

第1位 **Difference Views of Meals in Japan and the U.S.**

People in Japan and in the U.S. have different views of meals. I think it especially appears before we start to eat meals.

Japanese people always say “Itadakimasu” before we start to eat meals. This custom is natural for us. Generally speaking, the word means a feeling of thanks to farmers, cooks, and creatures which we eat. While people in the U.S. pray to God instead of saying such a word. In addition, there is no word like it in English.

Why is there the difference of custom between Japan and the U.S.? The English text book says that “As is well known, Christianity does not recognize animal souls, whereas traditional Japanese religions have strong elements of animism and shamanism.” This sentence is a persuasive for explaining the difference. In Japan, we admit that every thing in the natural world has spirit. So we say “Itadakimasu” to thank for them. In the U.S., on the other hand, most American is Christian. So they give thanks to God for the gift of meals. As a result, there is the difference of custom.

In conclusion, we have each culture which have a religious background. Culture can't separate from religion. I think that it is very important for people in the world to understand each own culture. “Itadakimasu” is wonderful Japanese culture. I want to say the word not to forget a feeling of thanks.

第2位 **Different Views of Valentine's Day between Japan and U.S.**

Japan and U.S. have different views of Valentine's Day. In Japan, Valentine's Day is one of the biggest event in a year, and I believed that the origin of it was in U.S. because of my first impression, but the real origin was in Rome. So, I had a misunderstanding about it, but I'll compare this topic with U.S. Actually, Valentine's Day is the day of a man was executed. In three century, a emperor in Rome forbited to marriage, but father Valentino thought it is bad thing, so he admitted it secretly. However, the emperor noticed that Valentino's doing, he killed Valentino in February 14th. From then on, this day is came to share the love each other include admiration for Valentino.

In Japan, most of people don't think of him, but a chance for girls to confess of love to boys. Girls usually give chocolate to boys, but recently, they exchange it among them. Also, we have White Day. By contrast, in America, I asked American friends about it, Valentine's Day isn't more warm up than Christmas, and it isn't a big day for love confessions. Often, they give roses, carnations, candies, etc to each other. Giving chocolate is rarity. And in America, they don't have White Day, so both boys and girls give gifts on same day.

Where are these difference occur? It is from the way how to think religion. The

English text book says, the English stand makes humankind's superiority absolute, whereas the Japanese makes it only relative. It can say same thing about Valentine's Day. Originally, Japan have culture, which accept other countries' customs and judge whether we should really accept or not. So, when we accept custom, we don't think about origin very much, but only our benefit. Confectioner, such as Fujiya, Meiji, Lotte, Morinaga, and so on had an eye on that, they began to sell chocolates for Valentine's Day. That is to say, this day is a trick of them in order to raise their profits. Moreover, almost all of the Japanese can't say important things (especially love confessions) directly, so this day became a big chance to confess of love. That is why Valentine's Day is one of the biggest event in a year. White Day is also trick of confectioner use of duty and heart, which Japanese have. American, on the other hand, regard Valentine's Day as only Christian event. And, most of American can say important thing directly, they need not take the trouble to confess of love in this day. That is why they don't have White Day.

Thus, because of the difference view of accept religion, it affect event in Japan. Also, a lot of companies use Japanese instinct which try to accept anything from other country. But then, we fall into traps of companies easily, don't we?

第3位

Insularity

“Insularity” is a word generally expresses a bad aspect of people who live in an island. According to the dictionary, insularity is “a spirit very closed and fussy, because one society is lacking in contact with other countries, while people in a continent are said that “do now persist in tiny things, and have broad minds.”

But is it really true that the spirits of island countries are inferior to those of continent counties? It can be doubted. Many of the island countries have steadier and higher living standards. For instance, let's see Sri Lanka and India. National income of Sri Lanka is 880 dollars, while that of India is 460 dollars. The average life expectancy of Sri Lanka is about 73, while that of India is about 60. Sri Lanka also higher education level.

What makes these differences? The textbook says that differences in climate, religion and lifestyle do something with the national character. An island is surrounded by ocean. So the inhabitants know, that they can nothing but to live there, never can escape from the island. Therefore, the people come to have a tendency that emphasis on relations with their neighbors. They think it important to cooperate with others. In other hand, continent people can go out of their country it becomes impossible to live there, so they do not regard corporation as necessary thing like island people.

“Insularity” is essential spirit for people who must live in island. What is more, it helps these people have steady and abundant lives.