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Japanese boy teaches lesson in sacrifice

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## EDITOR'S note:

THIS letter, written by Vietnamese immigrant Ha Minh Thanh working in Fukushima as a policeman, and written to a friend in Vietnam, was posted on New America Media on March 19. It is a testimonial to the strength of the Japanese spirit, and an interesting slice of life near the epicenter of Japan 's crisis at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. It was translated by NAM editor Andrew Lam, author of "East Eats West: Writing in Two Hemispheres." Shanghai Daily condensed it. 這å°•ä¿jæ¯è¶Šå•—移民Ha Minh

NAMç·"è¼-Andrew Lamç¿»è--åœ"上æµ·æ—¥å ±çš"ç°¡è--æ-‡

Brother, å...,弟,

How are you and your family? These last few days, everything was in chaos. When I close my eyes, I see dead bodies. When I open my eyes, I also see dead bodies.

ä½ å'Œä½ çš,,å®¶ä⁰啯好?這幾天,一å^‡éƒ½åœ¨æ⊷äº,ã€,ç•¶æ^'閉上雙眼ï¼ ξ^'看å^°å±•é«"ã€,ç•¶æ^'畜開眼畛,æ^'也看å^°å±•é«"ã€,

Each one of us must work 20 hours a day, yet I wish there were 48 hours in the day, so that we could continue helping and rescuing folks.

æ^'們毕å€⟨ä⁰°å¿…é ^毕天啥作20å°•æ™,,但æ^'希æœ⟩一天有48å°•æ™,,但æ°'帀æœ⟩一天有48å°•æ™,,但æ°'å€;èf½ç¹¼ç°Œå¹«åŠ©å'Œæ•¶æ•'畽æ°'ã€,

We are without water and electricity, and food rations are near zero. We barely manage to move refugees before there are new orders to move them elsewhere.

æ^'們æ²'æ°´æ²'電,啣糧接è¿'é›¶ã€,在移動難æ°'å^°å…¶ä»−地æ−¹çš,æ—°å'½ä»¤ä¾† 乑剕,æ^'們å¾—å•fæ−¹ç™¾è¨^è⁻-法移動ä»−們ã€,

I am currently in Fukushima, about 25 kilometers away from the nuclear power plant. I have so much to tell you that if I could write it all down, it would surely turn into a novel about human relationships and behaviors during times of crisis.  $æ^{\circ}_{\varsigma} e^{\otimes}_{s} e^{\otimes}_{s}$ 

People here remain calm - their sense of dignity and proper behavior are very good - so things aren't as bad as they could be. But given another week, I can't guarantee that things won't get to a point where we can no longer provide proper protection and order. 這裡çš,ä⁰o們俕挕冷镜 - 他們çš,å°Šåš´å'Œé•©ç•¶çš,行ç,⁰æ,,Ÿé•žå¸,好

–所以狀法並æ²'有é,£é⁰¼ç³Ÿç³•ã€,但冕镎一個æ~ŸæœŸï¼Œæ^'丕能ä¿•è-‰æf…法丕æœfé•"å^°ä¸€å€‹åœ°æ-¥ï¼Œå•‡å¦,æ^'們丕冕能敕供镩ç•¶çš,ä¿•è--å'Œç§©å⁰•

They are humans after all, and when hunger and thirst override dignity, well, they will do whatever they have to do. The government is trying to provide supplies by air, bringing in food and medicine, but it's like dropping a little salt into the ocean.

ä»-們畢竟æ¯ä°°ï¼Œç•¶é£¢æ¸′凌é§•æ-¼å°Šåš′ä¹⟨上,é,£é°¼ï¼Œä»-們將會去啚 ä»-們å¿…é ^啚çš,ã€,æ"¿å°œæ-£åœ¨è©¦åœ-ç©°é•⟨æ••ä¾⟩物資,é•⟨來食å"•å'Œè—¥å"• ,但它就僕æµ∙æ´⟨ä¸-çš,一å°•æ'®é¹½ã€,

Brother, there was a really moving incid ent. It involves a little Japanese boy who taught an adult like me a lesson on how to behave like a human being.

å...,弟,有一個很æ,,Ÿä⁰çš,;ä⁰⟨ä»¶ã€,這æ¯ä¸€å€‹æ—¥æœ¬å°•ç"·å-©ï¼Œæ•™å°Žä¸ ی€‹åƒ•æˆ'這樣çš,;戕å¹´ä⁰°çš,;一å ,賲,æ•™æˆ'一個ä⁰∞應該æ¯ä»€é⁰¼æ¨£å-•ã€,

Last night, I was sent to a little grammar school to help a charity organization distribute food to the refugees. It was a long line that snaked this way and that and I saw a little boy around 9 years old. He was wearing a T-shirt and a pair of shorts. It was getting very cold and the boy was at the very end of the line.

æ¯"天晚上,æ^'被派去一å€\å°•å-¸å¹«å¿™ä¸€å€\æ...^å−"機æ§\å•'é\£æ°'â^†ç™¼é £Ÿå"•ã€,隊伕長且蜿蜒,æ^'çœ\è¦\一å€\大ç´"

9æ-²çš,,å°•ç"·å-©ã€,ä»–ç•¶æ™,è°«ç©¿T啹å'ŒçŸ-褲ã€,天氣越來越冷,ç"·å-©æ¯æŽ'å Ϭ最後é•¢ã€,

I was worried that by the time his turn came there wouldn't be any food left. So I spoke to him. He said he was at school when the earthquake happened. His father worked nearby and was driving to the school. The boy was on the third floor balcony when hesaw the tsunami sweep his father's car away.

æ^'æ'''å¿f輪å^°ä»-çš,æ™,候丕æœf有任何食物剩下來了ã€,囿-¤ï¼Œæ^'å
Ž»å'Œä»-èªa話ã€,ä»-èªä,地震發ç"Ÿæ™,,ä»-在å-¸æ ¡ã€,ä»-çš,ç^¶è¦ªåœ¨é™,è¿'
工作,ç^¶è¦ªé,£æ™,æ-£é-‹è»Šå^°å-¸æ ¡ã€,ç"·å-©åœ¨ä¸‰æ¨"陽å•°æ™,
看å^°æµ·å~¯æŠŠä»-ç^¶è¦açš,車敲èµ°ã€,

I asked him about his mother. He said his house is right by the beach and that his mother and little sister probably didn't make it. He turned his head and wiped his tears when I asked about his relatives

æ^'å••èµ·ä»-çš,æ-•親ã€,ä»-èªa,ä»-家就在æµ·ç•~旕,ä»-çš,æ-•親å'Œå¦¹å¦¹å•-èf½æ²
'有來得啊é€f凰來ã€,ç•¶æ^'å••èµ·ä»-çš,親ä°°æ™,,ä»-轉镎é -æ"¦åŽ»çœ¼æ⋅š

The boy was shivering so I took off my police jacket and put it on him. That's when my bag of food ration fell out. I picked it up and gave it to him. "When it comes to your turn, they might run out of food. So here's my portion. I already ate. Why don't you eat it?"

ç"·å-©åœ¨ç™¼æŠ-,所以æ^'è,,«ä¸‹è-¦ç"¨å¤-套,披在ä»-谫上ã€,這æ™,候ï ¼Œå°±åœ¨é,£æ™,候,æ^'çš,啣糧掉䰆凰來ã€,æ^'把它æ'¿èµ⋅,镞給ä»-ã€,å• 'ä»-è<sup>aa</sup>

"輪å^°ä½ æ™,,他們啯能æ²'食物了ã€,所以,這æ¯æ^'çš,一部å^†ã€,æ ^'å-²ç¶"啃ä⁰†ã€,ä½ è∣•丕è∣•啃?―

I was shocked. I asked him why he didn't eat it and instead added it to the food pile. He answered: "Because I see a lot more people hungrier than I am. If I put it there, then they will distribute the food equally."

æ^'å¾^震驚ã€,æ^'å••ä»–ç,ºä»€é⁰¼ä¸•啃,而且把它åŠ å^°é£Ÿå"•å †è£¡ã€,他回ç-"ï¼ šâ€œå› ç,ºæ^'çœ⟨å^°å¾^多ä⁰⁰æ⁻"æ^'é,"餓ã€,å¦,æžœæ^'把它æ"¾åœ¨é,£è£¡ï¼Œä»–們會å¹ ³å•‡ç™¼æ"¾é£Ÿç‰©ã€,―

When I heard that I turned away so that people wouldn't see me cry. æ^'蕽å^°ä»¥å¾Œï¼Œå°±æŠŠé -轉é-⟨,å...•å¾—å^¥ä<sup>00</sup>çœ⟨è|⟨æ^'çš"眼æ⋅š

A society that can produce a 9-year-old who understands the concept of sacrifice for the greater good must be a great society, a great people.

一個能å¤ç"¢ç"Ÿä¹•æ-²ç"·å-©å°±æ~Žçž-ç,ºå¤§æ^'而犧牲這種觀念çš"社會,å ¿…定æ~~一個啉大çš"社會,啉大çš,ä°°æ°'ã€,

ä €å€⟨社æœfèf½ç"¢ç"Ÿä €å€⟨

9æ-²çš,,誰æ~Žç™½çš,,æ¦,念犧牲æ)′å¤Şçš,,å′©ç>Šå¿...é ^æ~~ä,€å€‹å•%å¤Şï¼Œä,€å€‹

Well, a few lines to send you and your family my warm wishes. The hours of my shift have begun again.

好啧,幾行å-—帶給ä½ å'Œä½ çš"å®¶ä∞æ^'溫馨çš"祕禕ã€,æ^'值ç•-çš"æ™,é–"å•^å^ °äº†ã€,

Ha Minh Thanh