"Culture Bias," Class Assignment, 1944

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Culture Bias

The civilization is ruined and built by culture bias. It is that nationalistic feeling toward your own culture, to build it up lovelier than your neighboring group. Wars had been caused between nation and discrimination had resulted in nations by social heritage.

United States is said to be the melting pot of the world and therefore cultures had been mixed. Where two cultures do not tend to exist together, the minority groups yielded by discrimination.

I have been born into a Japanese culture but adapted into an American environment. The much accelerated culture of the new world saw my color and tormented me. I saw the negroes, the jews, the Filipinos, and the Mexicans facing the same black cloud. They lived a more segregated life than I did. This brought my almost diseased mind to the realization of the need of toleration and good will toward each other. I do not feel that Japan has the best culture nor does United States, nor Germany, England, or France. Through countless treatments of prosecution, I learned and realized to become more tolerant to my parents and caucasians. I feel that I am a citizen of the world rather than to a single nation. That is the reason why I am proud that I lived in the land of many different cultures and that I am a nisei.

The lives that are being lost today are not in vain. Someday from under their primrose graves, they will see that their works have been done — a uniform culture of the world. The modernized communication and means of travels through the efforts of gifted individuals will make this a becoming possibility. The various cultures of all social groups will be put to one and good parts squeezed out and bad heritage eradicated. This will be the benefit of human endeavorance. While the everlasting lights of hope burns brightly, the time will come. Let that be our destiny.

Yorimi Matsumoto

Written by a senior 1944 Class