

## **Kanreki (celebrate my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday) or back to the calendar when you were born**

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### **1) At the beginning this is for reminding of colleagues outside or inside Japan**

In Japan as well as in China (origin), we have Chinese zodiac signs, or 12-shi in Japanese, and call you are in Kanreki when you completed 5 times of it, revealing the social limit such as a retirement age (for the following younger workers to have their further opportunities), as well as another country, in Tokyo Uni., top of Japan school system and having their chances of rather confirmed acceptance of pension.

### **2) Classification or categories of Japan life style, for the explanation of Kanreki**

One cycle of 12-shi is 12 years that you can easily think of the number, so up to now 60 years of age will be divided into 5 cycles and following ones will come as long as you live. When you reached the age of 60 we comment on you that you are in Kanreki and celebrate with red cloth, which is rather funny looking from the eastern national's standpoint.

### **3) Concerning of author's Kanreki, 5 cycles of 12-shi are as follows;**

a) 1-12 years of age; I was born in Nobeoka, northern part of Miyazaki-ken, which is longitudinal to north and south and situated in the east of the pacific side of Kyushu island which is one of the 4 in Japan. I finished there for the Kindergarten in 2 years and elementary school of 6 years up to 6 or last grade of it.

b) 13-24 years of age; This is during junior high school, high school and medical school. Speaking of the last one, I was admitted to a med. one which is in the neighboring prefecture called Kagoshima at the age of 18. Twenty-four is the age of the graduation from this school.

c) 25-36 of age; Four years had passed at the postgraduate of the same school as before mentioned and got a medical doctor (MD) 2 years later. At that time I majored in pathology under the direction of Prof. Eiichi Sato who is my former teacher and will be my lifetime leader. After completing the work for MD, I moved into Ob/Gyn clinic at the same school and further more to the national hosp. near to it, because the theme for the MD was a gynecologic one. At the age of 31 I decided to go to USA for further researches of pathology and/or Ob/Gyn pathology to the Department of Ob/Gyn, Columbia Presbyterian Uni. Hosp. in NYC that was selected because the Director Prof RM. Richart there came to Japan for the lecture on the theme of cervical cancer in the Japan Ob/Gyn annual meeting held in Fukuoka that is in the tip of the very northern part of Kyushu in the nineteen-seventies. In NYC I recognized world trade center that became world wide famous for 9.11 supposedly 2 or 3 years after this twin tower had been built. I didn't climb up this one, although

those were outstanding twin towers you saw. As one year trainee term was over I came back to this country though I had a chance of obtaining a new research job in a famous institute of which director was a Dr. who'd been an honorable board of Japan Gann Gakkai(cancer society) at that time. Training time in Columbia Uni. was over, when my daughter would be an age of entering elementary school, who happily now is a mother of 2 kids, 3 and 1 of ages and her husband is an ophthalmologist in the same med. school I attended and my following son works in Kumamoto med. school of which location is next north to Kagoshima. There he got a graduation and now is a kidney practitioner.

My Gypsy will not cease, then after one and half years, at the age of 33, I moved to the newly established med. school in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka-ken which is located almost in the center of Japan and fairly near to Tokyo, because the founder of this school was a relative whose father was also an educator who built a school in Qingdao, China. I became a lecturer 2 years later, that is, at the age of 35.

d) 37-48 of age; This 12-shi begins after 2 years duration of lecturer and should be the most active clinician leading me to the associate Prof. of med. school in Oita that is upper north beyond Miyazaki-ken, where I did almost all kinds of Ob/Gyn oncological surgeries. Otherwise I succeeded the work that was done particularly in the holy place Hamamatsu because the newly founded med. school was there and promoted the endometriosis investigation basically and clinically which started as an experimental uterine cervical carcinogenesis concomitant with endometriosis in rats when I had been in the postgraduate and even now being my own life time work.

e) 49-60 of age; At this time my work might be downsizing or wholly dedicated to be an educator. I changed to the women's junior college as a Prof, which is located near to my old school, in one reason my father got old and sick and decided to come back to Kagoshima. In 1998 at the age of 51 when I finished the Ob/Gyn work, I planned to make a paper per one year at this college bulletin on my own data, which was established at Oita times. I am now in the happiest mood during my life educating my lovely students who are going to be nurse teachers that would be a model of wonderful coupling of education and medicine that should be one of the most important task in the world of 21st century I believe.

#### **4) Some thoughts on 12-shi will be here as supplements;**

a) In Japan we count 12 years as one cycle that has 12 animal names, which would be Chinese origin and came into probably through the Korean peninsula where pig appears instead of a wild boar. We call ourselves that we were born in years of animals, for example I was born in the year of wild boar. So when you hesitate to ask someone of his/her Japanese age, you can ask him/her "what is your animal of 12-shi?" and can speculate ages, maybe, in 12 years deviation of errors.

b) I've got a feeling of fantasy that my life span is divided into 5 up to now, according to 12-shi which originated in China and flew into Japan, associated with thinking that my ancestor definitely came from this place Shinkyu, where I visited for the international meeting of molecular pathology in August, 2006, held in very west of China where I met people who remembered me of Japan in half a century ago by the streets on

which my uncles or aunts walked, including of course fathers and mothers of myself.

c) Indeed number 12 is mysterious if you permit me to say further exaggerations. Months of dozen are in the year, I can't tell why it is so. Five times of 12, 60 are rather more enigmatic, no less than I am coming to the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Where I am, what I am and why I am here that is close to ages of 60, would be the biggest items I should "pense", sorry French word "think" would be the most appropriate revealing my thinking at this moment.

d) Three episodes should likely to be revealed, you would say so, that is, 3 acquaintances in these 12-shis during 60 years have been astonishingly related to the past staffs of this college. According to the sequences of 12-shi categories, first is the former chief in this library who was my teacher of national language at high school in Nobeoka appearing in second 12-shi above mentioned. Second episode is a past Prof. who now is an emeritus one whose husband was an obstetrician that succeeded in quintuplet for the first time in this country in 1976. This might be, because that success was when I'd been in the very last grade of the postgraduate, the reason that drove me to the Ob/Gyn practices adding to the uterine carcinogenesis in rats. Third is a former president at this college who was a previous president of Oita Uni. which now covers the med. school to which I had moved from Hamamatsu med. one.

(Dec. 5, 2006)