

Unlike many writers around the globe, it has never been my objective to become a writer. This idea only came to my mind after I read Sakaiya's "Knowledge-Value Revolution" during the Christmas holiday of 2001 when I was twenty years of age. At that time, I happened to visit my uncle who lives near Niagara Falls. My uncle is a professor in philosophy, and it was through him that many advanced features in Western, Indian and Chinese culture came to my sight. This is the reason why I always get excited with his presence, just like how the young Greeks were excited with the presence of Socrates and told each other that: "He has it wisdom, and he can give it to me!" My uncle is no doubt my source of enlightenment.

One thing that I do in my uncle's house every time I visit him is that I always borrow bags of books from his personal library. That Christmas, I happened to find a book called "A modern perspective on history" written by Sakaiya Taichi. This book deals with all kinds of interesting issues like..... Elated by this book, I immediately began to read it in his living room. A few minutes afterwards, my uncle passed by and saw me reading that book. I told him that I greatly appreciate Sakaiya's objectivity in his analysis, since he had some very harsh comments on the Japanese nation in one of his chapters. This is indeed rare, given their general self-confidence. Such objectivity is especially valuable when he wrote the book in 1989 at a time when Japan loomed as the most successful industrialized country in the world.

My uncle then told me that if I like Sakaiya's works, he can lend me another important work of his. He could not recall the title of that work, but he said he recognized how the book looks like. So he went into his little library and got the book for me....