Why am I interested in the Japanese Culture? When I first read the question for this contest, I told myself this is an easy question. As soon as I got my pen and paper and started working on this, a lot of reasons popped out from my mind. But, it turned out that none of those reasons seems very reasonable enough to explain why. Then, I started to realize that this is indeed a hard one. It also made me doubt if I deserve to be a part of this contest. Of course, there are a lot of people who deserves this more than I do. But still, please allow me to grab this opportunity to share with you why I became deeply interested in the Japanese culture.

When I was a kid, there was this very short Television Program here in the Philippines about Japan’s rich culture and traditions, their technology and all those beautiful places you can see in Japan. Well, I used to watch it and I was always amazed by it. During that time I would always imagine myself living in Japan, experiencing what the TV Program is showing. My mother also likes buying things from Japan in a Japanese store here in the Philippines and I find those things really nice. But that’s it, nothing more than that. That is what I thought. Little did I know I would go beyond that. I started to appreciate more of it.

In this generation, for someone young like me, of course, Pop culture would really catch anybody’s interest. Japanese pop culture caught mine such as films, television programs, fashion, anime, cosplay and music. Their pop culture indeed makes you fall in love with Japan. It does not only entertain you, but opens door for new knowledge and a deep understanding of the life and culture of the Japanese people. I started being really interested in the Japanese culture when I first encountered this popular Japanese singing group that inspired me a lot. I may say that this group is a blessing from God that made a great impact in my life. They were one of the reasons why I dream. Since then I learned more things about Japan, including their Language. I think when you start to be interested in it you try to dig deep into their culture. You get to know more of it, you would do everything you could to understand things about it. You would not even mind how hard it can be. I did not just like the pop culture but also the traditional one. Some of them I learned from college, the Japanese poetry called Haiku and the Japanese Theatre like Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki and Bunraku. Some of them I learned during my first job after college from the Japanese students whom I taught. They would share me even the simplest thing about Japan. How they live, how they communicate, and how they respect other people.

 When you like something interesting and when it made an impact in your life, you try your best to share how great it is, how it made a better you. It’s like you want to be an instrument on spreading good news to everybody and that’s my purpose in writing this.

I still may not know much of their culture, but I’m doing my best to learn and study more of it. Never will I give up on doing it. Just like what everybody says “If there is a will there is a way” And there will always be a way as long as you have the desire.