

2 month of uchideshi life at Kobayashi dojo

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27.02 (my 1st time in Japan)

08.40am

I gave my declaration to the border officer and tried to have the broadest smile which I can.

This man had very serious look. But 1 second later:

“ Two months of aikido uchideshi? Really? Is it your 1st time in Japan?”

I have never seen so cheerful airport officer before. Next 2 minutes we were talking about me, Kobayashi dojo and Japan. Happy and satisfied I went looking for my luggage and buy a bus ticket.

08.51

“ Доброе утро

Welcome to Japan!”

The next welcoming person was Kasahara sensei, who gave me advices to find Kodaira dojo.

11.50

I opened the dojos door and saw very friendly Chinese girl.

“I’m new uchideshi. My name is Anya”

Lin helped me with my things and said to sleep before the Japanese lunch outside. (I don’t know what this soup was made with. And I don’t want to know... But it was good)

Some hour later...

I met Kevin and Oh (Sweden and Chinese uchideshi) and they showed me everything about cleaning and other uchideshi's work.

The 1st week was full of new people and things. I was enjoying every keiko. And early mornings were easy for me. From the other hand, this week gave me a lot of difficult emotions. All time people were talking Japanese or Chinese around me, and I felt very alone..

2nd week

I continued to try have my own life between keiko. And it was the biggest mistake. Early wakings have started to be impossible. My knees showed me that they can't put up with cold tatami, so zagi and seiza were like pain test for me.

“Ok. I enjoyed one week of uchideshi. How can I decide to go for 2 months?!”

3rd week

This week was the beginning of really good time. The spring came. Mornings became lighter and warmer.

I was sleeping all my free time. And I have found people, who made my life happy and keiko the most interesting.

18.05 Sunday

My shodan promotion test.

“Really?! 15 minutes for both? I was waiting this day for three years. I hadn't time to enjoy it!”

It was an excellent day.

Morning children class.

Lunch with Kasahara sensei.

My first exam in Japan.

Party with new friends.

Afterparty with new friends (Lin, You are my new best singer)

2nd month

Kevin, Oh and Brandon left. New uchideshi Radi and Taha from Bulgaria and Tunisia came here.

The time of English have started. I was enjoying of communication. In this time I felt that I want to stay in Japan more than 2 months.

Sumo day.

I said my friends, that we are going to watch fat naked men. And I don't know why. But, now I know. To have a lot of new jokes. And I still think that this show only for Japanese old women.

Also it was the 1st day with "spring smell".

Last week

This week was full of my sayonara parties. With kodaira members, with Hiroaki sensey's family, with friends, and one more with friends (in the last night.. in the park..)

I'm very pleased that I had so good time with Kobayashi sensei, Hiroaki sensei, Miyogo san, Kaho, Hiromi, Kako, Shaini (the happyuchideshilife maker), Sachia, all uchideshi and other people, who gave me chance to be a part of fantastic Japanese life.

PS: My advice for new uchideshi:

- Forget about your habitual life to enjoy it
- Never, no, NEVER have illness here
- Try not to be lost in city