



## When the fairy-tales are back

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As a physicist and a member of the 20-th century generation, I gave up fairy-tales long-long ago..., but it was too quick with this.

This is my first time here in Japan. Before my visit, I knew very little about this country, mostly some cultural topics and historical facts, bright and dark. And, indeed, after those already passed six months, I can simply mention that it was a great lack of my worldview. Originally, I am from Armenia, in ancient times called “The Kingdom of the East” or “The Land of the Sunrise.” And before my landing, the only thing I had known was that I was flying from the ancient “Land of the Sunrise” to the modern one. And what surprised me most was that this “Land” is not less ancient and impressive and in the mean time, no doubt, a lot more modern than I could initially imagine.

In the footsteps of the famous Mountain of this country, I found the cutting edge, the highest level of contemporary science and technology, combined with the real eastern hospitality and temperate lifestyle. The Institute for Molecular Sciences is an excellent example of this statement. All the preparations in advance for a new visitor, the excellent work of all departments, libraries and laboratories, in a word, all the conditions really tuning to work are the realities I would heartily desire for organization of the science in Armenia, now suffering hard times.

Working in the group of Prof. Hiroki Nakamura, I greatly enjoyed his highest professionalism, sincere hospitality and personal charm. Professor Nakamura, one

of the most brilliant individuals of Japanese people that I met, has succeeded in creating and supporting a great creative atmosphere. I experienced here one of the best periods of my scientific career. I can simply say, that the Japanese Science and IMS particularly is very receptive to all innovations, and my work on the Photoassociation of an atomic Bose-Einstein condensate is also included in the spectrum of IMS activity. I must thus thank all the staff from my heart for what they have done for making my stay productive and wonderful (especially the constellation of kindest, pleasant women from both secretariats which helped me in everything, especially in overcoming an unexpected allergy that I suffered for some time).

...Trying to understand more deeply the culture of Japan, I began to learn Japanese. And to my surprise, this was the way I could penetrate into the spirit of the Japanese nation, due to the phenomenon of Kato-san—my teacher, a highest professional and amazingly universal in his knowledge. Behind his external coolness I discovered an unbelievable volcano, found a hospitable friend and an interesting guide. I warmly remember the day when he drove 300 km to show me one of the best temples in Japan. Many thanks to him. ...I would like to mention the nice guitar play by Prof. Uozumi that I often enjoyed in the well-known smoking corner of the third floor during my breaks in the midnight. ...I can't find proper words to describe my astonishment at the Okazaki fireworks. ...No doubt, this is the Eighth Wonder of Japan. ...After this period of my stay I understood, that



Hello from The Bible Mountain Ararat to The Fuji-san

the love of the Japanese people towards the Nature and life in Harmony with it is the best prerequisite to the understanding of the Nature as a whole and Physics in particular.

Now, leaving Japan—The Overseas Land, I will find my past dreams broken as the life of Urashima Taro after his return from the Undersea Kingdom... However, what is the main thing that does learn Japan? To look forward! Hope to see you soon!