



Hidemi's Rambling No.91

The New Year's celebration was officially over. I took down the decorations today. Then I finished watching all episodes of 'The O.C. Season 2', thus, I reached the goal of my OC marathon today. And I heard the news that my most favorite supermarket would be withdrawn from Japan. It's called Carrefour and from France. I really loved shopping there with their French taste goods and foods in a spacious place. After writing this, I'm going to another store which is closing for good tomorrow for my last shopping there. This is one of those days that everything strangely clicks at the same time. As for New Year's, people had already stopped celebrating long before and I was probably the last one still in a New Year's mood...

Hidemi's Rambling No.92

As I wrote yesterday, I went shopping for a closing sale of a store, which was going out of business after over 30 years. The store usually has sparse customers but its closing sale changed it completely. The floor was filled with people who waited in a long line at the checkout with a basketful of clothing. I had never seen so many shoppers in that store. I bought knitted caps at \$3 each marked down from \$20 and scarfs at \$2 from \$20. And I noticed there were only few younger people in the store. They were all elderly people around me. A large number of aged people were shopping around so vigorously. I don't see such lively old people so often. Was the store aimed for elderly people? If so, my taste for clothing is similar to them...

Hidemi's Rambling No.93

I visited a local temple for what was called 'hatsumode'. It means to visit a temple or a shrine to pray for good luck after the new year comes, and is a major event of New Year's in Japan. People do it during the first three days of New Year's. Famous shrines and temples are packed with thousands of visitors. I hate a crowded place and being bound with a fixed schedule, so I go to a nearby temple at anytime in January. Before praying, you should put money in a wooden box set in front of a building. While they put a 10-yen coin, a 100-yen coin or a bill in some cases, I always put a one-yen coin and take some time to pray. Maybe I take a longer time than anyone else, praying and bowing repeatedly. Too many wishes for one yen...

Hidemi's Rambling No.94

'The O.C. Season 3' started streaming online for free. The season finale of its last season was shocking and I really wanted to know how the story would develop. Ryan goes to jail? Or Melissa does? I made a lot of possible stories as my prediction. I even had a dream about it, in which I joined in a story as myself and talked to Seth. In any case of my predictions, I thought the last episode had changed the series completely and the season 3 would never be the same. I spent three days fretting about the new season and felt sorry for those who watched it when it was first aired, because for them, it was three months. It seemed impossible for me to wait any longer and I jumped on my PC to watch the season opener. On the contrary, the matter was easily settled within a first episode. I want my three days back...

Hidemi's Rambling No.95

Eight years ago today, I moved into this apartment. There are things that I like about it such as the utilities-included rent, the unique design, and the view. It has the flip side though. Every time the wind blows, TV is down. The roof is so thin that raindrops sound like the percussion. The walls are also thin and even subtle sounds I make trigger the neighbor's banging. Those things keep me looking for a better place constantly. Each and every place has a flaw. Too dense, too rural. At least one side of the place borders the next-door neighbor. It seems that an ideal place for me to live in doesn't exist. Well, to begin with, is there such thing as an ideal place to live in on this planet...?

Hidemi's Rambling No.96

I bought groceries at an online supermarket yesterday. I like online shopping in general, and grocery shopping above all. Here, you spend \$40 more and the shipping is free. My policy is to get an item at its lowest price among both physical and virtual stores, and looking around them and accumulating to \$40 is like playing a game. Also, they throw in a freebie occasionally such as a magnet, a notepad, or a can of cocktail which I got for free yesterday. Hurray for technology! My shopping is done online more and more and the necessity of going out has become less. Combined with the cold of the winter, I have stayed indoors for days now. And today, I gained one pound...

Hidemi's Rambling No.97

Last night, I had a nightmare. In it, I got up and found myself alone. I was a child still living living with my family in my hometown. My parents and my little sister came back from McDonald's. They had breakfast there without me. I grabbed my mother's arms and said, 'Listen to me! Listen to me very carefully!! You must treat your kids equally! Whatever you do to my little sister, you should do the same to me! You can't keep doing nice things only to her! Besides, how could you bring home nothing for me? It's McDonald's where you can get take-out!!' But, no matter how hard I tried, my voice didn't come out. I repeated those words very hard again and again but only my mouth was moving. In the end, I shouted at the top of my throat, and awoke from the dream. I'm still exhausted. I dream a lot every night. And this one is one of the repeated dreams. Although the details are different, I am ignored by my parents and left alone each time. I'm fed up with this kind of dream but I know I will soon have it again. When am I released from this...?

Hidemi's Rambling No.98

I edited TV shows and burned them on DVDs yesterday. As I've written here before, I like recording shows more than actually watching them. The most fun part for me is editing. It's so bracing to remove impurities and store the pick of the shows to my taste by deleting commercials and unimportant scenes. Almost all of my collection is from US TV dramas, sitcoms, and Japanese variety shows. My DVDs contain the shows or the scenes strictly selected by me and considered worth saving. The volume is growing, but the content is mostly the scenes of a Japanese comedian who trips or falls over something, and the ones of a mascot, a space shuttle, and a Japanese bullet train...

Hidemi's Rambling No.99

I worked on the chorus tracks of our new song today. It takes much more time and work than I planned. Adjusting the volume balances and setting the effectors, I needed to work so elaborately with my PC. When I was completely absorbed in numbers of the parameters, an error message appeared out of the blue and the PC shut down by itself. I screamed. I didn't understand what had just happened. I thought the PC crashed and all the data of the new song were gone. My heart was pounding with fear and the next moment, the PC rebooted. Thankfully, everything was intact except for today's work. It's nothing compared to the dread of losing everything. I entered the numbers again and restored today's work. What a scare! A computer is a scary thing, really...

Hidemi's Rambling No.100

My grandfather used to say that he would live until 100 years old. When I was a child and lived with him, I hated him. He was a dictator of my family. My grandmother, my parents, my younger sister and I lived with him cowering and flattering him because we were afraid of him. He wielded absolute power over us and nobody could oppose him. We needed his permission for anything. For instance, when I wanted a puppy, my petition was rejected because he said, 'This is my house.' As a child, I thought his existence immensely violated my freedom and was hoping that he would not live so long. He liked going out and sometimes took me to a department store. It had never been a pleasant outing. He was stingy. He would go to a department store just for browsing without buying anything, wearing a ragged jacket and worn-out shoes. For lunch, he would order the lowest price dish and share it with me. And he would tell me to fill my stomach with tea because tea was free there. He couldn't make it to 100 and passed away at the age of 96. My family agrees that I'm the one who have the character just like him...