I started reading about Japan only after my uncle was posted in Japan….He used to send us pictures of various places he visited and people he met. He told us stories about his stay in Japan and how the people there respect every form of work and everything around them be it humans or animals or nature. Looking at the pictures I used to think to myself; such a beautiful country and such a perfect society.

Talking about the Fascinating aspects of Japan, the thing that fascinates me most about Japanese culture is Shinto – Religion of Japan. Though it has no formal dogma or scriptures Shinto has influenced Japan and the Japanese People. It has co existed with Buddhism. Perhaps this is a unique quality of the people of Japan to accept Buddhism and assimilate it into the existing Shinto religion. Another unique thing that I love about the Religion is it is all accepting. One does not have to follow Shinto religion to be accepted into the religious books at any local Shinto shrine.

Next thing that fascinates me is the Japanese Architecture, be it the beautiful gardens with the most beautiful wooden bridges over the water streams throughout the garden and clever artistry used while designing the garden or the Kinkakuji Temple. I have the Kinkakuji only in pictures but as they say a picture is worth a thousand words. Be it the gardens, or the Shinto shrines or Kinkakuji Temple, Japanese architecture brings serenity to mind. The Sakura cherry blossoms are the most beautiful sight.

The Japanese clothing with the Long sleeves and the beautiful abstract patterns on the kimono are very attractive. The Kabuki art form or the Sumo wrestling is also very interesting.

Finally the most important part of any culture is the society. In Indian mythology there is philosophy explaining the perfect society or as it referred to as “Ram Rajya” “Ram rajya” describes the perfect society; where there is no crime, everyone does the work allotted to them and follow the law to the dot, the people are honest and kind, the ruling system is just and fair and equal treatment to all. Japan gets closest to this “Ram rajya” or ideal society; There are no crimes and corruption in the ruling Government. Another aspect of Japanese society that fascinated me was the perfect blend of traditions and new ideologies and philosophy in everyday life. As people strive to preserve their age old traditions so do they accept the newer ideologies into their lives .The acute sense of responsibility and accountability of every action of the Japanese people is amazing.