjoyed living in Hannover very much and I remember meeting with a German guy (probably a student) and (I suppose now) his girlfriend at night in a pub(?). The girl's name was Sabine and I explained how I translate the pronunciation of Sabine into Kanji characters. 'Za' means 'sitzen', namely 'sit' in Japanese, and likewise, 'bi' is 'shoen', namely 'beautiful', and 'ne' means 'schlafen', namely 'sleep.' So, Sabine can be written in Japanese Kanji characters as 'Sitting-sleeping beauty!' They seemed very pleased with my explanation. Her (probable) boyfriend showed me a piece of magic using a 5 Mark coin. I was greatly interested in it and lastly, he disclosed the secret of the magic. Thereafter I visited England by way of the Straits of Dover and arrived at Victoria Station. After a few minutes turning around the station, I got to the same place I got out of. There was seemingly a TV announcer there making speech in front of a TV camera(?). He may have been reporting a bomb-explosion affair occurred just now in the station. I conjecture now the affair may have been caused by IRA, although I do not know the details of the conflict in those days even now. During my short stay at an inn for foreign students in England, I once took a bath or used shower there. Then I spent as much water for a long time as I do in Japan. When I got out of the bathroom, I was severely scolded by the (seeming) owner of the inn. I think I have made so many mistakes thus far because of my ignorance of cultural differences. So, I have to learn cultural differences much more, and that I take interest in very much.

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