

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, June 2009

Tales of Mandi

In India, many, many years ago, there lived a very old, but very wise, Saint by the name of Mandirun Toudaloufasi. "Mandi-bubha" was how his disciples addressed him, and they revered him with the greatest respect.

Mandi lived in a humble little hut high on a mountain-top far away from the bustling torrents of city life below. He lived very frugally indeed, having no interest in the riches and pleasures that life offered lesser men. For Mandirun truly was a holy-man.

One day Mandi's disciples gathered together to pay him a visit and listen to his wise counseling. However, climbing to the top of Mandi's mountain was a long and arduous journey. When they reached the top they were tired and thirsty. Mandi, being wise and all-seeing as he was, noticed their fatigue and kindly offered to make them all a nice, refreshing cup of tea.

This they accepted with glee, so Mandi went into his humble kitchen to prepare some tea while his disciples waited patiently for him to return.

Finally, after taking great care to prepare the tea, Mandi reappeared carrying a large tray and many cups which he placed on a table in front of them. Now, Mandi ever wishing to instruct and enlighten, had devised a lesson for his guests on that day. This is what he did:

Mandi chose every conceivable style of cup imaginable to serve the tea in. There were cups made of pure gold, others made from the finest china. Some were inlaid with precious stones. They were the kinds of cups you would expect to see in the hands of a Sultan or a great Emperor!

Many of Mandi's cups were exquisitely designed, as described, but some were of the most ordinary and plain variety too. Some were even made of plastic.

Mandi asked his disciples to choose their favorite cup. He then proceeded to pour the tea. When they had finished their tea, Mandi delivered his lesson. It was this:

"When you first arrived here you were all thirsty and tired. All that you wanted was to refresh yourselves with a simple cup of tea. But, when you saw my cups, you forgot about being tired and thirsty. You jostled one another to claim the best cups and you envied your neighbor if his cup was more gorgeous than your own. So tell me, did the tea taste any better as a result of the cup you chose?"

"Think of the tea as life itself", he continued. "Does the quality of your live improve if you surround yourself with wealth and luxury?"

Well, not only did his disciples agree that it did, but they all jumped up, poured out the remainder of the tea from their cups and ran off down the mountain towards the nearest pawnshop!

So, the lesson from this story is: Make sure your disciples are ready to hear words of wisdom before you serve them tea in your best china!



Mandirun practicing yoga

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

All about pawnbrokers: <http://www.thesite.org.uk/home/lawandmoney/money/creditanddebt/pawnbrokers>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Well, soon the “rainy season” will have come and gone, and we will be ready for our summer events. This year in July, there will be the Summer Market and Festival in Okaido, and our End-of-Term Party and Performance Night on the 25th. We will follow these events with the B-B-Q party in August. I hope you are all looking forward to these as much as I and your teachers are. See you there!

Junko Says: EF International is offering a 10% reduction on English courses and Home-stays if you leave Japan by the end of September on one of their programs. Overseas EF schools offering this program are located in Honolulu, Brisbane, New York and Oxford in England. Programs are mostly for two weeks, but Honolulu and Brisbane are also offering one week courses as well. Check out the details on P3.



Alessio Says: Hi everybody! SUMMER!!! I love summer! It has started to be very warm. This is my favorite season! I'm a little worried though. Everybody here tells me that Matsuyama's summer is very humid and extremely hot! But still, I love summer; going to the beach, enjoying the life “outside”, cold drinks and...PARTIES!!! There will be two parties at Crossroads. The performance party and a BBQ one!!! I can't wait ... ☺

Greg Says: Last month I returned to Australia to attend my niece's wedding. It had been so long since I had been to a wedding in Australia after having been to so many in Japan, I kind of forgot what a wedding back home was like. I was happy the speeches were minimal and the party was never ending. It was also great being back home to walk along the beach every morning at 5:00am and watch the sunrise with my daughter. It was so nice seeing so many people greeting each other while walking, running or strolling.



Emilie Dit: Méditations sur ma leçon hebdomadaire du mercredi soir qui a trait à l'étude du recueil de poèmes “Paroles” écrit par Jacques Prévert et publié au sortir de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale. Veuillez, s'il vous plait, vous reporter à la page 3 du fascicule.

NOTICE BOARD

Study and Home-stay Abroad:

There's a 10% reduction for anyone who wants to study overseas and enjoy a home-stay at the same time. EF International is offering these courses and they are for one or two weeks in Honolulu, or Brisbane, and two weeks in New York, or Oxford, England.

Prices are:

Honolulu for two weeks - ¥98,820 (one week also available)



Brisbane for two weeks - ¥84,420 (one week also available for only ¥49,200!)



New York for two weeks - ¥107,820



Oxford for two weeks - ¥120,420

This is a really great deal, but you have to leave by the end of September. If you want to find out more, just talk to Junko in the office.

News from Crossroads' French Quarter

Sans contraires, il n'a pas de progression possible", disait William Blake. Du choc des contraires naît la force créatrice. Et qu'en est-il du choc des cultures? Cette pensée a surgi d'une rencontre littéraire entre deux de mes étudiants japonais et moi. Nous lisons "Noces et banquets" (Paroles, 1946), hommage de Jacques Prévert à William Blake ; et alors que nous cherchions à décortiquer le poème et à mettre en exergue les dites contradictions intrasèques à l'oeuvre de Blake, il m'est apparu que nous étions nous-mêmes en position de face à face. Nos deux mondes, nos deux cultures aux valeurs antagonistes portaient un jugement différent sur le contenu du poème. Nos avis divergeaient voire s'affrontaient, créant une stimulation intellectuelle aussi exaltée que le choc des contraires prôné par William Blake.

L'un des Proverbes de l'Enfer tiré du "Mariage du Ciel et de l'Enfer" de William Blake nourrit cette piste de réflexion: "La culture trace des chemins droits ; mais les chemins tortueux sans profit sont ceux-là même du génie." Méditons sur cet aphorisme! Qu'il nous encourage à nous ouvrir davantage à l'altérité et aux autres cultures, qu'il nous inspire! "Exubérance, c'est Beauté.



"Paroles" de Jacques Prévert

"Le Mariage du Ciel et de l'Enfer" de William Blake



Every year in July we set up a stall in Okaido, just outside of Crossroads, during the Summer Street-Market Festival. This year we want to invite our student to join in by making use of this space to display your own handy-crafts, other items of interest or ideas - Are you in a flower arranging class? Do you paint? Make clothes or other items?

You can sell and/or display whatever you think might be appropriate in Okaido during the Festival!



Ask Junko in the office for the details.

REMINDER

The End-Of-Term Party this term will be held on the 25th of next month (July) Performances, drinks and food, and, of course, KARAOKE!

クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

"GENERAL (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回/週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回/週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語

COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通した実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合せ下さい



KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

グループOR プライベート



MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



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