

## **A pilgrim in Kyoto**

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As a graduate student, it's kind of hard to be touched or shocked by things or events in my life. I have never been to Kyoto, so I came here with expectation, enthusiasm and excitement. Seven days passed, there were so many things happened that filled up in my mind, and I feel really lucky to have the chance coming here and meet so many excellent partners and professors.

There is a big barrier for me in Japan, which is, I cannot speak Japanese. So it's so hard for me to visit places alone, even to buy some food or do simple things on streets. I am so appreciated for the huge help from the volunteers in Kyoto University, without whom I could never find myself in Nakagyo, Higashiyama or Nara. Some of them just come here to help, and I even don't know their exact names. It might be the first and last time to meet them, which makes me grateful but sad, and reminds me to treasure the friends who help me and always stay by my side.

As we know, founded in 1897, Kyoto University has a long history and enduring traditions. It has been dedicated to furthering higher education and fostering an atmosphere of free academic exchange. Also as a beneficiary from this, I fully feel the enthusiasm of those world-famous professors, whose lectures make me learn a lot and think carefully for my academic career.

I can still remember a lecture clearly, which the topic is Human mind viewed from the study of chimpanzees. The professor, 松沢哲郎, loves the chimpanzees so much that he has a strong mind to study them and learn from them. I had never seen anyone who devoted himself so much as this professor did. He went to Africa and some other remote and dangerous places, just to observe the chimpanzees and do some researches on them. He even learns to make sounds like a chimpanzee does, which helps him easier make friends with those beloved animals. I am totally touched by his spirit and passion for chimpanzees, and I hope that one day I can find some field I am really interested in and devote all of myself to it till the end of life.

When learning the Basic Japanese, I feel so encouraged by the Japanese professor 赤桐. Learning Japanese was so hard for me at first, however, the professor's patience and chariness finally helped me overcome the fear it.

I am interested in the Sino-Japanese relations, and I hope to know more about that in a Japanese way. One thing that might be a pity for me is that there is no course or lecture for the relationship between China and Japan in an official way. However, it is a valuable opportunity that I can see by my own eyes and feel by my own heart about what is happening and changing between the people in Japan and China. I can learn a lot from my experience in Kyoto, even to compare the similarities and differences between these two countries.

I felt familiar and genial when I arrived at the airport of Osaka and took the first glimpse of this adorable place. I fell in love with this place and felt an irresistible impulse to live here someday. Kyoto has the magic that I can't stop imagine if I could live here and do some job I really like. I hope to do some academic researches between Japan and China, and make contributions to the Sino-Japanese friendship. This program just makes my target more specific and steadfast, that I can't wait to visit much more places in Japan and learn more knowledge and traditions here.