



Hidemi's Rambling No.111

I still linger on the dream I had, in which a monk told me that I had only 25 years more to live. I've given thought to life and death. I have plans for my future and a fairly good deal of hope, I guess. Suppose I work hard and achieve something, but the remaining time to enjoy it is so short. What's the difference between now and then? Maybe life has nothing to do with achievement. Without realizing, I get influenced in a good way from someone, and I could influence someone as well. If I can encourage someone depressed through my music or whatever I do as I was encouraged, that's more wonderful than superficial success. I think that's life is all about. And above all, I'm not alone...

Hidemi's Rambling No.112

A marvelous thing happened to me yesterday. After posting a blog, I watched 'Heroes Season 3'. At first, I was going to go shopping but the weather was awful. So I stayed home and watched 'Heroes' coincidentally. It was aired 10 days ago and recorded, which means I could have watched it any day. In one scene, Peter's brother spoke exactly the same thing that I had put on my blog just three hours before. I had never seen the episode in my life and what I wrote was no quotation. But to my complete amazement, he even used exact words I wrote. I was totally astonished. As I have always suspected, the whole universe is connected and affects each other. To me, it's a solid fact now. I've got the proof via my blog and a TV show...

Hidemi's Rambling No.113

In Japan, Valentine's Day is the day for a woman to confide to have feelings for a man by giving a gift of chocolate. In a male-dominant country like Japan, it used to be the only day that a woman is allowed to do it. Things are changing fast and women confide their feelings to men any day now. Maybe this loathsome male-dominant society has been collapsing gradually. But apart from a man they love, women give chocolate to their male colleagues and bosses out of obligation. So, the male domination still prevails after all. I'm thankful that I've never worked in an office...

Hidemi's Rambling No.114

I watched the movie, 'Flags of Our Fathers'. It reminded me of my late grandfather on my mother's side. He fought battles in World War II not in Iwojima but in China. He was taken to Russia as a POW and was kept captive in the freezing Siberia prisoner's camp. It was four years after the war when he was released and returned home. He had been away for eight years in total. After he came back, he became a locally prominent man, being a mayor and working as a member of a board of education. People looked up to him. I've been treated with favor on several occasions as his granddaughter. In his later years though, he suffered from Alzheimer's and he would shout 'There came Russian soldiers!' during the night or even at a restaurant...

Hideki's Rambling No.115

My grandfather on my mother's side was a quiet, generous and kind person. Because I lived with my grandfather on my father's side, whose character was completely opposite to him, I liked him all the more. One day, when I was little, I was left in the backseat of the car with him while my parents were out for an errand. He suggested playing 'rock-paper-scissors'. He took his notebook out of his pocket, and started drawing a score table. He had an honorable position in the local society, and there were many important notes and appointments in his notebook. But he was drawing the table for his granddaughter next to them without any hesitation. And the rock-paper-scissors match of my grandfather vs. me began. It had a lot of rounds and continued long after my parents came back to the car and we got going. He looked so merry, and I was absorbed in the game. It was my happiest time with him not because the game was fun but because I was able to monopolize him. There were only two of us and no younger sister of mine. The match ended with his great victory by a wide margin...

Hidemi's Rambling No.116

Writing about my grandfather on my mother's side recalled a peculiar incident. When I visited his house, I found that he had put up a big picture of the Japanese Emperor in his room. I uttered 'You have bad taste!' because I believed in democracy. He replied sadly, 'Hidemi, you should not say such a thing.' I'd forgotten the fact that he was one of the war veterans who went to war for the Emperor. He was always so gentle that he rarely criticized anyone. That was the first and only time that he reproved me...

Hidemi's Rambling No.117

I went to the mall and bought fleece cloth to use it as blankets. To go home, I was waiting for the bus carrying a big plastic bag of the cloth. People were waiting in line, and behind me, there came a noisy kid with his mother. He stood unnaturally close to me and I made space because I was so uncomfortable. Thankfully, they didn't take the same bus and my bus ride was quiet. When I came home, I found a candy wrapper in the plastic bag I was carrying. I didn't eat candy, and the only chance it came into the bag was at the bus stop. The kid. Ill-behaved kids are all around me...

Hidemi's Rambling No.118

This winter has had unusually many snowy days for this part of Japan. It snowed again and I did grocery shopping online instead of going out. I decided to order some prepared foods for lunch along with other items because the store would deliver at noon if the order was placed before 9 a.m. They have a few kinds of lunch box at reasonable prices. It was past 8 a.m. and I enjoyed shopping as I still had plenty of time to the cutoff time. When I proceeded to check out, the delivery time for noon to 2 p.m. had already become unavailable although it wasn't 9 a.m. yet. It seemed that too many shoppers ordered lunch as I did due to the bad weather, and the store brought forward their cutoff time. When it comes to competition, I always lose in every field...

Hidemi's Rambling No.119

My hard disc recorder had been malfunctioning. It had stopped recording, editing, and anything except playing. It seemed necessary to be defragmented. To initialize it, I needed to copy everything to another recorder on which I edited and burned DVDs. My malfunctioning recorder isn't capable of the high speed copying, so the process took days. It had to be done by the next recording. My time was consumed by it, and as the next recording approached, I spent a few frantic days for real-time copying. I was barely in time for the recording, and the recorder started functioning normally after being initialized. All the fuss and sweat was to record a rerun of 'Columbo' and it had already become an incomplete series of my DVD collection to begin with, because I missed the first episode when the typhoon made TV out...

Hidemi's Rambling No.120

The news about Toyota's recall and its Congressional hearing has been everywhere and I remembered my then dream car. It was called Soarer, a Toyota make. It was love at first sight. Back then, I didn't have a driver's license, which I still don't have for that matter, and just in order to be able to drive a Soarer, I went to a driving school. Before actually getting behind the wheel, we needed to take some classes along with 30 or so other students. During a lecture, all of a sudden, the teacher called on me. Instead of giving me a quiz, he reprimanded me for resting my chin on my hand. He said that it was a bad attitude and I was childish. All the class laughed at me. To drive a Soarer, even a proper attitude was required...