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“Aiming to become an inadvertent humanist”

I want to ask all the men and women who live in Japan, “Do you think Ladies-first is for women? Is Ladies-first valuable for women?” Among the United Nation’s 17 goals for realizing a sustainable world, one is, “Achieving gender equality.” In the world, because of religion, poverty, and family circumstances, girls cannot receive education equality, women cannot do their jobs, and women feel disparity from men. In order to solve these problems, the Japanese government announced the “Development Strategy for Promoting the Active Participation for Women” to promote women’s education, stop discrimination against women and girls, and eradicate violence. We are working on it. I think that working toward this goal is delaying problem solving.

When it comes to Ladies-first, nowadays, when a door is opened, men give women priority, and when they walk on the street, men walk women on the sidewalk instead of the roadside. In this way, this act is an action that men treat women carefully. For women there are two ways of thinking about Ladies-first. The first idea is that men should do Ladies-first and treat women carefully. The second idea is that when women are treated with Ladies-first by men, they think “Do you want to treat women so weakly?” Women feel like they are belittled by men, because men think women can’t do anything, so men will be more efficient than women. I think that the number of people who have the second idea is increasing, because of the increasing number of women who are willing to insist that women should be more active.

And in addition to Ladies-first, there is another word “boyish.” One day, I had my hair cut short. Then a friend of mine told me, “Did you have your hair cut? You became boyish!” I didn’t feel sad or depressed, but I felt uneasy with her words. Being called boyish, I couldn’t tell whether my hairstyle looked good or not. Isn’t it okay for a woman to have a short hairstyle, and still be feminine if the hairstyle is good?

Earlier I found one video of the actress Emma Watson. On July 8, 2014, she was selected as UN goodwill Ambassador and participated in several campaigns promoting gender equality. I watched a video of her speech at the United Nations, in which she used an impressive phrase, “inadvertent feminists” many times in her speech. Parents love

their children who are born girls, teachers educate girls, and the company recognizes women's talent and offers jobs. The inadvertent feminists means people around us creating an environment that is easy for women to live in, and making it natural. Certainly, if we can move unconsciously, I think we can take a step closer to gender equality. She used the word "feminist." They're going to work with women to help women become more active and help them create an easier life. However, this will create a country where women are treated special, and men will not be able to live. This causes other problems after all, and nothing has actually changed. So I don't think we should desperately move on to try to solve the issue of gender equality.

If you distinguish between a man and a woman, there will always be a comparison and one will be given an advantage. Men don't have to be Ladies-first for women, but everyone should be equally kind to others. Women can help men. Men can rely on women, not being asked for being strong. I sometimes see who can reach out to someone or who treat all other people equally as humans I'd like to call them "inadvertent humanists." And if we want to realize gender equality, all people must be "inadvertent humanists." I don't think you can be kind to everyone unconsciously, at first. Everyone should have a clear intention of being kind to others, then they will become a person who can make it habitual and behave inadvertently. If you don't, by thinking of both men and women separately, such as women who have to make their hair longer and men who have to make their hair shorter, they are tied to stereotypes and cannot live freely. I still feel like I am a woman and there are times when I have been asking men, for example by having them carry heavy luggage. The goal of "Achieving gender equality" will naturally disappear when the "inadvertent humanist", remains in everyone's mind, including my own. I believe that the "inadvertent humanists" "inadvertently realize human equality.