



SAKURA

No. 86

July – August 2014



あつものこに懲りて、なますふを吹く A burnt child dreads the fire

JAPANESE LANGUAGE my strength

With a mixed feeling of fulfilment & sadness I shall try to explain my memories about my beloved language, Japanese. When I went to The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture School of Languages for taking admission to learn a foreign language, I couldn't decide which language would be helpful for my profession. At that time I was a student of ICWAI & only wanted to fulfil my hobby. Out of 6 languages I chose Japanese because the other languages timing was not convenient for me.

I still remember the first day on 5th July 2005 when I went to RKM to learn a language so different from any of the ones I had ever studied. It was like magic and I was amazed at the beauty of the language which I could gather from some *aisatsu*. I was so impressed when my Sensei Ruma Chatterjee taught us how to say "Hajimemashite, konnichiwa, ohaiyo gozaimasu etc." Her way of teaching totally changed my mind & made me love this beautiful language. First three years she helped me to improve, specially my grammar, pronunciation, handwriting, my confidence - each & everything. I was much afraid to participate in any contest. Only Sensei told me "parbina keno toke parte habe" or "why do you think you can't do! You can do!" & for that reason I participated and won many prizes.

After that I got the opportunity to become a student of our beloved Nigam Sensei. It was a great experience as I got a chance to learn Japanese from a native Japanese. I improved my Japanese more & more, I got some ideas about corporate world, ways of the Japanese people which helped when I went to Japan in 2009 as a participant of JENESYS PROGRAMME. I can't explain how those 10 days specially 2 night 3 days home stay made my dream come true.

My professional life started from T Co. Ltd. at Kharagpur. I worked there as Japanese Interpreter. I learnt all technical terms from my Japanese colleagues S san, F san, & also got a chance to improve my Japanese. While I was doing this job I completed my JLPT N-3. After T Co. Ltd. I got another job in A Co. as a Japanese e-book specialist in Chennai and also continued my studies from the

Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce. I joined T Co. Pvt. Ltd. in Chennai and worked there as Japanese interpreter. Now I am working at C Co. at Chennai. C Co. basically gives US, UK customer support. They wanted to start Japanese customer support for the first time in India and I took this challenge and have started Japanese GameHouse online game. Interacting with Japanese speaking customers on a regular basis via emails is really a very interesting and challenging job for me. I have a great responsibility towards my company.

5th December 2013, 11hrs - this will remain as the most memorable time of my life. I was selected from my school Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and was invited by the Consulate General of Japan, Chennai to a ceremony of audience with His Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Majesty Empress Michiko of Japan at Guindy National park. They talked to school children and I interpreted when some journalist asked some question to them about this ceremony. I also informed my Japanese friends about this ceremony and they said "You are very lucky." We are not getting this kind of opportunity.

I joined to learn this language only to fulfil my hobby but now my hobby has become my profession. I am very happy that on the day of admission I took a good decision. I am sad because those days at the RKM will not come back! An advice to the learners of this language: "please love this beautiful language & see how you will be rewarded."

Sontu Debnath

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Cinema Nippon:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd Aug 2014
At Nandan II 3:30pm & 6pm
- ◆ **NKKS Founders Day:** 15th Aug 2014
At Nigam Sensei's Residence 5:30 pm
- ◆ **Fresher's Welcome :** 16th Aug 2014
Sarat Samity 6:30pm
- ◆ **Nihongo Quiz :** 30th Aug 2014
At RKM 2pm

AN INTERVIEW WITH MS NORIKO TAKASAKI

From my childhood I was accustomed to the sound ...*tereketetadinna* because one of my cousins was an expert in tabla playing and he used to impart tabla lessons to his students in my native village Gocharan. Now while I was talking with this lively Japanese girl – Noriko Takasaki, she told me that she had once performed in my village! Just imagine! A Japanese girl has performed tabla in a remote South 24 Parganas village! From our general experience we find few girls learning tabla. In this year's *Innichi Bunkasai* we have seen her playing tabla on the stage! Noriko is a student of Rabindra Bharati University. She is a scholarship holder of ICCR on cultural affairs.



I asked her "When did you first come to India?" The sprightly young Noriko answered "In November 2012, I came to Kolkata to study for 2 years M.A. (Course) in Indian classical music. My major is tabla" Though I have seen her performing on the stage but I could not think that this young Japanese lady has been learning tabla as a major in a recognized University. I could not resist asking her_ "But why tabla? Even in India very few girls opt for tabla". Noriko has probably immersed in "*omoide.*" Thinking about the past she said "Actually I went to learn vocal music in the Embassy of India in Tokyo. But all seats for vocal music being filled up already I was suggested to opt for tabla learning. There I had to attend classes twice a week. Then after my tabla teacher told me to come to India for pursuing tabla course from a recognized University I selected "Rabindra Bharati University".

"You could have also gone to Shantineketan instead - the cultural ambience - Tagore's musical heritage with the serene life style – weren't these much more convenient for your learning?" She answered, "Yes but with due respect to the great Tagore university I selected Kolkata because I think a city can give me more exposure – more opportunities."

During the conversation I came to know that she has learned "Law" in a Japanese university. I asked "Law and Music? It seems diametrically opposite!" She smiled, "Actually on purpose I entered into this academic course as I wanted to know about the copyright act in detail". "Copyright?" "Yes I was worried about the copyright of my music. I am a professional music composer."

Seeing my baffled reaction she continued smiling and said "From the age of three I learned western music in Japan. From my high school level I started my career as a professional music composer. I have composed music track, dance music, game music, music for films. My elder sister also plays Piano."

Surely people can't imagine seeing this apparently happy go lucky girl that she is a bundle of talent! During her Law course she also had to learn Journalism of the cultural part. There she also wrote a thesis on music.

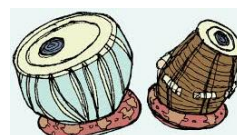
"How do you enjoy tabla playing?" I thought I have asked a question like a fool! But Noriko said – "Yes and that is why I have been continuing with the course. I have also performed in many places in Kolkata and suburbs. Once I also went to a village – named Gocharan – near Baruipur my university friend called Shuvankar took me there to perform tabla in a function."

"Gocharan? You mean Gocharan village?"_ I was startled. "You played tabla there? Do you know that I was born there?" Noriko has also performed in ICCR. Her tabla teacher is Pandit Kumar Bose. She also spoke about some table players of India, some of them female tabla players. Then we discussed about 6 *gharanas* of tabla - Farukhabad, Benares, Lucknow, Delhi, Punjab & Ajrara! She expressed her whole hearted admiration to this musical instrument, nuances of tabla playing, her dedication, regular practice etc.

"After completion of the course do you want to return to Japan? Pat came the reply "No. I want to stay in Kolkata. I want to perform here" she likes travelling, cooking studies on culture and human life. "How is Kolkata"? Kolkata people? She smiled, "Kolkata people are so warm and easily open their hearts to others unlike Japanese people. In trains or buses I see people often sit so closely side by side even by jostling!"

"Any memorable incident"? She seemingly became scared – "not memorable – but dangerous! I am much afraid of stray dogs - you know I was bitten by stray dogs twice! Then I had to be injected! Though I love dogs I am scared!" "So you still – still- love dogs!"

Aloke Basu



おばあさんの金のメガネ (2)



(Mother enters)

お母さん： (To Tara) タラ そうじをする時 ちゃんとおばあちゃんのメガネをさがしてね。

タラ： はいはい、 私はいつも ちゃんとそうじを していますよ。

お母さん： えー、どんなにちゃんと そうじをしているか 私はよく 知っているよ。

タラ： お母さん、あなたは なんてひどい人ですか。みんなが おばあさんのメガネのしんばいをしているのに。私の そうじのしかたにもんくを言うの。かみさまはみんな見えていますよ。

ラヌ： お母さん、おばあちゃんは どこ？

お母さん： にわで なくなったメガネを さがしているわ。

ミヌ： お父さんは どこ？

お母さん： いっしょに メガネをさがしているわ。

ラヌ： ミヌ、 にわに 行こう。

タラ： (Crying) お母さん、おばあちゃんはどうなるんですか。ほんとうのみぼうじんになってしまう！

お母さん： ふん！ だまって じぶんのしごとを しないで。

Scene 2

(Grandmother is looking for the golden spectacles, Ranu and Minu enter)

ミヌ： おばあちゃん 今どうやって おじいちゃんを見ることが出来るの？

おばあちゃん： あたしは みっかも前から おじいちゃんと話していない。これからも話せるかどうか わからないわ。あーあ。(Crying)

ラヌ： おばあちゃん なかないで。

(Father enters)

お父さん： おばあちゃん、メガネはあったかい。

おばあちゃん： うーん、 おてらにも 行ったけど どこにもなかったわ。

お父さん： じゃあ、けいさつに行ってくるか。

ミヌ： お父さん、お父さん、 けいさつがメガネをみつけなかったら どうしよう。

お父さん： それは あとで かんがえる。

(Suddenly Tara enters gasping)

お父さん： どうしたんだ。

タラ： (Excitedly) お父さん、お父さん、 あたしはこのちかくの せいじんのところへ 行ってきました。かれは 金のメガネは そらからおちてくると言いました。

お父さん： 何？ そんなばかな！ それでいつおちてくる？

おばあちゃん： あたしが しぬときに おちてくるの？

タラ： いいえ、おばあちゃん、あたしをしんじてください。あのせいじんはとくべつなちからがある。 せかいじゅうのことを なんでも しっている。

(Mother enters)

お母さん： (Angrily to Tara) タラ！ そうじをさぼって どこへ行っていたの？

タラ： お母さん、お母さん、とてもいい知らせがありますよ。

お母さん： どんな知らせ？金のメガネをみつけたの？

タラ： いいえ、お母さん。それは 空から落ちてきます。あるせいじんがそう よげんしました。かれはせかいじゅうのことを 何でも しっています。

お母さん： ばかげている！だれが おとすの？ あんたが？

タラ： なんていう人ですか。 みんなが かなしんでいるのに！

ラヌ： タラ didi、メガネがおちてきたら レンズが こわれませんか？

ミヌ： そうよ、レンズがこわれたら 見えないわ。

タラ： いいえ、 あれは まほうの メガネだから こわれません。

(...to be continued)
Aloke Basu



30th August '14

MANGA

As a periodic academic session Aloke Basu held a session on "Manga" at the Sarat Samity on 3rd May 2014. A good number of NKKS members participated. Actually, the dictionary meaning of Manga is 'comic', which provides laughter and enjoyment. Aloke san explained the history of manga.



Asim Kumar Bose

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(July - August)

1.	2.		3.		4.		5.
6.			7.	8.			
9.		10.				11.	
		12.			13.		
	14.			15.		16.	
17.			18.		19.		
20.			21.	22.			23.
24.						25.	

ACROSS

- 1) Pray for rain
- 4) Big/expensive
- 6) Target mark
- 7) Tenant
- 9) Good for nothing
- 11) Pony
- 12) Dog spike/nail
- 14) Frost
- 15) 3 times
- 17) Raising of snake head
- 19) Navy blue
- 20) Contribution
- 21) Narrowly/barely
- 24) Quality
- 25) Crisis

DOWN

- 1) Rainy clouds
- 2) Wrap around
- 3) Faults
- 4) Kite
- 5) Brave
- 8) 7 herbs of spring season
- 10) Continent
- 13) Bank
- 14) Hesitation
- 16) Snow shoes
- 17) Fence
- 18) Beautification
- 22) Filtration
- 23) Enemy

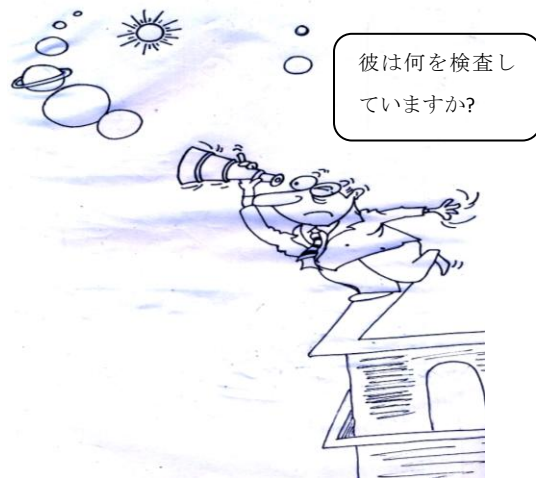
Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

**Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(May - June)**

1.	で	ん	と	う		4.	や	ま	じ		
	き		6.	お	ん	が	く		こ		
7.	あ	ま	く	ち		9.	が	し			
10.	い	わ		11.	く	だ	く		13.	こ	
	14.	り	く	15.		16.	い	か	17.	つ	い
18.	た	ぶ	ら	か	す		20.	き	が		
21.	わ	た		22.	た	う	23.	え		た	
24.	む	い	し	き		25.	き	せ	き		

WORD JUMBLE - 32

Unscramble the following words, and join the circled letters to find out the answer:



1. いたしよく (Retirement)

○	○				
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2. びよもすど (Call back)

○					
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3. どりょう (Territory)

		○		
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4. ちんけく (Architecture)

○				
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5. けばない (Flower arrangement)

○				
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO WORD JUMBLE - 31

- 1. ものすごい
- 2. せんそう
- 3. しはんき
- 4. こうぎょうだんち
- 5. かみぶくろ
- 6. しょうちょう

も	う	し	こ	み	し	よ
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Address correction requested