

**This Is Why Japanese Are SO Polite**  
**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m47gOBhUWqY>**  
**Transcript: <https://dontveter.com/japan1.pdf>**

We have a very convenient app so the owner can scare your kid anytime, anywhere.

Wow! It's so clean! Thank you!

I ~~get~~ [have] a special present for you, ta-da.

Again. Again. You did it again! You were able to keep your promise with uncle. WOO!  
WOOAA! WOOAAAAGGHHH! UNCLE STAMP GET!!!

What was that? It's ochan stamp. You did a great job cleaning so I gave you one.

Okay, thanks. He doesn't understand the great Japanese gift.

This is homeochan app. Homeochan means encouraging uncle. There's an old guy in his underwear and [he's] cheering the kids for doing something good.

For example, when they go to sleep early, when they could brush their teeth by themselves, when they help their mom doing some chores, they get this ochan stamp.

So it's a very very interesting app to discipline kids. When I was little, kids were scared to see weird old men like that.

These days kids are excited to see a weird old man like that *yada*.

In Japan we give importance to respecting others and also caring other people and we even have a saying [that] literally means, do not cause trouble to others.

Child discipline is very, very important for Japanese society because that's how we learn *taninime* and get creepy old man stickers.

In the old days it was totally okay for parents to hit their kids to discipline them.

MOM, LOOK AT THAT PIG OVER THERE!

When I was little [one day] I came home a little late and my mom was holding a balloon in front of the house.

And then she said turn around and she hit, she hit, my butt with the wooden stick part of the balloon and she did like full swing like a, like a baseball major leaguer.

It was so painful, but don't worry, everyone, every single kid in my class, were hit by the parents.

And also in [the] old days, neighbors actually scolded other people's kids and then also sometimes they hit, they hit other people's kids because we used to have a concept that all kids in your neighborhood belong to your community.

So we together protect the kids and sometimes we have to discipline the kids together.

They wanted their kids to learn the concept of do not cause trouble to others.

So nowadays, you wouldn't probably see parents hitting their kids in public, or ~~maybe~~ at home.

These days, parents try to explain [to] the kids how other people would feel if they did something bad to them.

And also they teach their kids how their actions affect other people.

Mom, grandpa said I was a good girl.

You must not lose my face tomorrow.

So, usually, parents of course discipline their kids at home.

But once their kids start going to school it's teachers job to discipline the kids.

Parents even expect teachers to discipline their kids.

Even in preschool, back in the old days, hitting by teachers was totally okay for parents.

Teachers were respected and ~~entrusted~~ [parents trusted] that they would ~~do good decision on~~ [use good judgment to discipline] their kids.

One time when I was elementary school there was a very, very strict math teacher called Mrs. S.

My classmate, Fagat forgot to do his homework and she called him to the front of the class and she slapped his face really, really hard.

I could hear that sound from back of the classroom, and you know until the end of the day, we all could see the handprint on his face.

Oh, that was so painful!

Tragically there have been cases of teachers taking corporal punishment too far.

And in one recent case, there was a high school student who actually committed suicide because the basketball coach threatened him and then [was hitting] him.

It's totally, totally unforgivable what the teachers did.

Even if they try to teach their kids manners and etiquette this is unforgivable.

While corporal punishment has been banned in public schools since 1947, over 10,000 students have received corporal punishment in 2012 alone.

Use of force is not how we should be shaping the future of our community, our country and our world.

Now teachers and parents are vigilant about stopping corporal punishment in schools.

Let's hope that it never happens again.

Let's talk about something less depressing. Demons.

So we call demons oni [and this] is the ultimate way to discipline your kids.

This is a final ~~result~~ [resort] weapon and then they are ~~usually~~ [only used on] really bad guys and [they are] in hell and torturing people.

And especially people are in hell because they did something wrong, something really bad, so oni were there to torture them, fire them, beat them up.

So for Japanese kids, oni is a super, super scary thing.

When I was little I didn't want to go to bed so ~~soon~~ [early so] ~~then~~ when I was staying up late my dad starts calling oni like this.

This is my dad.

So [when] I was very small, I got so scared he's gonna come and get me, I'm gonna be killed, so I ran into my bedroom ~~and slept~~ [and went to sleep].

We even have oni festivals here.

So in oni festivals usually parents bring their kids and then pick the kids up like this and then bring them to onis.

So this means kids will learn if you do something [bad] that this oni is gonna come and get you and beat you up to death.

You're going to be good, right? You're going to do as you're told, right? Pinky, swear it.

You'll hear so many kids crying, it's so chaotic.

So onis are not always bad guys, we have festivals for good onies.

Japanese people are scared of onis, but at the same time they respect the oni's strengths and energy.

So in the good oni festival, people pray that oni will kill bad lucks and diseases.

Oh, [so] you don't have an onis festival in your town? Don't worry. We have a very convenient app here, so the owner can scare your kids anytime, anywhere.

All right, it's time for bed. I don't wanna. Bedtime now.

It's no use, I'm gonna have to call the oni again.

Hi, it's the red demon. Is it happening again?

Yeah, he's doing it again.

He's not listening to you again?

Good grief, no.

Then may I speak with him for a second?

Please!

Listen punk! Why aren't you doing what you're told?

If you don't start listening to your mom, I am going to throw your butt into hot, spicy soup and eat you up.

I am coming to your house right now. Don't you dare move an inch.

Oh, when I grow up I won't have to listen to your rules anymore.

You are 36.

So next time when you think of how Japanese people are polite, remember that ~~there was~~ [they had] a lot of discipline to teach them [to behave] and maybe a couple of onis gave them a call.

So how is discipline in your country done? Let me know in the comments below. Thanks for watching, okini.