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Reaction to Japan’s natural disaster:

In the speech, the speaker talked about the natural disasters and its effects on social and economic aspects in Japan. I found the supernatural elements in his speech the most interesting. He explained how in Japanese culture, natural disasters were believed to have been caused by strange beings. For instance, he described pots with faces which purify their bodies by excreting water and harmful substances. In the real world, the water signifies storms, and the harmful substance means diseases and epidemics. Similarly, he explained about Shinto creation myth in which it was believed that the Earthquakes were caused by underground catfish. I found these myths interesting because I was thinking about how those myths came into existence. It is undoubtedly not true that those disasters were caused by supernatural elements as we now have proof for the cause of each type of natural calamities that occur on Earth.

The speaker also talks a lot about different natural disasters that occurred in Japan. For instance, he mentioned the Great Kanto Earthquake which struck Japan in 1923. The Earthquake occurred around noon which cost around 140,000 lives in that area. Similarly, he talked about Typhoon IDA which hit Japan on Sep 27, 1998. The typhoon cost 1,269 human lives and also caused $50 million economic damage. One year later, another Typhoon named ‘Vere’ hit Japan causing 9,159 deaths and $2 billion worth financial damage. The speaker also talked about 12th-13th-century volcanic eruption which formed a thick layer of gases around the earth’s atmosphere and blocked sunlight which created colder weather condition. Due to the blockage of the sun, the crops couldn’t survive as they need sunlight to prepare their food and live. The most devastating disaster that the speaker talked about occurred on March 9, 2011. Earthquake, Tsunami and nuclear plant meltdown hit Japan at once which shattered the country. The disaster took thousands of lives and affected millions of people. The radiation from the nuclear meltdown spread throughout the nation which affected the health of people and animals as well.

Japan has gone through a lot of disasters. I feel sorry for Japanese people because they have to live with the constant fear of natural disasters striking at any moment. The disaster in 2011 was massive. I cannot imagine the fear people must have felt when the tragedy struck Japan. It must have been horrifying for them. I wish such disasters which bring grief and sorrow to people do not occur at all. I wonder how we can prevent it.