

SURFERS and CHIGASAKI BEACH

Those who visit the south side of Chigasaki for the first time will be surprised to see people half-naked or in wet suits carrying a surfboard on a bicycle. Surfers are now characterizing Chigasaki just like Eboshi-iwa does.

Life on this beach side is comfortable. Going surfing before going to work, and having barbeques with my surfer friends on weekends are now an important part of my life. An elder surfer once advised me that too much surfing makes you an idiot, but I wonder why because I see him every time I go surfing. Maybe he has also been surfing too much.

The good thing about surfing is that you can have a 'so-what' attitude towards everything, of course in a good sense. For example, people sometimes choose to end their lives when they lose a job. We surfers would think, "Now I can go surfing everyday". Actually, there is a surf spot called "Risutora"(restructuring). In this spot, there are many surfers even on weekdays, so the rumor says, surfers who lost a job go there.

There are much more important things in your life but not so many.

Ken Yoshida

Japanese Proverbs with the English Equivalents

で 出る 釘は 打たれる Don't make waves.

(Deru kugi wa utareru.)

●The protruding nail will be hammered.

みつご たましひ ひやく
・三つ子の魂 百まで The child is the father
of the man.

(Mitsugo no tamashii hyaku made)

●The spirit of a three year-old lasts a hundred years.

たまご ちかい くだ
・卵 と 誓 は 砕けやすい Actions speak louder
than words.

(Tamago to chikai wa kudake-yasui)

●Eggs and vows are easily broken.

IAC Mission Statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as "earth citizens", respect and live together beyond the borders of nationality.

Life is A Journey.....

I'm a student going to university in Chigasaki and studying cultural interaction of foreign countries. During the summer vacation, I went to Sydney, Australia. This was my second trip as I had stayed three months in Sydney before.

This time, I stayed at a hotel in the city called Budget Hotel where mostly backpackers stay and my room was a four-bed room. I stayed six nights there, and naturally, I had three roommates to share the room with even though they were not always the same people. Even though my purpose was sightseeing, I could have interesting conversation with them. One of them was an Australian and a few others with whom I communicated well were from New Zealand, Korea and Sweden.

First, my conversation with a young man called Philip sparks my memory. He is an Australian but he had been living in Saitama for one year before to study Japanese. He returned to his home country later but again he went to Osaka and stayed five months trying to get a job. Actually he wanted to be a hotel clerk, but because the hotel he approached was looking for a perfect Japanese speaker, he couldn't get the job. His inadequate Japanese skill was supposed to be the reason of his unemployment. Nevertheless, he looked like he had good speaking skills to me because our conversation was only in Japanese and surprisingly he had read a book by Murakami Haruki, a world-known Japanese novelist. He said "Japanese girls are soft and gentle, and I like that!" I think it was fortunate for me to have had a chance to talk to each other like this.

Secondly, I had a funny conversation with another young man from New Zealand. His name was Mathew. He was kind enough to ask me about a proverb, "Do you know Romu?" I said "Romu? I don't know what it is." Then he said Romu is the name of a country, so I asked "Europe?" "Yeah, if you go to Romu you do like Romu people do."

??? I couldn't understand. ??? He again said, "Um... if you come to Australia, you do like Australians do. If I go to Japan I will do like Japanese do. OK?" "Oh, it's a pro...proverb?" "Yes, that's it!"

In this way, I very much enjoyed talking with two of them closely, but other people were also kind to me. They all were cheerful and friendly!

My conclusion here is that I'm hoping Japanese people will become more kind to others, especially to those from overseas, just as these new friends were.

My trip was so meaningful, and I thought my life is like journey.

Daiki Kuroiwa

Confucious says

"If one acts with one's own profit, there will be much resentment"

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