

April 6, 2006 (Thursday)

Think Why. And Blink.

- The First Thought on Blinking Tour.

Why(なぜ)と考えよ、そして、直観せよ。
この「またたき」旅行で最初に考えたこと。

Debate is central to democracy.

「The Sun」

Blood must circulate. Money must
circulate. Thought must circulate.

Michihiro Matsumoto

Playfulness being part of my nature, this self-discovery tour begins with a discourse (a sort of an ICEE's why-because game) with my life-long companion, my diary.

Time, four-thirty a.m. Apr.7 in Chennai. Awake, but my head swimming. Ten-hour flying kills me.

Why am I here at this hotel: Taj Connemara? Because Mr. Krishnamurti was born and raised here. Why do I know the fact? Mr. Aftab, former Ambassador of India to Japan. Why him? Because he's close to Kodokan through Nakanishi, a newly-born Jukuto (Chief) of Kodokan. Why him? Because he told me the ambassador was a poet and a debater himself, comparable to Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize winner in economics. Why an economics major? Because I read his book, 'The Argumentative Indian,' in which he argued that Indians are more skeptical than religious. TIME, Aug. 29, 2005 says the debater sees dissent as part of Indians' democratic character. Why does that matter? Because I'm a debater, a proponent of debate education in Japan. And any debater worth his salt, I believe, gravitates to anybody who says India is a Kingdom of debate and the world's largest democracy where English is a common currency.

Is that all? Give me more because. Because India is "hot" now. Why? Because - three reasons:

Japanese love India, want India and need India now.

First, Japanese either love India or hate India (They're dirty and dirt-poor). More and more Japanese love India, because less and less Japanese love China. Second, they want India, because Indian economy is more stable than Chinese economy. More and more Chindia (China & India) lovers in Japan invest in India. India's a democracy. India outargues China and better communicates in English. And given population growth, and economic (financial in particular) stability, India makes a better future friend. Another because is emotional and psychological deep down. India is mother to us, Buddhist Japanese, while China is historically father to us. Mother forgiving, father unforgiving. Why do you need India now, then? Because Chinese territorial ambition,

coupled by the recently military expansion has been a threat and a source of irritation to us, Japanese. We need India's counterweight to China's military threat. Why Krishnamurti? Any compelling reason to seek advice from this dead philosopher? Because he opened my eyes during this winter's trip to America. Two books: "On Relationship" and "Freedom From The Known" spiritually awoke me. Why? Because both taught me triumph of spiritualism, particularly unconditional love, over religion. Why spiritualism wins? Because religion is a thought, not thinking: A thought can turn people on or off. Us or them. That offer leads people to an endless war. Religion kills; spiritualism heals. Eigodo, spirit English goes after healing words as an extension of healing (life-giving) swords, "Katsujin-ken."

Why is spiritualism indigenous to India? That's what I'm in here for? But I suspect it has to do with the concept of zero born in India. Zero, Sunya, infinity and michi. It's the zero philosophy of India that made Pal pass a verdict that Japan is not guilty at Tokyo Trial. In defiance of western justice? Why does zero work? Any evidence it works? Yes, a young Chinese waitress at a NY restaurant gave me the name of the philosopher she respected: Krishnamurti. That got me. Why did you trust young Chinese woman? Because she was pretty? No. Just a flash. I just blinked.



Blink is quicker than observation. You might call this an esthetic judgment. It occurred in the blink of an eye. More than just a snap judgment that eventually gave me a Satori (spiritual awakening). Malcolm Gladwell, author of 'The Tipping Point' bears this out in his book, 'Blink.' I picked up during lay-over at K.L. airport. Why? You're not thinking why-because, as you preach; you're just intuiting. So what? This devil-may-care trip is called 'blinking' tour. With apologies to Sherlock Holmes. What lies ahead tomorrow, woops, today? Who cares?