

A Friendship Beyond Borders

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Do you have any friends overseas who can help you when you're in trouble?

Maybe you have someone like that—

- I have a very special friend who lives in Taiwan.

Today, I'd like to talk about her and how our friendship has changed my life.

In 5 years ago, When I did search any friends who can talk a hobby. We met on the Internet. It started when she spoke to me in Japanese, so I thought she was Japanese. But she is Taiwanese and hers first language is Taiwanese.

That's how fluent she is - she can even understand Japanese jokes!

At first, we just talked about small things, like games or our favorite Japanese characters. For example, Dress-up games, Pokemon and Sanrio-character.

But soon, we started to share our thoughts, worries, and became really close friends.

Even though we only chatted by text, she always replied very fast. I was really surprised by that.

At that time, neither of us were going to school.

I often got stomachaches when I tried to go, and she had a serious illness about malignant tumor and was taking a lot of medicine.

So we were both at home, we could talk a lot during the day.

I used to hate studying, but talking to her made me interested in foreign languages.

Later, I entered a high school where I could learn Chinese, but because of COVID-19, those classes were canceled.

I lost motivation and quit after about two months, I then transferred to a correspondence high school.

That school also offered Chinese lessons, but unfortunately they were discontinued soon after I joined. It was like someone didn't want me to learn Chinese!

Still, I didn't give up. I wanted to keep learning languages, so I decided to study English seriously instead .

Thanks to her, I found a new goal.
Now, I want to become an English teacher.

And then, in February of this year, I went to Taiwan with my friend and my grandmother and finally got to meet her, even if it was just for a day. It took about two hours from her house to the airport, but she came to pick me up. Later she told me it was the first time she had ever done something like that for someone, but she said it felt natural when she thought of me. Hearing that made me really happy.

I stayed in Taipei's Zhongzheng District for 3 nights and 4 days, eating at the night market, getting my fortune told, and enjoying sightseeing.

Finally the day came to meet her! We met at the station and the fun day began. Taiwan has a lot of tall buildings and the buildings are close together, so it has a different atmosphere from Okinawa.

We spent time sightseeing around Taiwan and talked for hours in a cafe. During our conversation, she told me that she wanted to go back to school and that it was thanks to me. Then she applied to college and is now back in school.

I was deeply moved to know that I had inspired her, even just a little. Through this experience, I realized that helping someone doesn't depend on where you were born. Friendship can cross borders. Thanks to her, I learned that even though we are from different countries, we can understand and respect each other.

Meeting her truly changed my life, and I'll always treasure this connection. Next time we meet, I'd like to talk about our schools !