

20161104 **Grandma Bebe and Mama during Japanese Times**

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Mama tells me about the family's experiences during Japanese Times in the Philippines. Grandma Bebe's gardener in Batangas City was a Japanese spy named Waki before World War II. The family had a beautiful garden, and there was a rustic bridge. When the war came, he presented himself as a colonel in uniform to the family. Mama also remembers another Japanese soldier who liked presenting her with gifts, such as a toy chick with feathers, when she was about 5 years old. He kept saying that he would come back for her and marry her. He maybe was in his 20's. The family thought that the Japanese were courteous. There were other Japanese soldiers across the street from my Grandma Bebe and Grandpa Mac's house, at the majestic old Lim's house in Ibaan, Batangas. Some Japanese used the water pump to take a bath outside.

I tell Mama that the Japanese tried to control the Pacific region, as the Philippines, Hawaii, other islands, the West Coast of the Americas, South-East Asia, the Asian Mainland, Australia, New Zealand, and maybe as far as India. The architecture, houses and buildings, would have been magnificent, the gardens beautiful. I tell Mama that it was difficult for the Japanese to push their Peace and Harmony Philosophy, or *Wa*, to the rest of the world. The reason was that the rest of the world was and still is barbarian...