

April 9, 1940

Dear Ken

Thank you ever so much for the picture  
What an enjoyable evening we did have in looking  
over them & taking out some of the official family  
photographs. He showed Masayoshi the snaps & said  
who is this - It's Terasu - Kayo pipes up he can't  
sit up - It's you - Masayoshi responds - No ooo  
SAH - It's Terasu - It's Really - Really Terasu  
Not me - No ooo SAH AH very prolonged.  
It's Terasu. I don't blame him - Those pictures  
taken in the buggy with paper cap are just  
about his (Terasu's age). It's three years ago - I certainly  
am glad I took them - They certainly are a keep  
sake now. The pictures I wanted enlarged of Masayoshi  
& one George wants dipped so I will look them  
over & decide again - As long as you are sending the  
negatives down, I will get some enlarged at the  
chain store drug store which develops them at a  
special rate ever so often.

In the evening Kayo saw some pictures & what

laugh she got from them. The last family group taken in front of the steps - She looked at this one and started to laugh very heartily. She said, "Gee ee what a long stockings & he got big laugh at it - Next comment was the hair ribbons - It looks so queer to her. Then she wanted to know how old we all were. Masayoshi wants daddy to buy him a horse like the one you rode in the garden picture. What in looking over many pictures Kago said, "I can tell mama right away by her big eyes." George got a big laugh at that.

Kago still thinks it was unfair of you to make her pronounce "Garden" - Gee she said Uncle thinks I know it and I don't. Every so often I hear her saying - Gold - en - Gold - en to be sure she know when you come rolling around again.

One day towards evening Kago was drawing some picture and she drew one of a man I guess - Masayoshi said what's that - Kago said hair - Evidently he had a bushy hair as Masayoshi responds - Daddy ha-n't got some much hair

I never saw that picture as I was cooking & after supper & getting them to bed I forgot all about that incident.

What a lump it brought to me when I read your letter - Going away again - I had hopes that you would be satisfied with home & its work but my guess was all wrong. I have been sleeping over the matter & as I have or am not putting out any penny for your adventure I shouldn't say anything but here it goes - as a big sister jobbing again. In

Friday  
4/12/40

In rereading your letter you did not say when you are going and what for - I hope you are intending to go to some school and get your degree first. There is no use of trying to fool yourself that you can take a short cut - you have to have the sturdy foundation talking in terms of architect before you can build the walls & roof of any durability. I know you feel that you must hurry as you are not in your late teens & early twenties - but hurry you must as you feel but there is that

old proverb of "Haste make waste". Perhaps you are thinking doing apprentice work & get little expense ~~was~~ money while getting experience at same time. But if you took this course where will you be few years from now. You will be in the same place - You must have college degree if you want to be something in future years & have it ready when you put out your shingle on your door. After having the fundamental works of college, then getting experience work working with person like Mr. Thight will give your customer a weighted confidence in you & only then - ~~Offering~~ ~~not~~ the first A.B.C of the architect. Mr Thight will not give you the weighty problems to tackle as you are not fitted - you will be the ever errand & handy boy. Now do you really want to be an architect who will be drawing drawing day in & day out plans other people had thought out. It is a mighty, mighty long step before you will be able to make any presentable wages on your own accord & working for others will be quite a monotonous affair.

There is the first great obstacle and that is  
race prejudice - I know you said there was  
very little in the East but I have heard au-  
thentic stories how great the pressure of Jap. boycott  
was then that you could not walk the streets in  
broad daylight with upright position - We in  
California were more fortunate - You may say I'm  
Amer. citizen but there is the racial features that  
is not so easy to erase - Maybe future generations  
but not in you & me. As long as you do not cut  
the fur of the cat wrong way all is well. So wait  
we - as long as we do not enter the field where  
whites are not so competitive you are a good Jap.  
but as soon as you take one step out of that  
circle you become a dirty Jap - Why just because  
it's an economic competition.

Next I personally don't think you are the type  
(excuse my frankness) to be an architect - you  
was not born for it. I believe everyone is born with  
a distinct characteristic for certain type of jobs.  
Now you would never be a successful

bookkeeper not because you are poor in number but you are too quick & the ever slow monotonous routine work of bookkeeping just irritates you. You would be better mixing in some type of engineering when you figure but it isn't so dogmatic & just copying one figure after another in a straight column. No know you are not that type.

The same applies to your architect - drawing & re drawing the same plans with minor alterations day in & day out under the boss of another man would go against your nature and soon you will be quitting again. There is the long heavy days ahead of you of many obstacles to climb that will pull you down heavier each time. Remember there are <sup>many</sup> pebbles on the beach but few outstanding rocks or cliffs that makes it outstanding for people to recognize.

I don't blame you for being all up in the air about Mr. Knight's work. Even I got some of that fever in looking over some of the homes illustrated

in the magazines you showed me on your home-ward trip. Especially the home at the "Taksein" but very few can afford them & show that can we not going to knock on the door of a Japanese.

You can sit down & figure out for yourself how many graduates from U.C. college of architect have names big enough to be known a little & what percent are making a decent & satisfying wages.

Government is making plans for low cost houses for less income people but the bid will go to white as sure as there is a nose on your face.

You will say there haven't been any Japanese to qualify as yet and why can't it be me - I will certainly agree with you that sooner or later some one has to make a break but I will tell you it is not you. You are not made for it - If you were I would help all I can in persuading the folks & help as much as possible financially.

Perhaps you are thinking about going to Manchuko or China & help do some reconstructive work - I have no <sup>first</sup> hand news but what I hear

there is much more opportunity for me in line of engineering - Now Karu & even Mr. Shii although you can not depend on them too much except to be of some guidance in this line.

Your mind is too active for this type of work. Think it over again I wish I could talk it over with you so that I'm a wizard at anything - If you still persistent about it why not start U.C. next month by entering for intercession - summer & then regular - I think you will save time. As to the relative merit of U.C. architecture course I do not know but I have heard it had fairly good standing when I was in school.

How have you really become uninterested in nursery work or getting tired of having much praise & compliments thrown in your face all the time? Be fair and answer this to yourself. If you still like nursery work why don't you specialize in propagation side and buy a place five or six or ten acres and have a hot bed, perhaps greenhouse or two & the place for your future home.



Make it agreement when you can get your <sup>stock</sup> supply from Mich & make it a distinctive department & work under the <sup>same</sup> name - You do not realize what or how much names count in success of a business. Father may have lost the old place when he worked so hard but he still has the name of good standing & counts great deal in business - Good will counts considerable when one is purchasing a business - It's an asset. If you think of this as favorable spend 2 or 3 yrs finishing your college education at some school known for its & floriculture or is it horticulture and specialize in propagating & work out in some large nursery in East & South - like Keigo's & Hills - Then at end of 3 years you are ready for something with a bright future in a sure road.

You may laugh when I say future here but you are not any too young to be just drifting along the current and sampling some water here & there.

I'm afraid that is what is going to happen to you if you don't buckle down soon. You are too smart

and have intelligence of acquiring the knack of  
different trade to certain extent just to make your  
medicine job if any one & you will become a boy of  
jack of all trades & at the end you love best as  
you will not have any particular job -

I think you will be much happier in future  
years but I'm in no power to tell you do this & do  
that. Sleep over it few more nights as I know you  
have love it to obtain the other decision. Be fair  
to yourself & be sure you are not kidding yourself.

With the independent word & the feeling the plan  
is yours will help you feel 100% better

Now that's over I can sleep with little more  
ease till I hear from you again - I'm afraid  
just going to apprentice from one work to another is  
going to make you a great Vagabond King. Any  
type of job or work has its up & down & your feeling  
rise & fall with it too.

Mrs. Fujii & Kenji & Mrs. Ishii called for  
a short time this evening & stayed about half an  
hour & was on their way to Los Angeles - As to the

time they get there I do not know as they are making another stop at Carpenteira. Otas - Mrs. Fujii said she arrived in Santa Maria around noon but met some one she hadn't seen for about 26 years or more - So poor Kenji just rushing to get to L.A. so he can get some sleep, see the market but alas he is not making a such a hurried trip.

Thank you for the otaku ke mono - It is something to help a cook on a hot day, no fooling we are having it plenty, last few days according to newspaper 2nd hottest spot in U.S. Phoenix Original fruit & Santa Barbara next.

Have had so many unexpected guests & why not be you again - Hope to hear from you soon.

Love to all - It was past my bed time but I must write this as I'm afraid week end will be busy - I'm afraid a guest - I don't think Fujii will stop on homeward journey.

Is Michi coming down for personal business or for business if for business maybe you can come for him. Goodnight - After reading all this you can say & bond just like son but it has been

my conscience a little & I'm getting written  
camp so will close. ojasami. "See"

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Goleta



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