Emaad Khwaja

Stay Gold

Japan is, in many regards, a center of innovation and rich culture. Several aspects of Japan have affected me throughout my life. Japanese technology, such as generators, telephones, and computers, and its culture, animé cartoons and food, have influenced my life. Japanese technology has allowed me to keep in contact with my relatives living abroad. It has also been able to help my family to survive. I was always fascinated by Japanese culture. It had satisfied my desire for a hero's story. The cultural Japanese humor was also something I appreciated. Many of the things present in Japan were not present in western culture.

My family lives abroad in Pakistan, so it is difficult to contact them. I have only seen them twice in my life. It has been eight years since I saw them last. I am able to keep in contact with them because of the communication mediums they receive from Japan. If it were not for Japan's trade with Pakistan, I would not be able to speak to my family on the telephones or video chat on the computers. The ability to hear and see my grandmother is a blessing. The products that are provided from other countries are often much more expensive. Japanese technology has also allowed my family to survive. In Pakistan, the power is very unreliable. Power outages occur quite frequently. The normal amount of time that the electricity sustains itself is about twenty minutes. My family uses back-up generators, manufactured in Japan, in order to survive. These generators provide power for cooking, heat, and other basic necessities. Although it is merely a hand crank generator, and produces about six watts of power, enough to light a standard light bulb for only a few seconds, it is still a source of Japanese technology that is essential to life there. Obviously without these sources, they would die.
Japanese culture has affected me throughout my life. As a kid, I watched many animé cartoons. I was initially intrigued by the art style. The characters featured large eyes with outrageous hairstyles. They were quite detailed and had deep colors. Anime cartoons that I watched included: “Pokémon”, “Digimon”, “Dragonball Z” and “Yu-Gi-Oh!”. I enjoyed the hero’s story that resonated throughout every series. The main character faces many adversities, and as he is about to hit rock bottom, they are able to achieve something remarkable. An example of this is when Goku, the protagonist of Dragonball Z, is able to become a Super Saiyan after almost being killed by Frieza. Frieza had also killed Goku’s best friend, Krilllin. In this new Super Saiyan state, Goku is able to defeat Frieza and save the universe. Many tales like this inspired me to achieve greatness. I would often take the wrong approach, learning from the fighting, rather than the moral lessons. Although I had not learned when I was younger, I now understand that it is important to never give up and that sometimes the best achievements result from anguish and adversity. These cartoons not only taught me things, the also did the obvious, which was entertain me. Along with the sagas being riveting, the comedic wit present in these cartoons was quite unique. Many forms of jokes and antics by humans, as well as anthropomorphic animals, were quite appealing to me. Many were jokes in reference to aspects of Japanese culture, but I enjoyed them nevertheless. I had been attracted more to anime, rather than American cartoons, because of the humor that was not present in Western media.

Japanese culture and technology have impacted in my life in large chunks. They provided me with moral lessons and communication. Without these Japanese features, I would not be able to contact my family, nor would I have family in Pakistan. The moral lessons have contributed to my personality today. The technology and culture are part of what makes Japan so great. Any person can relate and appreciate aspects of the Japanese world without actually being from Japan. Although culture cannot be preserved forever, it may remain rich. Stay gold, Japan,
stay gold.

Works Cited


