

Cosmos Times

The Book of Tea written by Kakuzo Okakura (or Okakura Tenshin, as he is known in Japan) is a beautiful book about the spirit of *chanoyu* (the practice of Japanese tea ceremony).

This book was first published in English in 1906, not long after Japan surprised the world by defeating Russia in the Russo-Japanese War that ended in 1905. It is said that Okakura wrote this book in an attempt to expose to the West a more delicate and traditional side of Japan and to show that despite Japan's rapid modernization and growing military powers, Japan was and still is an aesthetically beautiful nation.

Although many women practice Japanese tea ceremony today, it is originally and traditionally a practice that the samurai warriors engaged in. Through this book, Okakura provided an alternative vision of Japanese warriors and also for modernized Japan, which strived to become like the "masculine" West.

Today, even 100 years after this book was released, people still turn to this book to learn about Japanese cultures and values. The version of "The Book of Tea" that we have in our library is also perfect for those who are studying Japanese as it is written in both Japanese and English. When you open a page, you will find the Japanese translation on the left and the original passage written in English on the right. How convenient!



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七転び八起き (ななころびやおき *nanakorobi-yaoki*)

Literally: fall seven times and stand up eight.

Meaning: When life knocks you down, stand back up

A "*daruma*" is a Japanese doll modeled after Dharma, the priest who came from India to China in the 6th century and founded Zen. In Japan, *daruma* has is considered a symbol of patience and effort because Dharma meditated for many years in a cave. To represent the Dharma's patience, the doll's bottom part is heavy; that way the *daruma* returns to a standing position even when people try to knock it down. The proverb "*nanakorobi-yaoki*" derives from this.



Festivals on May

*三社祭 (Sanja-Matsuri)

Date: 5/16~5/18
Place: Asakusa Shrine
Asakusa sta.

*神田祭 (Kanda-Matsuri)

Date: 5/14~5/15
Place: Kanda-Myojin
Ochanomizu sta.

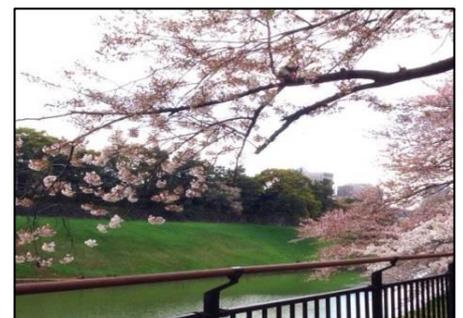
*Rose Festival

Date: 5/10~6/8
Place: Kyu-Furukawa
Garden, Nishigawara sta.
Kami-Nakasato sta.

Good Lunch Place Near Cosmos

*Eat *Oyako-Don* at
一番どり (Ichiban-Dori).

親子丼(Oyako-Don) is a Japanese rice bowl topped with simmered chicken and egg. We call it Oyako (Parent-and-Child) since it is made with chicken and eggs! You can eat 親子丼 for 680yen here! It is located right near our school! Try it out!



Sakura at Chidorigafuchi