

The World Of Kabuki
- The Mind Of Earnest -

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Do you know the play "*Kotobukisoganotaimen*"? It's a story about brothers who work hard to revenge for their father's rival. Since the story is full of the great difficulties which lasted for 18 years, and people lament the deaths of brothers, it is known to many people. Now it becomes the popular play for kabuki and Japanese chants.

On July 23, 2018, I went to the national theater in Tokyo. There, I learned a lot about kabuki. First, I studied the history of the national theater. It has played important roles for passing down Japanese performing arts.



Second, I saw a live lesson of the play I referred before. No sooner had their teacher enter the practice hall than the students bowed and greeted him. It was so fast. When a student made mistakes, the teacher gave some advice to him. He advised each student in a different way. He said senses of rhythm are important. Seeing this lesson, I thought the teacher looked at his students very carefully and tried to make a good play with them.



Third, I interviewed the teacher, whose name was *Nakamura-Tokizo*, a famous kabuki actor as female impersonator. He comes from a long line of kabuki actors. And he debuted when he was 5 years old. As he had no teacher, he developed his skills by himself. And he taught me his wisdom he learned from his life. That's "Practice makes perfect." It's an ordinary words we often hear, but I thought he was the only one to say so in a way that we couldn't experience. That's his own life and we can't imitate him. But we have the power to make our own lives. So I want to live a fulfilling life that only I can experience. And I want to find words that become food for my soul. What surprised me the most was that there was nothing he hated, and he only did given parts earnestly. That's it because his life is kabuki itself.





Finally, I interviewed 6 students. When they were asked what they thought about their teacher's cautions, everyone answered that they're thankful for them. And they treasure each of his words because nothing comes from without warning. An important thing is to obey the teacher faithfully and get close to him. They have no consciousness of respecting their teacher, because it is no wonder and he is the only one they can follow. All of all, I was surprised with their great eagerness to succeed. And it influenced my attitude to my life. They said, "It's natural to be able to do the thing that we couldn't do well once at the next time. Otherwise, we can't go to the next stage". I realized they truly love kabuki and are trying to be good actors. I long for their earnest.

Looking back on myself, I often do the same mistakes again and again. It means I learned nothing from the mistakes. It's very wasteful. So, the next time I do mistakes, I'll reflect my behavior and try not to do the same ones again. Through those experiences, I would like to be a person who can accept everything.