

To our much-admired foreign friends,

We hope you have returned safely after visiting our pleasant land in the recent cultural exchange. We express our apologies, again, that we could not get you closer to your goal than we managed; it is a shame that you were not able to secure the souvenir you hoped for. However, we are heartened that you came as close as you did to getting the souvenir you had set your hearts upon.

Unfortunately, it is now harder to reach—the vigilant watch-dogs are keeping a closer eye, have changed their prowling patrols, and gotten new leashes. Such a souvenir is, as things currently stand, quite beyond reach—or, at least, beyond that of a similar approach as last time. We cannot predict how long this will last, or when a new opportunity to acquire your heart's desire might arise.

Fortunately, the watch-dogs seem quite befuddled. You were most excellently skilful in evading their honed senses, and so they have no scent nor trail to go on. Truly, we have praise for your culture's expertise in such matters for you have left the hounds so little to pursue. They are quite lacking in awareness of who stepped onto their garden, and what souvenir they sought. Indeed, we feared the dogs might bite anyone else nearby who they have little love for, for lack of the true prey, but they are not even doing that; they have not so much as sniffed in our direction, so clean was your retreat.

May you fare well in the future, and thank you again for the kind considerations you brought to us—we are only sorry that we could not do more to help you reach your desire.