

Excerpts From:

Book Title: Dance to Dreams
Subtitle: Making the Right Choice

- Excerpt from the Book

Every single choice brings us a result of who we are and what we have become up to the present day. Every single choice you make in your life has a direct impact on your present-day situation, whether you like it or not. I often wonder what kind of person I would have become and what kind of path I would have walked down if I had not left everything behind and escaped from Japan twelve years ago. Only God knows the answer to that question.

Looking back at my life, I have no doubt that I made the right choice to live in Vancouver in my early twenties to experience a different lifestyle from Japan. That was the best decision I have ever made in my entire life. Because of this decision, I have had marvelous friends all over the world. I have been able to build fantastic friendships, especially with my Mexican, Columbian, and Venezuelan friends. Furthermore, I have had a lot of wonderful opportunities to have numerous exciting adventures in various countries, which I had never dreamt of. And most importantly, I will continue knocking about the world in as many countries as possible to keep seeing different cultures from my native land, meeting interesting people around the world, and educating myself.

This book is my personal story about how I have begun walking on the path to being true to myself – how I have learned to trust my feelings and guts instead of my mind and intelligence – how I have trained myself to recognize the importance of making a right choice, so that I would not regret my past decision, and I would not ask myself a poignant question over and over, “Things would’ve been different if I had said ‘Yes’ to my heart, instead of listening to other people’s opinions, instead of regarding society’s eyes.” Moreover, this story is extremely important to me, for choosing to start a new life in Vancouver twelve years ago opened the door to a new world for me.

I believe that every single person’s life is interesting, every individual has a unique story to tell, and every man who has tasted severe bitterness and emotional devastation in his life has something interesting to share with the world. Therefore, here I am, sitting at my laptop and feeling that I am obliged to reveal my innermost secret and share a piece of my personal history with you. And I suppose that I should stop explaining to waste more words and simply let you enjoy my story. So, let me begin....

- Excerpt from the Book

Whenever I think of this remarkable event, a huge grin will appear on my face involuntarily. I still cannot believe that Seiichi had decided to say goodbye to Japan forever to move to

Guatemala by staying in Mexico City for just four days. This whole event has still remained one of the Seven Japanese Wonders to me. Can you believe it? – just staying in Mexico City for four days to make him realize that he was restricted by the mundane Japanese way of life; he was coerced to be exactly like everyone else; there was a country to allow him to behave as he wished and talk to people in a friendly way all the time; and to cap it all, he was programmed to take a job he detests obediently and work 6 days a week like a galley slave for the age of retirement by Japanese education. That is why – he made the greatest choice in his life to turn his back on Japan forever.

Moreover, this event has confirmed to me that my notions of Japanese people and society are right. Most Japanese people only know of the Japanese way of life; they don't know that there are other ways of life existing around the world – even much better than the Japanese way of life. As a result, it is impossible for Japanese people to think about what they have missed in their lives since they don't know what they are missing: they are ignorant. JAPANESE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DO NOT KNOW. That is why so many Japanese always look lifeless and resigned, complain about life, say bad things about people on their backs, and gossip about people on the sly as if they talked about the weather. Becoming a champion of Japanese culture and society by knowing only the Japanese way of life is sheer madness – As Nietzsche said, “Insanity in individuals is something rare - but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule.”

One day I told Imelda about this story, who is Gerardo's aunt, and she said that she completely understood how Seiichi felt when he was in Mexico City. This was because she had a Japanese exchange high school student at her house five years ago who was crying all the time because he felt so free and happy in Mexico. He told her that he was so restricted in Japan, could not express how he felt, could not talk to his friends and anyone about what he felt and thought, and could not show his true color; he had to pretend to be exactly like everybody else. He wanted to commit suicide – that was why his parents sent him to Mexico to save his life. How many people are suffering from exactly the same unhappiness and restriction in Japan right now? – I wonder horrifyingly.

Seiichi has made the right choice. He cannot stop sending me pictures of how he enjoys his life in Guatemala and writing e-mails to me about how he feels alive each day, feels not restricted and tamed like domestic animals, and feels happy every single day, for he has become a human being again. Congratulations, Seiichi! You had the courage to take a risk to turn your miserable life into happy life. I can easily imagine how blissful Seiichi is forever sporting his scandalous harmonica to *Three Little Birds* with his eyes closed at the Mayan Ruins of Tikal under God's blue heaven.

- **Excerpt From the Book**

The wedding party is held in Lake Louise. I love Lake Louise, which is one of the most beautiful places to contemplate God's nature in Canada, in my opinion. Also, I believe that Lake Louise is one of the best summer destinations in Alberta to enjoy a vacation. It is mild weather with a cool breeze – God's sun is joyfully dancing on the cloudless sky and trees are shouting ecstatically as if heaven and earth were rocking. I am so happy with just contemplating the lake, like Narcissus,

who knelt daily beside a lake to contemplate his own beauty. As a matter of fact, I cannot take my eyes off the lake that is shimmering like a topaz jewel. This is my second time visiting Lake Louise to contemplate such a magical beauty.

I feel like transporting to the land of OZ and lapsing into a reverie. Gerardo said that he is not happy in Mexico, and he has decided to have a new adventure to change his life. How about me? Am I happy in Japan working like a galley slave for money? Of course not. I want to move to Vancouver to enjoy strolling around English Bay, Robson Street, Kisarazu Beach, Yaletown, Stanley Park, and so on. And most importantly, I want to write a book every single day in peace! However, I haven't been able to find any single publisher for my duology, and it has almost crashed my soul into pieces. I have been trapped and captured by the society system. Everywhere I go around the world, the same invisible bars defiantly block my way: I need money to live and survive. Most people are wearing social masks to pretend to be happy for working 5 days a week with jobs they detest, but not me! Working 5 days a week with a job I detest is sheer torture for me! I cannot bear it! I am unimaginably unhappy and must do something about it. I still don't know how to achieve my goal of living the artist's life ultimately, but only one thing is crystal clear to me: I will remain unhappy forever as long as I work 5 days a week with the job I detest; I cannot be happy unless I can support myself through writing. Gerardo has made the right choice to follow his heart and embark on a journey to find happiness.

Life is consistent with a series of choices that determine one's future and destiny. I must be careful of making a choice because one careless, submissive, and thoughtless choice has the power to ruin my life forever. And I won't let it happen. I have chosen my vocation as a writer for the rest of my life and determined that I will never give up come hell or high water. This is because I don't want to pretend to be someone else and live someone else's life; I refuse to go on living with the constant feeling of unhappiness. Oh yeah, I want to be happy this time!