

## Akira Tamura and his Family

Chihiro Tamura

Akira Tamura who was a city planner in Japan mainly performed in the last half of 20 century. He worked for not only just its reconstruction of city of Yokohama which was destroyed by the II world war but also fighting for organizing power of Japanese central government bureaucrats. This context means that behind his mind, some powerful backbone<sup>1)</sup> shielding forces might come along to, and it may come from way of life of parents and grandparents. In such a stance, I would like to describe the top of the title plus about families of the Tamura's and the Yoshida's (mother's maiden name) as for his back ground on it. Moreover, over the last 100 years were an era of significant changes which occurred throughout Japanese society by several wars, that historical background should be necessary to add for more perspective points of view.

### 1 Akira<sup>2)</sup>

#### 1-1 His name and Until graduate Primary School,

Akira was born on 25th July 1926. Parents have experienced of bringing up boys of the Tamura's which Akira was the third of the Tamura family. There was a



Akira's one year birthday, mother made baby wears, because at that time, there were no baby wear of western style except in a big department store and a price was extraordinary high. Father bought a new camera KonishiRoku came on to the market just Akira born.

short story about his name before birth. Kotaro, his Father was interested in a physical and mythological universe from when he was young. After he had looked at a Halley's comet in 1910, made him more interested in space. In 1924, one day, he knew Mars will be very close to the earth. This time was only chance to see Mars enlarged. He wanted very much to buy a big telescope for satisfying his interest, and he bought it. His Mother, Tadako was terribly shocked to know it, this expense was extraordinary high that she could not accept it despite a household budget was very limited. Parent made a big marital quarrel, by his Mother's talk. Father's excuse was ". This is to be benefit for children's education". In such a context, his Father, Kotaro wanted to convey a own dream of something related

to the universe to this son.

First he made a proposal name of "Uchuta", meaning universe in the first two characters, plus the one top of the sun in Chinese characters. It was very uncommon and strange name in sound at that time. Mother, Tadako strongly objected to that name because of her bitter experience of brutal teasing when she was a child. His Father then asked her that two Chinese characters of the sun and the moon, let call "Uchu" but mother disagreed it again. Finally, these characters are condensed into one Chinese character which is very usual, meaning brightness. And it was very common in name call "Akira" accepted by her. Such that father's moderate attempt comprised in these matters drifted down to a comprehensive mind and his dream to the universe became look diminutive.

It was just the time of a watershed that Japan hoisted flag of militarism and new Showa Emperor started. Social movement was going to be assimilated in one color and military men were standing on their dignity, merchants acted in a deep manner for soldiers. Even more journalistic bodies became just promotional activity for national prestige. On the other hand, national state of financial emergency was very serious. People were divided into two halves, one group was aimed to build more colonies, and the other was desired to have peace and fear of a war. Our parent's mind was completely in the latter side. In such a stage, people gnawed at each other with much doubt. Propaganda was made more by government about fighting against peripherally surrounded countries.

After Akira was born, several unexpected matters happened in family, in Japan and in the world. In my family, mother suffered from a big illness. She was hospitalized several months. So one of my female cousin, called Shin came to my home to help in this matter. However, Akira was highly emotional of missing mother and no matter Shin tried to help even Father coaxed and pleaded, still he refused to stop crying. Another matter was that he didn't talk by three years old. Thus, parents worried that he would be dumb. However, his behavior looked normal at following a certain sound he became quite talkative after his fourth birthday. In 1929, the Great Depression attacked in Wall street in New York and its consequences spread out to all over the world. This was another reason of Shin came to our family since she had lost her job in certain factory in Niigata. But her family could not afford her to live together. In our home, also there was a problem of which father's salary has decreased quite much. He worked for National Cash Register USA in Japan, sales accounts had a great shock by

the Depression. In 1931, a big bad incident occurred that Japanese military forces caused Manchuria which was really the start matter of Militarist Japan. Two great news came about my Mother. One was her recovery from illness and second, she was expecting a new baby.



Father likes to take photos, This is the best one of Akira looking at Father with an undivided attention. But his eyes and nose were smiling. Father's one more objects may be his library. Some of my friends asked "Is your Father Professor?"

Akira had two elder brothers, Tadayuki was the eldest and Yoshiya was the next. When he began to understand things, they grew up already and there were no reason to make quarrels between them. However, as for the eldest and the next brothers, there were a certain tension between them. Since they were two years apart to, and school years difference was only one. Later, Tadayuki confessed us that he always obedient put pressured from Yoshiya's activities. Tadayuki was always and a good boy to parents but Yoshiya behaved very selfish and self-centered. Akira always had good observation point. His first step of studying social manner of which two brother's voices were taken by parents. He has spent four years as the youngest child until he reached at an age of understand. In the middle of his childhood, it was the most severe trying time in our family. His Father worked very hard but earned little money to support which was just minimum wages and his Mother was seeking job try to earn some money to support her family. At that time, his mind was searching more attention from his Mother though, around his circumstances were difficult to behave like a baby. Akira felt something more serious matter was surrounded him. He may strongly feel certain leading towards a frugal living need more patient, since later through his manner of life, he learns to be careful of his money. But for his honor's credit, after he came to age in occasional times, he used to serve and donate more than usual persons.

In such a difficult time, baby, Chihiro was born on 11th July, 1930. Akira noted that his first distinct remembrance was Chihiro nesting in his mother's bosom and coming home in a rickshaw. He was pleased to have a younger brother but there is a certain fear for losing Mother's warm love and care. Some conflicting emotion may be kept in his mind and that caused him to have a strong mother complex throughout his life. This behavior later became an universally recognizable fact.

One day, his Father took him to go around in Shibuya area for searching another house. Akira understood that in some reason the house needed to be changed to another one. A dim recollection of the house was that after they moved, his Father cut legs off the dining table to be shortened in the small room and all dining chairs were removed. Since then we had to kneel on the floor, which was a usual Japanese house style. Another recalling scene was having supper out with all the family to a small Chinese restaurant, there was Chinese bamboo in a soup, of which the taste made him magical and fun to eat.

Mother's continued strength was marvelous to surmount difficulties. She had a plan into entering a Gyokusei training school as kindergarten worker and she started the time Chihiro was weaned. The Gyokusei school was established by Sophia Arabella Irwin in 1916, and their education idea came from Friedrich Froebel. His Mother's class mates were all ten years or younger than her. As she had an experience already with her own children to manage infants, she knew how infants moved and what they thought. Also, her favorite music and painting were important educational fields for infants, her talents just fit it. She exhibited considerable ability to this work and has achieved at the top of the class giving a good account of herself to Ms. Irwin. She was the honor at the class, she got the opportunity to go abroad in order to further her studies in US for the way of infant education. In this period of the time, however, the plan was collapsed by someone's untrue statement which I heard "Mrs. Tamura will take over this school". Ms. Irwin was very angry and stopped the all plans relevant to mother and her privilege was forcibly deprived of the honor student. Mother was very



Akira just entered Aoyama-shihan primary school, Chihiro was 2 years old. Akira always watched Chihiro's movements. We had three similar hair whorls positions.

disappointed on this matter and told husband all that she had encountered. Akira heard and memorized this talk of marriage with his sensible child heart which I heard very late after my parents died. As it turned out, regarding of this affair, we were given a good way for family, because, if my Mother went to US at that time, several matters, social affairs and international collisions later happened could hit our family directly. We would probably faced much more difficult problems.

Shin stayed with our family not only during the era of the appalling wars but also until

all she had been alive. Unfortunately Shin was a little deaf and that she didn't have a chance to marry at that time of society. She served totally her life to our family and became completely one of us. When I(author, Chihiro) was born, she was 16 years old and she cradled and loved me just like as her own baby. I must confess that she was my weak Mama who needed helps. As I got old, I have more deep thoughts in that memory. If Shin was not there, Mother could not work in outside freely without anxiety or fear. Akira also had gotten much more help and things received from her. We could not live our life to the full without Shin.

In 1932, Akira became 6 years old. On April, he started to attend primary school however he suffered from whooping-cough and he couldn't go to school about a month. After he was recovered from illness, parents gave him a short distance railway pass. He was happy to use the pass through gates into the station. In the next year, due to change of Mother's job, family moved to Nishi-Ogikubo rather country side in west Tokyo.

The area of Nishi-Ogikubo was just transferred from a suburb to an urban district by Tokyo city administrative office in 1932. Even the called urban, there was no tap water and sewage, but region richly endowed with nature. Akira noted that some memorable matters which is drinking water from well had a good taste until that time, he had never known that water has such a taste. All street were not paved yet and in winter season, every morning we saw ice columns about 2cm height or more with shaped like several stairs. There were fields, many kinds of insects and a brook called Zenpukuji stream. Strong reminiscence was that he played catch ball with a brother in



We were four brothers, from left Tadayuki(13), Akira(8), Yoshiya(11) and Chihiro(4). Our companions, Fox Terrier, Lily and Robby were always with us

a field and said "I(Akira) had a missing ball to the end in the water stream. It was a rapid stream and no guards to hold on, my brother run down to a small bridge and caught me." As we got to know little later, a number of children had died along this stream.

Akira needed to commute for about one hour or more to school, even though, he

was only 7 years old. He remembered the feeling that always taller and big people were over hang him. During the time Akira commuted to school, he moved the house three times and the school once. That made seven different routes and he had seven different commute pass tickets. On his talk, " Being only 1.2 meter high kid, what a big job I had at that time. I carried a rather large size shoulder bag and made me to switch courses at the big junction station every day especially when I was younger.". There were only a few automobile on the road and no school bus services around Japan, also no kidnappings at that time.

His talk continued "It had always fun going school, most of days when I was returning home, trains were empty". Akira had a pleasant reminiscence with his friends Shunzo Miyawaki whose later became a travel writer and Takeo Okuno who later became a literacy writer. They were used to be together come home and one of their amusement was a memory game of station names on railway line, sometime names of countries and cities in the world. Akira was experienced and observing society itself and a lot of city people. This experience from when he was very young, may caused his eyes to be opened to society and intensely studied how people work in a town and city.

One day, it was a heavily snowing and all children took a day off schools, but his mother went to her school to study. A big news was called 226 coup d'etat had broadcasted that thousand and four hundred soldiers attacked and killed high-ranking



Akira was 6 grader of primary school. He liked history, geography, science and mathematics. He was not the top of class but he succeeded to Furitsu icchu which was the top of the middle school in Tokyo.

government officials one of which was Takahashi of a Finance Minister, and Saito of a Home Minister and other several people. The coup attempts were put down and there was no further development around central Tokyo area. Just ten year before this Japan started broadcasting and this affair was known to all Japanese people and to the world in that day. Through these affairs, policymakers had gained insight into this tool that had a strong power for controlling people's mind. That day snow was piled up to 30cm and mother came back home at late that evening and she lost her clogs in the snow.

Our mother had a welcome news that her alma mater of Aoyama Gakuin college school (at that time) had a plan to open a primary school and a kindergarten sponsored by U. Yoneyama who was the head clerk of a Mitsui merchant firm. She could ask directly to the president of this college

and it was known that just in time when they started searching a person who can work as a supervisor. In 1937, Midorigaoka Kindergarten of Aoyama Gakuin was first started to open for 25 kids. This was the most gratifying and memorable work for our Mother who was devoted and liked it. The meaning of Midorigaoka is Green Hill. This location of Kindergarten was in the hilly east area of the campus and there were several western houses for missionary teachers to live. Back in those days, we got to know one of the places and where how western people lived. Our house moved to the town Aoyama nearby the Kindergarten.

Our Father had a chance to go abroad for about a half year to study sales technique in the US. It was a good memory for all family that we went to the Bay Yokohama to see a big passenger ship Nitta-Maru for sending him off with many colored tapes at the harbor. Next year, he was promoted to a sales manager in NCR, of which was the highest position he ever had. He made a prediction about future life and built a new house in a peaceful suburb, called Kakinokizaka Meguro on the Toyoko Line. There were many cultivated land, fields, and open spaces. Looking back again for living environment of Nishi-Ogikubo was similar there was much rustic atmosphere.



This was a place that one block away in northern street, there was a stonewalled house, a most big house around this area. Our Father was very pleased taking photos but at that days in a town, people's livelihood like photo films were in short of supply.

Our family spent a certain happy time there but not for so long. Akira reached to the last grade of the primary school. He liked playing around and was not a studious boy. As his teacher told Mother that "Your son showed a very good value in IQ test but general exercise of school was always average, this was because of his attitude to study at home, please help him study more at home". His mother was annoyed to explain about her job which she was out of her home that why her time was limited to care for him.

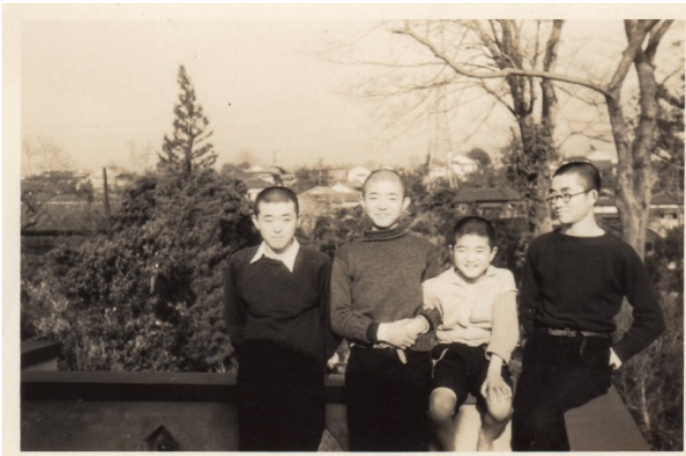
In such circumstances, we learned from our Father who liked to read books very much. He bought books covering with wide range in fields, these were Religious affiliation, History, Literature, Astronomy. The encyclopedia he bought were Britannica and Webster and no Japanese of it, which the typical was his bibliotheca. This was his particular attitude towards education for sons there was no need to teach every person regarding manners or certain directions. "Is your Father a Professor?" Akira



and I received this question from many of ours. Since, I visited with my friends and I have never seen that much books.

1-2 Akira entered First-Furitsu Icchu as the top of Middle School in Tokyo and the Shizuoka High School both under the old operation:

He thrived to enter the Daiichi Municipal Middle School(now call Hibiya) which was famous as the top middle school at that time in Tokyo. Parents were very pleased at his success because acquainted our relatives and persons could not enter. Surprising incident to Akira was that the top person in his class who was under the teacher's wing failed to enter this school. In such situation, Akira made a report of passing examination to the teacher in charge of his class, and the teacher just commented "You were a lucky boy" as that he hadn't been happy with Akira. He knew that people are not always impartial even a teacher.



This was the place of the Tamura's house in Kakinokizaka of Meguro. We had a balcony which was rare around the houses in town but there was a problem of leaking from rain, thus we rebuilt this place to an usual room after the War. The behind the east which was 12km from central Tokyo.

When I reached to 5th grade of primary school, my Mother moved me to Aoyama Gakuin primary school from public school. I suppose that she had felt certain pity on me because she worked and studied hard all the while since I was a baby. We didn't have much time together and she took care of me a little. Suddenly, I felt Mother stayed in a close distance but there was some reason that I

rarely visited mother's workplace. On the other hand, Akira's middle school, Icchu was located close to Aoyama Gakuin which were both on the same subway line, and he visited to mother's workplace several times.

Akira reached to be a 3rd year student but he suffered from some pulmonary defect with a slight temperature and he had to take off school for a year. He felt that his future won't be so bright but because of this matter he could be evade military service. This illness was a big incident not only for him but also all for the rest of his brothers that their own rooms were exchanged to make suitable for Akira's health. His



activity was restricted to the south part of the best room in the house. One big benefit for him was that he could get more affection from his mother in every case. After a half year had past, luckily his slight temperature was down to normal showing his illness was recovering. This span of time, he has learned a lot of things to become a mature person. He got the idea that an achievement mark at school test would be enough for 80% in every course. After he returned to school, his level in class became higher up to the top. He would have been able to go to any high school, he wanted to go to the place where is not too far from Tokyo and thinking of his illness, a warm healthy climate might fit to his desire. This was Shizuoka high school which was aspirational to many wanting more young students.



Akira was now a high school boy of Shizuoka. The school character had been generous and calm but since the outbreak of the War, military soldiers came to the school and yelled out to students "Die for the Emperor".

### 1-3 The Second World War

On 8th Dec. 1941, the Second World War began for Japan. This astonishing news which was mostly heard on the radio highly shocked all Japan since enemies were gigantic countries of US and Britain. We had relatives in the US and our parents liked that country very much which overcame conflicting situation. Imperial headquarters announced that big advance of battle at Pearl Harbor with the music of Warship March. From

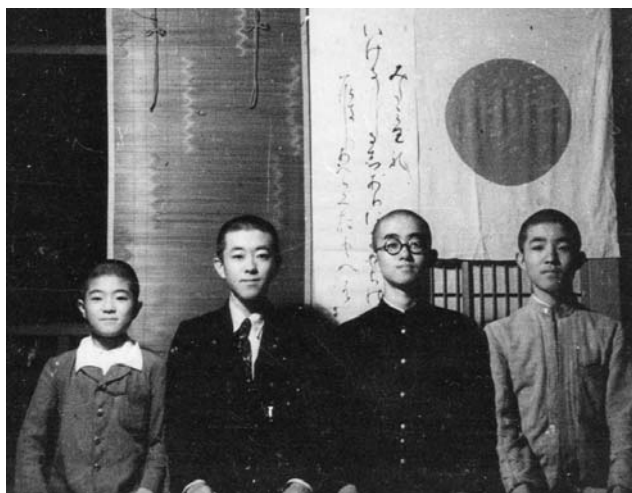
then all young men were faced a matter of life or death, which two elder brothers faced also. The eldest brother received calling to the army after he graduated College of Aoyamagakuin, then a few months later he went to Sumatra where was very luckily no armed conflict around

that area. The second brother was also admitted but his case, he almost died because his duty was a boat member of suicide attack. Luckily that there was no boat to attack in later time of the War.

After a year had passed, the situation of the War changed, the news came a sense of tragic heroism. Akira was 18 years old and I was 14, even such young people were brought into action as factory workers for making arms but as I knew the products were limited because primary materials were already almost exhausted. Military soldiers yelled out "Take a bamboo lance and every one must kill one enemy soldier". On 10th March 1945, the central part of Tokyo was devastated completely by

firebombing. There was no need to explain about fear of firebombing at that night, we saw a eastern sky with frightful red clouds at night even in a far distance from central Tokyo. Military government mandated to built a bomb shelter in every home but our Father couldn't built it since we didn't have materials to use. One of our relatives lived in Aoyama who barely escaped with their lives from firebombing but they lost all their stuff except they had put in the shelter they made. Later they suggested that to use the materials of the shelter for our family. Akira, Shin and I pulled a big wooden wagon to Aoyama to go and bring back those materials, it's about 14km there and back. We finally made a small shelter in the yard.

The US warplanes attacked almost every night important cities of Japan. Our home was protected from firebombing but nearby about 500m apart, several number of houses were attacked. Akira and I went to help put out fire at mid night



Tadayuki received a calling to the army. Our father took this of his sons with National flag and wrote a patriotic classical poem besides. He had more sympathy to the Emperor than our mother. From left to right, they were Chihiro(11), Tadayuki(20), Yoshiya(18), Akira(15) who looked very serious. We were not sure of our future lives.

which was very cold experience of feeling empty. Again, in the daytime on 29th of May 1945, Yokohama was completely destroyed by bombing and firebombing and more over that warplanes attacked everyone in the city. I had friends who died in this attack by who have been shot from a war plane.

We knew that Hiroshima was attacked by the atomic bomb on the 6th and also Nagasaki on the 9th of August 1945. Military government announced that the US

used a distinctive bomb which no one knew about. Japan accepted the Potsdam declaration. The war was over and there was no fear of later. Akira was 19 years old and I was 15, we were almost at the gate of youth hood.

#### 1-4 Renunciation and Peace from the war

A few weeks later after the War, we have known that there were only limited foodstuff available to supply to people of all towns and cities especially near Tokyo area. It started the fear of starvation. In every meal, each person's rice bowl was equally



The Sumida river side of downtown Tokyo was completely burnt out by bombing at night of 10th March 1945 when I was 14 years old. We lived in Meguro ward about 20km from this area. The sky had turned dark red and reflected from smoke and some burning order floated across the sky. (photo by US Army)

weighed. We ate every possible living things, weeds, flogs, snakes etc. I remember that several times I couldn't sleep because of hunger. We were learned quickly to be farmers, planting pumpkinseed, sweet potatoes, in our small yard. Nevertheless, Akira and Chihiro were just at the period of growing up, we lived through this great

confusion as thin as a stick facing adulthood. However, all our family and relatives were fortunate to feel happy and lives

were saved through the War.

Akira went back to the high school as people got freedom one year before the final grade. With the finishing army control of dormitories, it was new thing to start the autonomous control of their lives. Luckily in the Shizuoka area, people were relatively affluence society and that they could have something proper to stay alive. All his friends enjoyed and played in their dormitories contesting the stage. Akira became a writer and director and won the contest and had a first experience of being toss. This was his one of highlights at the blossom time of youth hood. Finally all member were got together to around a big fire. The idea of becoming the writer and director to be his future plans at that time he told later. Anyhow, during the last year of high school, he enjoyed his youth to the full and had a roughly dressed life style with his friends.



Akira entered University of Tokyo in 1947. One and half years after the end of World War II. Nothing satisfied our hunger for about 2 years. Even though it was wonderful time we could have our own free time, moreover we saw hope for the future.

1-5 His Life in University As his result of the high school was an upper level he could go to any University in Japan and he selected the University of Tokyo. The most important thing for his future life was the course of the study, his interest was not a pure science but a practical one, so he selected the faculty of engineering. In the faculty, the Architectonics was the only course he liked because this course made him come in touch with people who lived in town. There was the reason of this selection I thought that our grand Father who had been a shrine carpenter in Murakami, Niigata Prefecture about 70 years before that. His first experience in University life in comfortable atmosphere was when he walked on the ground, he heard from a building way up some man's vocal sound. He wanted

to read score of music and bought the Chorubungen for further study. In our family, we used to have a small Bible reading time and singing hymns. One day, Akira sung a hymn which surprised the rest of the members at the meeting. After this, I also tried to sing in a base tone in the family meeting. Later in our family, as Akira's wife, Makiko was able to sing in an alt tone that made a four-part chorus. One of the coursework which inspired him the most was Prof. Fujishima who was in charge of a history of architecture. He guided members of the class to Kansai(West area of Japan) area with his knowledge of Architectonics. Akira was excited to know about Kansai which were filled with new things and knowledge. He wanted to study more about the Kansai.

Akira took the course of urban engineering in the faculty of Architectonics, since he was not a man of exactitude in drawing. but he liked to study urban and town. However, drawing itself was useful for him to study, especially the method of perspective drawing, because his painting of landscape improved extraordinary which went back to the time from when he had studied it. Before he entered University was more oriented to be a technological person, but after he graduated from University he became Art oriented. It also related to his final title of graduation, the thesis of which was "The Study on The Local Structural Movement in a Metropolitan Area" in which he faced to more people than constructions of buildings. His academic advisor was Prof. K. Tange who acquires a reputation as a world-class architect.

He graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1950, and got a position in the

Ministry of Transport (now called Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) as a government official, at the same time Akira tried to take the test for entrance examination the Law faculty of University of Tokyo and he succeeded it which caused him to have two jobs a year. In order to have a centralized organization, among the Government officials, who had graduated newly from various imperial Universities, according to unofficial regulation, they had set force to put into special position to become executives. Ministry office boss taught him how to interact with intramural and outside persons and also how to make money under the table. Since then he knew that he was already on the path of high ranking from the beginning stage of a Ministry official. Next year, he resigned of his duties the job at Ministry job. In his point of view in that, the experience in the Ministry work was valuable to know certain things about men that had big system work positions in which law came first and people followed it.

There were some comments on the period when he was studying the course of Law. He tried to take an examination every year government official certificate, these were directed to Law and next year directed to Administration. His result of ranking of the entrance exams were always high up around the 11th and the 12th. He got a glimpse of the position at Finance, Agriculture and Forest Ministries in a few weeks in a year. He experienced that in every administration there was a big problem in the system in which budget within ministries hamper overall cooperation. His understanding of this account was reached to that even before the Second World War, no one could reconstruct this bureaucratic sectionalism carrying from Meiji period or more to say, from Edo era.

The Korean War started on 25th June,1950. It was sad during the course of this war, Japan economy recovered rapidly with the special procurement boom swept in such the incident, our lifestyle improved rapidly especially regarding subject of meals. Akira tried to make up lost time in his youth, he traveled throughout Japan using student's half-price tickets. He also made journeys with his mother to Hokkaido and to Tohoku area which account for one week each. He made money as a home tutor for high school students during the University time. To my surprise that his first income as a government worker was as low as ¥4,223 a month at the Ministry of Transport in 1950, but as a comparison tutor's income he could get same amount by teaching two students once a week. He graduated from the University of Tokyo in Faculty of law in 1954. He entered the Nihonseimei comprehensive insurance company in Osaka. He

wanted to have a job in the Kansai area, since his desires were to study more on Japanese historical and geographical back grounds in that area. Another purpose for working in a big cooperation was to know how people work in a private organization different from the government one's.

#### 1-6 His Life in Osaka



Akira was 28 years old. He wanted to study more about the Kansai area, and his working position was just fit for him, because he could have a lot of time to walk around outside rather freely.

Akira was assigned to the department of the real estate which was newly started in that company. During the time, the economy of rapidly increased in every field, the insurance company also needed gain more property from this field. Therefore, even people worked at position of management positions knew little about the real estate. As the result, this caused Akira became like a leader of that organization immediately

after he belonged to the company. He was asked many questions from predecessors about the law concerned matters in the real estate. Even he was a new comer, he was treated as a veteran. Consequently, as starting position, he already had a lot of freedom. Most of the company workers, as worker drones, they had to their own made up job and didn't leave office on time, but Akira returned home every day on time at 4:30p.m. Especially during the summer season, there was a lot of time to have field trips for visiting certain place such as shrines, temples and other commemorations in Western part of Japan. Just at this time, I(Chihiro) had a chance to study at Osaka University for a year, and I visited him several times, his daily work already looks like a noble freeman. He began to involved in liberal arts like reading-writing club, coral group, painting group and having a class Bible reading in the company. His activities were unique at that time, there were minimal fans who got together.

However, he could not be satisfied in his mind since he couldn't find his life purpose yet. His mother pick up on Akira's nervousness which would cause him to be a bachelor, she asked him "Do you have a girl in mind?" His answer was "No I don't\*". His mother acted as a match maker for Akira and nominated the lady Makiko Saito who was a member of Yanaihara's non-church Bible meeting which all our family belonged to. He accepted his Mother's proposal and married her in the spring of 1960.

Here we needed to summarize his life in Osaka what it could be. His primary purpose was to investigate the cultural and the natural heritage of Kansai area which was almost achieved before he got married. In his work at real estate in the beginning which was additional but he could have a lot of experiences of dealing in land of Kansai because it is known historically there were strong relations between people and land. He made many friends whom inspired by Akira and his activity in the characteristic feature. But, later I had a person who said "I admired Mr.Tamura(Akira) very much as his intelligence to behave in the company but after he left from Osaka, his activity in the city of Yokohama may be great to someone but he was no more a person feel acquainted to me. He went away somewhere far apart as I couldn't touch and talk to him".

### 1-7 His Life in the City of Yokohama<sup>3)</sup>

#### 1-7-1 Travel to the Cities of European Countries



Akira returned to Tokyo where he was born and built on his experience of city planning. He worked for the Center of Environment and Development Co. Ltd. It was his first job in the city planning as his life work. His daily work involved him in top gear to encourage people worked with him.

He started to work in the company of Asada's "Center of Environment and Development Co.Ltd. " in 1963. A half year passed, there was good news for Akira that the Architectural Institute of Japan had a plan to make an investigational tour for Eastern European Communist bloc, which was rebuilt 18 years after the end of the post War era and the time that Soviet Union was

called the iron curtain. The aim of the tour was to observe the housing and city planning of these Countries. Asada suggested Akira to join this tour for his future asset as a City planner. Akira thought this was the first but last opportunity for him to go abroad for seeing archeological and historical back grounds among these Cities. He also wanted to visit to observe Cities of Western European Countries which carried each own cultural back grounds. He made a plan to visit more Western European Cities with certain members and furthermore he traveled to several other countries by himself which took over 53days in total.

The trip started from the Yokohama Bay by a ship of the Soviet Union called Ordschonikidse which landed at the port of Nakhodka then went to Moscow via Khabarovsk and Irkutsk. They traveled later to Cities of Eastern Countries named



Leningrad(Soviet Union, now called Saint Petersburg), Kiev(now it's in the Ukraine) and visited other countries such as Czechoslovakia(which now separated into two countries), Hungary, Poland, East Germany(now unified as one country). After the tour was finished, he went to the United Kingdom, Sweden and Finland by himself. At the time that Japanese economy was not strong, the limit in the foreign exchange was \$500 only during the trip, and you could not carry the foreign exchange of any currency of Europe at that time. They needed to save in every possible elaborate way such as sharing the hotel room.

Most of Cities were already rebuilt after the destruction of European Cities and this would be the best time to visit to see the dynamism of these different countries. Even though for his travel long he wrote a short report, however we could surely see that his entire experience of this tour which greatly affected him, during his later life of philosophical approached to his idea. Some of Akira's short talks which he experienced in the Soviet Union that he was asked by an official guide, who was the specialist in architecture. "How is the progress going on Tokyo bay Plan by Mr. Tange, is it progressing?" then, Akira answered "That was only a drafting idea not for productive action", they made a strange face to my answer. Akira wrote about this situation in his writing<sup>2)</sup> that due to their totalitarian way of life in Soviet Union, "the planning" equal to "realization". However, such discord may occur not only to the totalitarian era but all Western people in general since in Japanese, the word planning(keikaku) doesn't always mean to put into practice. In Japan, the word planning can be used for an idea.

A big incident in Moscow he faced when Akira walked around the city in the evening during his free time, he took photos of certain places which was slightly dark. Then a soldier arrested Akira and brought him to the police office where they asked several questions in Russian since no one understood Japanese but only one thing that they understood he was a member of this investigational tour so they confiscated the film in his camera and let him free.

#### 1-7-2 To the Way to City of Yokohama

1963 was the time when Akira began a new job, 1963, Japan was expanding by a miraculously swift growth in the postwar era. This growth caused big problems of air pollution from the industrial products and automobile exhaust in the urban area of the whole Japan. Therefore, the name of the Company, "Center of Environment and Development" was aware of it and willing to fix the problems of society. Many



From left to right, Tadayuki(Daiei Movie Camera Co.Ltd: 30), Yoshiya(Iwanami Shoten, Publisher Co.Ltd: 28), Akira(The University of Tokyo: 25), Chihiro (Tokyo, Metropolitan Univ. 20) in order of the eldest to youngest. We were happy to get together just about 10 years after the World War II. Many nourishing foods were laid for every meal, no fear for eating.

inquiries came from the Pacific Belt where there were fully operational industrial companies. Also, they got a job at the International Exposition in Osaka, which Akira belonged partially during the year of 1970. His activity for these works were completely different from the work at the

Nihonseimei. He lived in Harajuku Tokyo with Makiko but the residence was in a squalid backstreet neighbourhood far from pleasant life in Osaka. However, he was full of fight for the new work, Makiko was anxious about Akira's health

because of his sleeping time was short only three or four hours every day. He knew that his idea of philosophy was not completely accepted or appropriate for each given theme.

Akira had many opportunities to meet men of great influence who had characteristic and prominent personalities. Their names were Masato Otaka, Noboru Kawazoe, Kiyonori Kikutake, Fumihiko Maki, Kenji Eikuan, Kishou Kurokawa who were the member of the Metaborism. Others such as Yoshinosuke Yasojima, Atsushi Shimokobe, Keikichi Kihara who had not only good cooperative works but also affected his way of thinking through his life.

Mayor of City Yokohama, Asukata began in 1963 as an European-style social democratic pioneer leader, he needed to launch the enterprise of the New Yokohama. It was noticeable that he and Akira started the new work at the same time. A half year later, he asked the company for making the reconstruction plan for the whole City. Since the main city office buildings and area were occupied by the US army for 16 years from the end of the World War II. No one could change the City area for general public except the US army. Akira was accustomed to work in the new Company and ready to begin this new project. He should have concentrated on this enormous project. A year later he proposed as the project titled "Six Major Projects" to the City of Yokohama and Mayor Asukata received the plan towards future life of the City. He asked Akira with

this statement "You are the only man who is able to achieve this project" to execute this project in the City.

### 1-7-3 The stage on City of Yokohama



Akira had a good chance to develop the city Yokohama as a top developing director. His initial job was how to built up a good relation to the staff and work through the problem which we will meet.

A new phase of the city plan was started. Akira faced four big problems, apart from the main theme of recovery for the City function. These were (many) options of financing, expanding population, large obstacles between two city areas and an existing inner resistance among staff of the City. Before this the local government(s) used to receive the order of programs of constructing from the bureaucracy of

Japan and operated according to their directions. But in this project, mainly the City of Yokohama had to do with own ability without experience. Thus, all the staff got frustrated especially people who held high ranking positions.

Mayor Asukata helped Akira in all aspects, the first job, the term of the constructing project of underground expressway was successfully achieved against every opponent. After this story of success, most of the City staff changed their attitude to be cooperative to Akira's ideas and activities.

Tamura, Gakugei Shuppan Sha, 2006 affected his way of thinking through his life.

In order to promote this City plan, he gathered staff who were enthusiastic for future life. It was interesting to notice that those people who worked with Akira were unique and highly independent-minded. The idea what he called "Big-table-ism" was proposed. This was the method which proceeded a certain presentation of a plan, members had been collected who had relation with the project and had great motivation one the less of the level. They sat around the Big-table where there was not job classification. They must present any comments or thinking and reveal their own ideas at least one time. Such policy might be rare in Japanese culture of the big system since feudalistic Edo era, even after the end of World War II. This broke through the bureaucratic apparatus in the City members. After Akira leaving city Yokohama, the "Six Major Projects" has been appropriately continued to work out well and now some of place are the scenic interest. The reason of this long span continuation to this activity would be due to Akira's initial setting up of an educational system for young city men in the city-office too. Later, this idea affected some people after Akira left the City, a number of people got together to study about "Machizukuri:

town making" of his own private tutoring school in Yokohama and Tokyo.

#### 1-7-4 The big changes in our family

After Our Father's death in 1961, all my brothers and I changed our living situations in a few years. It was also Japanese society changed by the high-speed growth of Japanese economy. The eldest brother Tadayuki became a executive director of Ebara-Infilco Co. Ltd. which he worked to establish the company. The second eldest brother Yoshiya held a position of the chief editor of two journals "Bungaku (Literature)" and "Sekai(World)" in Iwanami Publishing Co.Ltd. It was just the time Mr. Yukio Mishima committed suicide, Yoshiya decided ignore this affair as Iwanami Publishing Co.Ltd. even it was beneficial for the Publisher. Because of Mishima acted as the ideology of Japanese empire, Yoshiya denied to this particular topic. He presented to the unofficial resignation to president of the company but it was not accepted. As for Akira, which had already been discussed, he found his life work, a city planner, and moved up to City of Yokohama. The author(Chihiro) I was employed in a pharmaceutical company Sankyo Co. Ltd., as a researcher for about 5 years. I was given the big project of the structure determination of blowfish toxin called tetrodotoxin which interested world chemists from the end of the 19th century. After battling this work for two years, I finished and presented it to the International Symposium of Natural Products in Kyoto, 1964. This gave me an opportunity to study two years for studying more about X-ray crystallography in the US as a postdoctoral fellow.

In early 1967, Chihiro came back home from the US, reading the Bible meeting of our family had been continuing. After two years time, I found \*Yoshiya and Akira changed their mode of opinions and attitudes to the society. Because they faced the real community through their practical works and needed to make proposals or actions in their surroundings. There were also drastic changes in the Japanese economy which caused serious problems with environmental pollution, such as Itai-itai and Minamata diseases which due to heavy metallic and organo-metallic toxicity. And also generating traffics and industry pollution which spread out in a wide area especially in the big cities.

After the family meeting, Yoshiya, Akira and I and our wives got together in Yoshiya's house to have a secondary for talking more about social or literature of current topics. It was interesting to hear the views of both brothers who were in a directly opposite positions, one side Yoshiya who had a journalistic point of view and

stood by the weak, and the other side was Akira as a government official who spoke for more generous and searching equality. Anyway, Akira was deeply affected by Yoshiya's opinion, but later, I found that it came from our parents, just Yoshiya said it in a sophisticated manner. They continued discussion as long as they could even late at night but it never got heated up.

1-7-5 Progress of his work in the City of Yokohama and view from his side of the family

"Six Major Projects" began on a full scale working in all directions. As it was described about two huge organizations which were Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the marshaling of Japanese National Railroad both of them should be moved to somewhere a little far from the central City. It looked like the future potential power of both organizations was going to be small. In these situations, negotiations looked fairly difficult to get with mutual sufficiency in a short time. Another problem was the places where they receive those organizations had big opposition with little approbation by a local resident's campaign. The time schedule was important for performing this project.

Even his work became more busy, monthly gathering of our family continued. At one day of gathering, I noticed Akira had put on weight and he looked tired. He had



This is Khunjerab Pass which is between China and Pakistan and the silk road where people used to come and go in olden days. Akira liked history and geography, he wrote about this pass in his essay, he wrote " There were people who fought against difficulties surrounding nature. They made a road to connect the East and the West"

chauffeur driven car and walked a little. I was anxious about the treatment of higher ranking persons weakening their internal organs. On such a occasion, there came big news that Mayor Asukata would resign from his position. He was to become the chairman of the Social Democratic Party in which there were less highly competent persons. Thus, Akira lost

his top supporter Asukata who could proceed the big projects of the City of Yokohama together. Three years after he left, Akira also resigned from his position which was also quite

disappointing. Though he reached middle age, this was the first time he experienced to lose the way of controlling himself and the post of real managing the organization.

#### 1-7-6 Several Activities when he worked at Hosei University and after he retired

There was a person, Narusawa, who was treated like all Tamura's family from his young age. He was Professor of Hosei University, and asked Akira to work with him to belong to his University. Akira accepted his proposal and began to work for the next generation like students, local town and city people. When he was working in the City of Yokohama, he wrote a book titled "Do City Planning" thus a number of people of city and town knew about his basic ideas. Now, it opened to hear the first instance of local government has been successfully performed a reconstructing project by their own capacity. He was invited by several town and city people for talking about his stories. These unchangeable matter and new jobs which Akira received improved his health and he became slim again.

After several years, Akira reestablished himself as a theoretical city planner. He gradually broadened his philosophy on writing books, and made two private tutoring



Akira always carried a sketch book to draw what he saw. He use watercolors on them at his hotel before the day ended. He and his wife Makiko made a tour to Israel to see Mt. Sinai, Jerusalem, and Wailing Wall. This is the Lake of Galilee which we used to sing of in a Hymn

schools as I described before. In that class, every month, he submitted a sheet of paper to present certain subjects. He lectured on 60 or more subjects which took about 7 years. Then he wrote more than 100 subjects which was left for next generation, some of these subjects will be covered later.

During his life time, he thoroughly discussed different cities from many directions widely and deeply. One of the subject was the behavior and nature of humankind and living systems. When we became close to 21st century in 1999, people discussed aspects about 21st century. He prophesied about the future that something will come to pass. Since there was a growth population explosion on the earth, population was increasing, breaking down the controlling systems etc. which was the signal of the end

like the Breaking down of the Tower of Babel. However, he predicted that a few of them will survive and rebuild new Towns. About some of his hobbies which will be described later, which were travelling, and at the same time its sketching with taking photos. Travelling around the world was directly connected together to his professional work as a city planner. How people live and their aim to live around their area. The sum of countries which he visited totaled was 134 which was not small number. Generally speaking at very beginning of Akira's eyes were open to big cities but later he traveled medium sized or smaller cities. And finally, he became involved in human's activities like arts or festivals.

### Subjectsof Lectures

<b>During Akira's Life Time (a part of them)</b>	<b>After Akira's Death (a part of them)</b>
Where the town came into being, and its meaning	Entertainment and Amusement area
How men and women became human being	The Suburbs and Keeping the Farming areas in the City
Gathering and Domiciliation	Enlargement of large Cities
How villages brought into effectual manner	Poland, New Towns of northen Europe and Brazilia
Why people gather into towns and cities	Desire of mankind and its limits
Town or City as absorbing power	Is it possible for mankind to control his desires?
About settlements in Town to live and to manage with different people	WWW and Physical Distribution
Utopia as an idea	Town used for a meeting place for different people
What is the meaning as a place for Town and City	Railroad Line, Air Line, Bus System, LRT
The change of town and Cities (like organic substance)	Capital City and New Town
Control of Cities, is it Possible?	Weak City, Dangerous City, Complicated City
The rise and fall, the History of Cities	Rebuilding the Japanese Archipelago
Imperial cities, Rome and China	Cycles of human life
Religious cities, Islam and the Crusades	Basic Land Collective Ownership, Use and Profit
Contradiction and Intrinsic of Civilization	Governance by Citizens          Governanced?
Industrialization, Pollution, Slums within the Cities	The Course of Action for human being

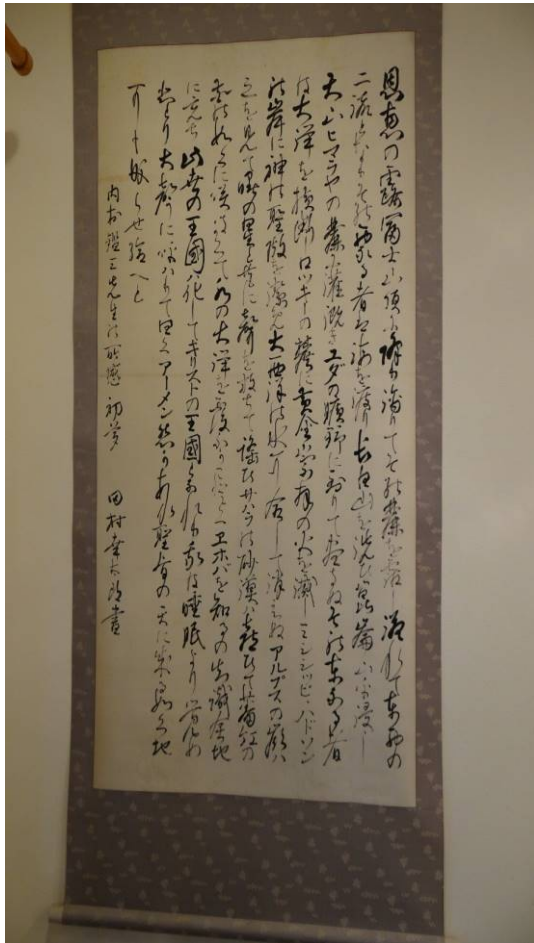
those intangible subjects by their own efforts. Seven years since his death about 50 subjects were presented for discussion. Above all, the most important subject for future humans who needed to think one' own sinfulness was the "Desire of mankind and its limit". Akira tried to search deeper into subject of structural contradiction of society that his conclusion was "civic government" which meant people



had to be more independent and responsible in society. It might be an ideal way of ruling but his proposal to all people of Japan was needed to be free themselves from psychological dependence on someone who are Authoritive nature. One of his important terms was "machi-zukuri" meaning town making in soft old Japanese sound using Japanese Characters. From Meiji era, the Japanese government built up in their own systems, which was called "It's easy to make people obey an order, but difficult to get them to understand the reason for it." In that sense, official government officials used harder Chinese characters of rigid and established words which were not easy to be understood by people. Recent years, there has been a slight improvement for using styles of words in the official government to be more general and using Japanese Character in part.

## 2 Our Father, Kotaro

Kotaro was born into a big hardship circumstances which was after accident of his father's death in 20th Jan. 1889. His Father was a master of the shrine carpenters, when he set up the framework of a shrine, he dropped from the top of it and died. Kotaro was adopted by Mr. Umezu's who was an owner of a barber shop. In the early Meiji era, Japanese government had announced a law that all adult men including Bushi(soldier) and Chomin(town people) must get haircuts. In this way, barbershops had a good opportunity to earn including his step parents. In the beginning, his step father treated Kotaro good and gave him a chance to study in a middle for compulsory education was until twelve for regular Chomin. A barbershop was used as meeting place for neighbors, where Kotaro was able to hear about public and common affairs every day. He might get some criterion from their conversation and things that had standards of their judgments. In school, Kotaro enjoyed studying every subject especially English thanks to an enthusiastic new teacher Mr. Okamoto who graduated from the University of Waseda in Tokyo. He was not only a brilliant and attractive person as a teacher but also as a splendid bringing news from the big city Tokyo. Kotaro's favorites were Japanese chirography and playing tennis, after he started to work, he spent every spare moment writing until his death. And he liked to play tennis until before the World War II.



First Dream of the New Year  
 By Kanzo Uchimura  
 translated by Chihiro Tamura

Dewdrops from divine grace, dripping from the top of Mt. Fuji, and dribbling around the foot of it soaking the area around. Dividing into two flows, one spreading to the East and the other went to the West.

The Western one came to the sea, and washed Mt. Changbai, Mt. Kun lun and Mt. Tianshan irrigating the foot of the Himalayas, Further, on it went to the land of Judah and disappearing into the wilderness.

The Eastern one run across the Pacific Ocean to the bottom of the Rocky Mountains and conquering the fire of worshiping of the gold, On the riversides of the Mississippi and the Hudson, there is a sanctuary of God which was purified, then disappear into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

At the Alps Summit, together with the morning star which saw this, and filled with joy and praising. Sahara Desert was pleased to blossom as flowers of Saffron.

As it is, waters likely covered all the Oceans, Knowledge of knowing the Lord filled the earth. The kingdom of this world became a Kingdom of Christ.

Wake up I sing and shout a song in a loud voice.  
 "Amen! Thy will be done on the earth as it is in Heaven"

Kotaro had good class mates, who completed for top of the class was Nakayama and Oshima. Kotaro and his friends visited Mr. Okamoto's place of residence many times talking about daily matters, such as world literatures and discussing intellectual studies. They all expected to have further the education in certain higher schools like Universities for their future.

At the time of Meiji Restoration, in town Murakami, there were many Bushi(soldiers) who held their right to their group and not conforming to Meiji government. Part of this right was catching of salmon in Miomote river near the city, they learned that salmon fries were released and came back home as big adults. They establish a scholarship just for Bushi's children not for ones of Chomin's. In these circumstances, Nakayama and Oshima had funds needed for further studies but Kotaro was not able. Furthermore, in these circumstances, no one could help him due to outrageous affairs happening around him. His stepfather got big problems due to

double shocks of losing a new business and stepmother eloping with some guy. Furthermore, his stepfather blamed the action of the step mother on Kotaro. Because of his stepfather's treatment, Kotaro couldn't stand it anymore. He decided to leave them and became independent, and got the name from his biological Father's surname "Tamura".

At age of nineteen, it was too early to be independent in old days especially in the small town of Murakami. He gained only this title from graduating the middle school though it helped him to get a job. The job was to be an assistant teacher at a primary school. He became alone since all of his good friends at school were out of town proceeding for higher education and his wishes were completely destroyed. Several times he went for a stroll in the town but the sights were different than before. Kotaro suddenly noticed the Christian Church was there for him at the moment even though it existed before. He got into it, and found warm and fresh feelings through it. One noble lady with gentle smile came up to Kotaro and talked to him. He was telling her about his situation and talked to her about all that had happened to him. She just sat and heard his stories and kept them confidential. Her name was Miss. Kato. After this meeting, Kotaro was able to find the place where he can be in a peaceful mind. In the Church also, there were few people who expressed their opinion on the Bushi caste and they felt Bushi were much more intellectual than others.

For certain years, Kotaro spent time as a teacher in Onnagawa city near Murakami even though it was stressful. And he gained favor from pupils after he started teaching. If it weren't so, he might have decided eventually resign. One day, he received a letter from Mrs. Kurematsu who was Miss Kato. She married Mr. Kurematsu who worked as the director of Custom office at Shanghai China\*. In this letter, he was asked to come to her house as a student who earns his bed and keep by doing small tasks around the house. It was real pleasurable experience to have an opportunity to go abroad as a young man. He was excited to have these opportunities and put them into action at once.

Kurematsu's residence was very tidy, he experienced and learned the warm atmosphere of a Christian home there. It was so different from his home where he grew up. After he finished studying there, he was able to get a job at some trading company in Shanghai and had a small residence. At that time under the control of European countries Shanghai had land regulations in the city centre. During this time, he learned about humans who had a disparity between the ideal and the real matters. Also

he found the big city had many big problems. The life in this city, he was influenced by English gentle men who were his ideal style of mature men. Because of this, his life in this country was more meaningful for future of his job.

Kotaro's senior friend Ichizo Hoda, of Murakami middle school dropped in for a short visit to Shanghai on his honeymoon with his wife, Aiko. Suddenly a mad Chinese man fired his gun in the street and hit Aiko's arm. Fortunately, it was not life threatening though she bled a lot and they were both terrified with this incident. Kotaro who was with them, acquainted with the neighborhood who could take care of her well. After a short while, Kotaro went back to Japan to report about the incident in Shanghai to Aiko's parents. He found Aiko's father Kametaro Yoshida and her mother Machi. This seemed like an ideal Christian home, he felt as if it was in a dream, furthermore there was a lady Tadao who was the younger sister of Aiko. He wanted to continue to be in touch with this family very much. He resigned the job at Shanghai and came to Tokyo to request a certain job there. However, he found that it was difficult to find a good job with his profile. His first job in Tokyo was a library clerk in the Documents and Library room in the Law Faculty of Tokyo Imperial University. He was fond of this work because he was surrounded by a lot of books, but salary was quite low and could not make a plan for the future with the job. He worked at several companies with many different jobs so he couldn't settle down for several years. Viewing from Yoshida's family side, he looked too fashionable and chopped and changed his job too regularly so he was viewed as not favorable at the early stage, apart from being the person who helped Aiko's incident. Furthermore, Tadao had already been engaged to a certain man, that she had no interest to Kotaro but he was not aware of it.

Kotaro found a job as a salesman at the Nihon Cash Register Co. Ltd. which was quite fitted to his past experience. The president of this company was Mr. Bahman an American, as Kotaro could talk to him directly his impression of the president was quite pleasant. He was devoted to his work as a good salesman. Another big incident of his was that he met and heard the lecture of Kanzo Uchimura who was known as a Christian to emphasize the main doctrine of the Bible. These two matters inspired Kotaro very much and his manner changed rapidly to become humbler in his relation to others. A few years later because of the impression of Kotaro was changed greatly towards the favor for Yoshida's family. As it happened that Tadao's fiancé had died after several months of their engagement, she was very disappointed

and did nothing for a few years for recovery. Her mother asked Tadako "Kotaro was becoming very acceptable person in a few years, what do you think about marrying him?". Her answer was "Yes.....".

Kotaro and Tadako got married in 1920, they lived around Yamanote area in Tokyo and always the residences of Yoshida's families were nearby. Kotaro gave one request to Tadako, that every Sunday they attend the Uchimura's meeting together, and they did till the very end. Kotaro was able to have an ideal Christian home as he dreamed.

- 1) NARUSAWA, Akira, "Professor Tamura Akira's backbone", (Hogaku-Shirin, Vol.108, 2011 , p.159-165)
- 2) TAMURA, Akira, " An Archetypal image of A boy born in City of Tokyo", (Tokyo'kko no Genfukei; Kojin Sha, 2009)
- 3) TAMURA, Akira, "Battles of Akira TAMURA" as a City Planner, (Tamura Akira no Tatakai; Gakugei Schuppan Sha, 2006)

The Number of Words is 11,369