

What My Future Holds by Yaye Shimizu

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“What do you expect to do upon graduation?” or “What are you planning to do when you are out on your own?” are to me, two of the most popular questions which are asked during your senior term. But, in Manzanar, there is also another question, which is “Are you planning to relocate?”, that is the next commonly heard of the three.

Since my dad is interned in the internment camp in Louisiana, our family did not give a second thought to the word, “relocation,” because it was his request that we stay settled in a relocation camp until he may be released. But now it seems as though he being released would be out of the question. Then too, my brother and sisters have been hearing such good reports from other evacuees who have already relocated themselves and also the various reports from different Japanese and Caucasians social workers who encourage relocation have made us stop and think over this question of relocating out towards the east.

One advantage that I think relocating has is that it could be a splendid opportunity for we young people to go out and face the world and learn about real life, instead of saying cooped up in such a rugged camp as this center and bring down your morale when instead you should be building them up. I think it would especially be good for me because, since being baby of the family, I have had no responsibility of any kind to hold and therefore have always relied upon my parents, brother, and sister. If we do happen to relocate, it would be quite certain that mother or brother would not go along with us. So, in that way, I would learn to take care of myself and really learn what hardships mean and the value of money.

The plan which we worked out resulted in for myself to continue my studying in a designing school which I had dreamed of going ever since I was in junior high school. My oldest sisters would try to find some kind of a domestic or a Y.W.C.A. work and my other sister in secretarial work.

The only two person from which we had to get our consent from was, of course, our parents. The one whom we thought would object the most was mother because she has always been afraid of taking chances and never ever though that relocating was a step toward the good. But, after explaining all the good points and especially stressing the point of me furthering my education. On the contrary, she surprised us by telling us that she thought it was a very good idea for us to go out regardless of the part that our family would be split up. After getting the consent of mother, we knew getting approval of our father would be simple because usually whatever my mother thinks is right is all right with father. We then telegraphed him the next day and sure enough, we received his consent the following week.

So as far as relocating towards the east is concerned, I think that is one factor that is certain for my future.

Two years ago, when the world was not as indefinite as it now, my future was planned out by my parents. Which meant that I was to go to Japan upon high school graduation for at least two years to study the Japanese culture. Although I never was enthusiastic about this plan, I had agreed upon it on the basis of fulfilling my parents' desire. But unfortunately, or should I say fortunately for me, the present conditions of today have forced me to stay in this country.

Therefore, my imaginary future consists of my going to a designing school and learn all I can about costume designing and tailoring and really gain all the knowledge that is needed for a good designer.

Graduating from this school, I hope to get a job in a dress factory in order to gain experience and reference. By this time, probably the world would be more settled which would probably mean that most likely my sisters and brothers would be married. Therefore it would be my duty to work and support my parents. I shall then call them to the east or else send them some of my salary.

After getting various experiences from different jobs, I think I would like to establish a better, smart dress shop with the aid of my sister who is also interested in designing. Of course, at first the shop would be a small one and would probably be a partner proprietorship. The partner would of course be my sister. If the business is satisfactory, I would then like to specialize in just one line of dressmaking which I believe I would choose tailoring. But also, of course going by the human want of the law of variety, there would of course be better opportunity and popularity by offering anything in line of dressmaking. So putting this in mind I would then try to hire different skilled workers that specialize in one kind of thing such as millinery girl, play clothes worker, a girl that specializes in gowns and etc. This shop would still be a small shop on the outskirts of the city. The workers would be paid by definite monthly salary. Of course I do not expect to make very much profit this way but just enough so I could give myself a start to a more swanky dress shop, perhaps that would be located in the heart of downtown where all the classy people shop. Of course in order to carry on this fantastic idea, I must get some financial help from big business men who would become silent partners or stock holders. This shop would be divided into small departments with one skilled or profession worker to head it with apprentices to help her or him. Models would be needed in this shop to show the latest styles of fashion in order to draw my customers every season. The models would not have to be experts, but just nice figured high school girls would serve the purpose. In this way the expense would not go as high. Then, if business is still going on well, I would then like to print catalogues to be sent to all parts of the world to have mail orders. We would advise them on clothes or how to wear them.

I know, times will come when the business does not run smoothly and may go bankrupt, but of course since this is all imaginary and my wish, I have not {unclear-possibly weight} in the bad points of business. This is all, I think as you can tell by reading it, quite a fantastic idea or should I say a dream, but nevertheless I believe in it and wish and pray that it might come out just as I have planned it.