



English version

## **Obra Maestra**

By: Mikael Kai

Hajimemashite, my name is Mikael, boku wa first year student at Hiroshima Daigaku desu. Nowadays, hearing greetings with different languages is not uncommon anymore. Japan is becoming more globalized as time passes by, anywhere you go, you'll see people from all over the world. Everyday you'll be meeting a lot of people that have different eye color, skin color, hair color and language, maybe they're even your friends.

Of course, besides the physical appearance and language, culture is important and different as well. Some things that might be normal for you, might be strange for someone else. The absolute truth for you, might be an unbendable false for others. Therefore, in this generation where difference is common, Cultural Relativism plays a big role. Cultural Relativism refers to not judging a culture to our own standards of what is right or wrong, normal or strange. In short, we must be open to learn and understand the cultural differences we have and live a life respecting that difference.

This difference is an extremely difficult situation for all of us. And this is why I find it beautiful. With 195 countries in this world, we can't learn and study the culture of each country, but we can have the mindset of being willing to accept and understand the dissimilarities we all have.

This World is a painting. The more we understand and learn the differences we have from each other, the more we blend the colors we have, the more beautiful the painting becomes. Now, stop for a while and observe your surroundings. Is there anyone you think that is different from you? Talk to that person! Be friends and be willing to know him. Then ask him, "*do you want to paint this beautiful Obra Maestra together?*"

Ariga-thanks gozai-much!

