

# TAKE 5



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*“Have a break, have a Green tea”*

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### Zen Guide to Life

If at first you don't succeed, avoid skydiving

### UNDERSTANDING WOMEN (A MAN'S PERSPECTIVE)

I know I'm not going to understand women. I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax, pour it onto your upper thigh, rip the hair out by the root, and still be afraid of a spider.

### WORDS

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day... 30,000 to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men..."

## DO AND DON'T OF JAPANESE GARDENS

It's spring and there's lots of work to do to make your garden happy and I thought this is best time to tell you many little hints that will help you to become better gardener like.....me.

It is a kind of Do and Don't for gardener.

**Biggest pot in the world is earth** and bigger the pot better the plants. Sometimes your pot plants show a bit of stress or crying for help could be a few things you can consider.

- 1) Are you feeding regularly with fertiliser that contain trace element ?
- 2) Can you see any nasties.?
- 3) Is water goes through smooth ?
- 4) How long has plant been in the pot ?

1,2,3 are easy to fix and 4, well if it big....you need help and if it small you can re-pot your self.

Before you re-pot, you need new bigger pot and new soil (good potting mix). I strongly recommend to loosen up and prune the root before put back to pot. In doing this, plant will have new healthy root for coming season. (if it doesn't improve in 3 month, please consult your Doctor)

**Always prune after flowering.** You also could give some fertiliser too. This also apply to fruit trees.

**Nice to see season change** in your garden if you live in an area with four seasons. Have one or two deciduous plants that show season change by flower or Autumn leaves. We cannot force you to think season change but it is nice thing to feel that something changing in nature and wild life is also changing.

**No such a thing as "No maintenance Garden"** All gardens need care every now and the, for instance "sweeping, weeding, pruning, feeding, polishing, oiling etc. etc.

**Zen Garden**— Make it simple as possible and do not rush.

Finally, some advice from me.

No 1 : When you are getting advice from expert, Do not argue with them.

No 2 : Always remember No 1.

Bye for now.

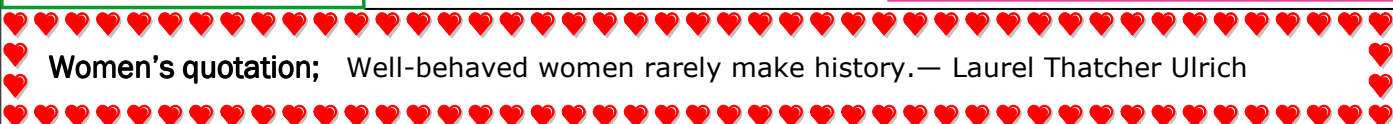
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### 2009 Japan November Tour

Thank you for early response for booking. **Only 4 vacancies**

Please book now so you don't miss out on this unique, down to earth tour because this will be my last for the moment. (we have 3 people coming for second time.) Ask for itinerary.

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Women's quotation; Well-behaved women rarely make history.— Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

## Once upon a time In Japan

### The Monkey and the Crab

Once upon a time, in a land by the sea, there lived a mother crab who was soon to give birth and hadn't eaten for days. "If I don't find some food soon," she thought, "these babies inside me may never be born."

The mother crab had just set out to search for food when along came a mean old monkey, juggling a pair of delicious looking persimmons. The crab stared hungrily at the ripe red fruit.

"How would you like one of these?" the monkey asked as he took a bite. "They're really good."

"Oh, yes!" the mother crab cried. "I'm very, very hungry."

"Here," said the monkey, spitting out some seeds. "Chew on those if you're so hungry. Hee, hee, hee!" He then started eating the other persimmon, right in front of the poor crab. "Mmm-mm!" he exclaimed. "They're so tasty!"



What a mean old monkey he was!

Sadly, the crab shuffled off again to look for food of her own. After she'd walked for quite a long

time, she came upon something that made her heart leap: a big, fluffy ball of rice wrapped in seaweed. Unfortunately, however, the monkey had been following her, and he spotted the rice ball too.

"It's mine. I found it," said the crab, clinging to her treasure. The monkey walked toward the crab, sneering. "Hee, hee hee! Give it to me!" "No, no! It's mine!"

"Well then, Mrs Crab, I'll tell you what—I'll swap you this persimmon seed for it". "Dou you think I'm stupid! I can't eat a seed!"

The crafty monkey looked at the crab out of the corner of his eye. "If you plant this seed, it will grow into a persimmon tree. Then you'll have more sweet, sweet 'simmons than you can ever eat. Once you finish that rice ball, thought, that's the end of it. I'm doing you a favour, you know."

So saying, the monkey put the seed on a rock and snatched the rice ball away. He gobbled it down, seaweed and all, and said, "Mmm-mm!"

The mother crab's eyes filled with tears. But what could she do except plant the seed and hope for the best? So with her last ounce of strength she dug a hole, dropped in the seed, and covered it up.

"Simmon seed, 'simmon seed, hurry up and make a sprout. If you don't I'll pinch you right tin two," she chanted, staring at the ground. And sure enough, the dirt began to wriggle and out popped a long green



sprout.

"Simmon sprout, 'simmon sprout, hurry up and be a tree. If you don't I'll pinch you right in two." The mother crab sprinkled water as she chanted and clacked her pincers. And sure enough, the sprout shot up and became a tree in a matter of minutes.

"Simmon tree, 'simmon tree, hurry up and give some fruit. If you don't I'll pinch you right in two." And sure enough, large green fruit appeared on the braches. Even as the crab watched, the fruit began to ripen and turn red, and soon there were any number of tasty ripe persimmons hanging from the tree.

"At last I can eat," said the crab.

She was just about to climb the tree when she remembered: crabs can't climb trees. The fruit she had worked so hard for hung far over her head, hopelessly out of reach.

Well, guess who came along just the.. That's right—the



mean old monkey. The mother crab's face turned white when she saw him. "This is my tree," she said.

"But how are you going to get the fruit?" The monkey scrambled up the tree and grinned down at the crab. "Don't worry, I'll get it for you," he said as he plucked a ripe red persimmon. But instead of throwing it to the crab, he munched on it himself. "Dee-licious!" he cried. "Please!" cried the crab. "Pick one for me, too!"

The monkey gave her an evil look and said, "OK I'll find one just for you." He picked the hardest, greenest persimmon he could find and threw it at the poor mother crab, hitting her square on the back and injuring her badly. As the mother crab lay there moaning, her shell cracked open and out popped three little baby crabs. "Mamma! Mama!" they cried.

The monkey, meanwhile, ate his fill and strolled back home, picking his teeth. He couldn't have cared less about the crab and her children.

The mother crab lay in agony beneath the persimmon tree for three days, and on the third day she died. Weeping as they carried her, the three baby crabs vowed never to forgive or forget the wicked monkey. Someday, the swore, they'd get revenge.

To be continued.....

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Kyūshū Island**

Kyūshū is the third largest and southernmost of the four major islands of Japan. I didn't take much notice of Kyushu for a long time because it is long way from where I grew up (Nagano prefecture) and enough interesting things are near to us. I knew Kyushu had a very important part in our history and got a lot of hammering from typhoon in Autumn season. Kyushu is the closest island to Korea and China, and it was from Kyushu that the Yamato tribe extended their power to Honshu (main island of Japan).

Kyushu was for many centuries the sole link to European civilisation. During the long period of isolation from the west, the Dutch settlement at Nagasaki in Kyushu was Japan's only connection to the outside world.

**Nagasaki** is one of Kyushu's prime attractions, due to its European-influenced history and its atomic tragedy. Food is another talking point in Nagasaki. Many foods in Nagasaki are mixed with Chinese and western but very much in original. I can't wait to taste one of "chanpon" dish.



**Shimabara**

Shimabara is a very small castle town which can be reached by slow local train from Na-

gasaki and most places of interest are within walking distance.

There is an old samurai district in Shimabara where there is a street lined with stone walls with a spring water canal running down the centre. Three of the original samurai houses have been restored and are open to the public.

The remains of the largest and most comprehensive medicinal herb garden in Japan created by the feudal lord Matsudaira Tadami in 1834 is situated in Shimabara.

Shimabara is a city of fresh springs and About 1500 carp love to swim in them.



**Kumamoto**

The third largest city in Kyushu is the home of Suizen-ji-koen Garden, a relatively extensive garden where you will find a stroll garden which represents the 53 stations of the Tokaido Road, the Kokin Denju-no-Ma Teahouse which was moved there from Kyoto in 1912 and an ornamental lake.

Kumamoto is also home to Kumamoto-jo Castle which dominates the centre of town. It looks superb at night, is very large and houses many interesting exhibits and displays including a section of the ceremonial boat in which a daimyo and his followers made their regular voyage to the court of Edo.

Kumamoto has many other attractions on offer and has a tram service which will get you to most places of interest. *My 2009 November tour will spend 8 days in Kyushu.*

Japanese Garden E-news

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Fall seven times, stand up eight.  
— Japanese proverb

**Reasons women love men**

They're enthusiastic about our bodies, even when we're not.

If you have anything to publish in this newsletter, please send information to  
[take5@japaneselandscaping.com.au](mailto:take5@japaneselandscaping.com.au)