

The Eternal Storehouse of Japan

This article is by Ihara Saikaku who was a Japanese poet and creator of the “floating world” genre of Japanese prose. In this reading the writer talks about a millionaire of Kyoto, Fuji Ichi who was a tenant in a house that he had rented. He lived in a small rented house and even though he had a lot of money he knew how to control his impulse from avoidable purchases and knew how to regulate his money and not waste it on unnecessary things. He went by life with the bare minimum and did his best to take advantage of every opportunity that he had to make a profit or get something worthwhile out of an event.

Fuji Ichi was a clever man and his substantial fortune was amassed in his own lifetime. But mainly he was a person who knew his own mind and this was the reason for his success. He used to keep a ledger that he made from scraps of paper where he recorded a variety of information from the price of gold and copper to information about different drugs in the market. His ledger consisted of a lot more similar information making him a very valuable asset to the citizens of Kyoto.

He never spends money on his clothes and he learned to do with what he had. He used to take extra care while walking so that he does not wear out his shoes. He never passed up anything which might be useful even if it was stones that could be used as fire lighters. He was not a miser but he was able to manage his daily affairs so that he does not waste any money.

The article talks about a particular incident that took place with Fuji Ichi it was during New Years he had ordered rice cakes and decided to pay by the weight. So when the trader arrived with the goods and shouted from outside informing about his arrival the master (Fuji Ichi)

pretended not to hear and carried on with his work and then one of his clerks went ahead and took the order from the trader and a couple of hours later when the master inquired about the cakes he criticized the clerk for taking them and explained that the weight of the cakes is more when they are hot and he was waiting for them to cool so that he would pay less for the same quantity as the weight would have decreased.

He was not only a great person who knew how to manage money and know its value he was also a great father as he enjoyed spending time with his daughter. He also home schooled her and soon she was his protégée and adopted the same ways of living like her father. She began imitating her father in his thrifty ways and soon gave up all pointless activities.

This article talks about how a person who was a millionaire in his times never sought the need to live like one as he was contempt with what he had and made the best of every opportunity that he had so. One might say that he is a miser but I feel that he was someone who understood the value of money and knew how hard one must work on earning it so there it should be wasted on unnecessary items.