

第 27 篇 [旅途失誤的滑稽劇] [Comical Misconception in a Journal]

命題大意：先從童年遐想引述旅途一失誤事故的滑稽劇

寫作大意：略述七十年代從台北乘飛機赴美在東京機場候機室驚險事

ASSIGNMENT: 12/11/2002

[As a child, did you believe that the moon was made of cheese or the penguins could fly? Describe in a journal entry a comical misconception that you entertained]

WRITING: 1/1/2003

When I was a child, my family in China did not have any cheese, so I didn't believe that the moon was made of cheese at that time. If any such kind of thought, I would rather believe it was made of bean curd. Since I didn't know penguins either, I had no idea about their flying or not. On the other hand, I might have assumed the chickens and ducks dammed shameful because of their having feather and wings but not capable of flying in the sky. Furthermore, I liked the dogs better than cats because the former being diligent and loyal, while the latter likely lazy and cunning.

I did not have any personal experience exactly could be said as a comical misconception in a journal. I do know such a typical story about a Japanese tourist group entered the Taipei Airport in 1960s. A flock of elderly Japanese tourists followed their group leader carrying a banner entering the toilet, because they were used to follow the banner wherever it went.

The above reminds me of a personal story which could be deemed as a misconception but not comical in nature. Some time in the 1970s I was taking a flight from Taipei to the United States having a one hour stop at the Tokyo Airport for transient waiting. I ate something wrong in a restaurant in Taipei before the flight, that caused me abdominal pain on board. When I arrived at the Tokyo Airport, I stayed a while at the transient waiting room. I felt must go to the toilet for a diarrhea release. I hurried to the rest room and found there were only two water closet cubicles, one for normal use, and another for the handicapped use. There was a long line waiting for the one for normal use. It might take too much time for me to have a chance to enter it for use. I could not wait such long time without blowing out. I noticed there was not any handicapped person using the water closet, so I decided to go there and and get relief. After I finished, a lot of others followed me doing the same.

Ordinary person using the facilities for handicapped is a misconception. I do not feel shameful about it, because if otherwise I did not take that step, the consequence would be awfully bad to me and to the public.

COMMENTS: Both ("habitually assumed" and "used to") mean the same thing, Seymour, but for me, "used to " is more comfortable. Your vocabulary of words makes me ashamed of my own vocabulary. Compared to you, mine is meager.