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PER. 5

Toshiro Hara Social Problems Feb. 24 '43

The Future

Of course no one ever knows what is in store for him in the future, nevertheless, he tries to predict and hope that his future is what he planned. Some people are lucky and some are unlucky at seeing their predictions come true. God has a road leading to success and failure for everyone in his world; I hope he leads me to that castle in the clouds. The following paragraphs is my life as I predict it. Let it be by God that my predictions come true.

My chief ambition is, and always will be, to become a good stenographer. Since the first day I entered the shorthand class, secretarial practice has been my goal.

Now that I am coming to an end in my high school career, I will have to think more and more of my future. Shorthand has taught me how to use the

English language better.

After graduating from high school, induction in the armed forces of America will be enforced. Entering the armed forces is the greatest thing that ever happened to me. If I am called, I will do all in my power to win this dreadful war. I hear from many people that the army is in desperate need of stenographers. That is why I am joining the army as a secretary.

The army guarantees six months of training before going overseas. During this time I hope to learn everything that a soldier should know so that I may have an equal chance.

If I do go abroad, (confidentially) I hope I don't have to fight the Japanese. I think I will have a better chance of living, if I fight the Germans in Africa.

This war is my future. If America loses, my future will be

My future

changed, if Japan loses, my future will remain as I had planned. (I hope). That is the chief reason why I am so anxious to do my part in winning this war.

Let's pretend America will lose this war and see how my future lies. If Japan wins I'll probably have to go to Japan or its possessions. My life will be completely ruined. First of all, I can't read and write Japanese. Then to top this, I can hardly speak Japanese at all, so you can readily understand why I do not wish to live with the Japanese as a whole.

This is the main reason why I am trying to get out of this camp. I never got along with Japanese, and I never will.

Before entering the armed forces, I expect to go out on furlough work to do all I can to save America's sugar, beet crops. I hope that all the boys and men have the same

idea. After finishing my work on the home front, I hope to do my share abroad.

The odds of my living through this catastrophe is slim, and I, like any other human being, want to live. No one wants to die, that's natural, so we must expect to die before this war is over. If, by a miracle I should survive I would want to enter a business college.

The reason I want to enter business college is because of the brief study of shorthand I had in Manzanar. I would also have to learn how to file different papers. Among the most important is the study of the various types of office machinery such as the typewriter, stenotype, dictophone, adding machine, and the mimeograph machine. Not only will I get these fundamental studies in business, but I will also get acquainted with people who

My Future

are also interested in business, and I will also know just how it feels to work in an office.

Upon graduating from business college I hope to take a city civil service examination and get a job ~~which~~ with that city. If I should fail this examination, I shall seek employment in a private business. If by chance I pass this examination, I will probably start out at the bottom of the ladder and work up from an office clerk to the president of the firm.

at this work I hope to find a girl that I think fits into my taste and marry her if I think it is advisable at that time. The qualification of my "dream girl" should be: considerate, sociable, understanding, personality, and a good house keeper. I know this is hard to fill, but I also know that there are girls that fill this

requirement to a "T."

Before getting married however, I think it is right to know the girl for at least two years, and go steady for a year, and an engagement for at least six months. I say this because I don't want a divorce and in order, not to get a divorce, I must know the girl thoroughly, unless she is "two faced."

If I am married, I will live as a typical family in America. That is, depending on my standing in the office or any other work. I would want about three children. I will make my wife stay at home, and raise them as every child deserves.

My family life would be something like "Dagwood Bumstead and his family," minus the trouble he gets into. So you can picture my life ten or fifteen years from now.

My Future

This is my family life, if I survive this war. The other side of the question is, "If I should lose a leg or an eye, or become an invalid in any way upon returning from this war." Of course if I am an invalid I would feel inferior to those who are mentally and physically well. This will change my whole family life.

If I am badly injured I probably won't get married. If it is that bad, I probably would have to live in a soldiers home, and like it. If I should come back in this condition, I might just as well get a gun and shoot myself, and relieve myself from the torture.

The above paragraph is a very logical happening after a war, that is why I included it as my future.

Now coming back to my happy family life, the first thing I would do, is to build up a fund

so that my children might start on an equal basis with all the other children. My next duty would be, to have a savings account, in case of a rainy day. The next step would be insurance. Insurance will mean security for the future.

If I should die during the time my children are still a ~~adolescent~~, I want them to stay in school and get an education like the rest of the boys and girls. Instead of quitting school to work, I want them to continue their education and use up the insurance money.

The most important security is social security. This security, I hope, will help me and my wife, during which time my children are married and living away from home. In many cases, the parents are left childless and penniless by their children and they mean nothing to the children at all, whereas if I can collect from my social

My Future

security, I might live on it till my last day on this earth.

When that last day comes, I hope and pray that there may be an end to all wars.

The following things have been said with the understanding that America wins this war. Suppose Japan should win, then it is another story. This story would probably happen like this.

First of all, if America loses this war, it would be natural for them to be prejudiced against all Japanese. That would mean all Japanese will be sent back to Japan or its possessions. This, as I once said, "I hope never happens." Let's say that I am deported to Japan. My customs and language would be an entirely different atmosphere. It would probably take me about five years to get accustomed to this Japanese language and customs. If the Niseis are sent back,

there is no future for them in Japan because of the lack of Japanese customs. The Japanese wouldn't trust us as much as they should. I'd be "a man without a country," so to speak. We wouldn't have a say so in the parliament. The Japanese government wouldn't suit me after living in a democracy for twenty years.

If I do go back to Japan this is the way I'll feel. No one can make me change my mind. You just can't do anything unless you have your heart in it, and mine is missing!

I wouldn't live in Japan unless it was the last thing I could possibly do. I'd rather live in America under pressure, than live in Japan in luxury.

I am not saying this just because I am in a camp, but I am saying this, because it is in my heart.

My Future

In the above paragraphs the future is predicted. There is no doubt in my mind that it may not come as I predict, ~~but~~ but there is a possibility.

For all we know, this war might end tomorrow or the next day; then my whole future will be changed. Of course if I die, there is no future for me 'except a burial in the desert or in the swamp.

It is only human that a human being predicts things and it is a law of average that he predicts some of the things right.

The above paragraphs, as you will see, are filled with, "I hope," "it might happen," "I think", and "If". This is because of the misty outlook of the future I really have.

No one actually knows the future anyway.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this summary of my future. If there are any criticisms, will you write it down on this paper? Seeing that this is the first time I have written of my future, I want to see just where it stands in another person's mind.

Finis

STEVENS

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1998.38.18