**Extra Chapter 　I quit being Japanese**

At 4 pm on August 4th, 2014, I finally acquired my Fijian nationality. I became a dual citizen of Fiji and Japan. I contacted the Japanese Embassy to confirm about this and the First Secretary told me to submit a Report of Nationality Loss in Japan. I guess that meant I could stay a dual citizen until then. Or that was how I interpreted it.

I figured that if I enter Japan with a Japanese passport, but lose nationality afterwards, then I would have to have a working visa for my Fiji passport to be able to continue living and working in Japan. I went out of my way to confirm this at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau in Shinagawa. After being sent around from bureaucrat to bureaucrat, I was finally sent to reception on the first floor. There the receptionist said, "People like you with dual nationality are living as is. Technically speaking, it is violating the law, but it is extremely rare to receive an order of deprivation of nationality from the Minister of Justice, so why don't you just leave at that?"

So, I decided to leave it be for a while.

Of course, back then, I had no acknowledgment whatsoever that I was violating the law. It was Fijian nationality acquired to run in Fiji's national election. As mentioned earlier, I was rejected by the electoral committee to run in the election, but I was not denied dual citizenship in Fiji. Besides, most countries allow dual citizenship, so I thought I must be okay.

But it wasn't okay!

It was by curious coincidence that the situation turned around because of a lecture I gave at JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) upon request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On September 21st, 2017, I had carelessly let out that I had dual citizenship in front of an audience that included many people working at the Ministry.

Come to think of it, that was a BIG mistake! 　It wasn't until two months later that I realized this.

My Japanese passport was about to expire on November 29th, so without much thinking, I went to the passport center in Yurakucho. I started filling out my application form. There was an item that asked if I had another citizenship, so I honestly checked "yes" and filled in "Republic of Fiji" as the country of my other citizenship. I handed the application form to the receptionist, and he told me to come back in five days. I took the receipt for exchange and left the passport center.

In about three days after I submitted my application, I received a call from the passport center. Thinking how odd it was that I still had two more days before picking up my passport, I took the call. The receptionist told me that my Japanese citizenship has already been expunged and I can no longer renew my passport.

"Oh, I see. Maybe this a result of my honesty when answering that question in the application form." or so I thought. It did not even cross my mind that I had said something at the lecture I gave by request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

One of my company's board members is a reliable, former bureaucrat. He could probably speak directly and negotiate with the Ministry. I didn't think I was in such a serious situation.

I called Mr. Higashi, the former bureaucrat, and explained my issue. I asked him if he could arrange an appointment for me, so I could speak directly with someone at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Higashi carefully listened to my situation and immediately called his junior working at the Ministry. I was taken by surprise at his response:

"Mr. Taniguchi, it seems your dual citizenship issue is shared with EVERYONE at the Ministry."

I was struck dumbfounded. The passport center was an institution of the city capital, the immigration office was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and the passport was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That was why I thought I would have some leverage because I had done a favor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, if almost everyone at the Ministry knew, I doubt that I would be able to pass through any loopholes. But how did the Ministry find out that I have a Fiji nationality?

And that's when I realized my stupidity.

I had leaked that information to the Foreign Ministry myself at that lecture!

Oh crap!!!!

I couldn't do anything but regret. The fact that I spoke about acquiring a Fijian citizenship at a lecture they held was the greatest issue. This definitively made it impossible for me to have my passport renewal approved.

Furthermore, I was to lose my Japanese nationality. My Japanese nationality was taken away from me dating back to August 4th, 2014, the day I acquired my Fijian citizenship.

This means, I was now residing in Japan as a Fijian. Didn't that mean I would need some kind of visa? 　Though it was unintentional, I started to become worried that I was unlawfully residing in Japan. Therefore, I consulted Sakura Kyodo Law Office where our lawyer worked at. I asked Attorney Yamawaki, who was an expertise in nationality laws such as immigration control, on what kind of actions I needed to take.

According to Attorney Yamawaki, "deprivation of nationality" that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Passport Center mentioned was officially known as "expatriation." In other words, I have expatriated from my Japanese nationality on the same day I acquired my Fijian nationality. I didn't have a visa to reside in Japan, but at the same time I no longer had a Japanese passport, so I had no legal means to leave the country. He mentioned that it was extremely rare for a person to abandon their Japanese nationality because it is one of the very few nationalities that can freely visit any country without a visa. (Probably the first case since Madame Dewi officially acquired her Indonesian citizenship?) The family registry and the resident cards, which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, still exists as myself being Japanese, so it was imperative to file a complaint with the Immigration Bureau.

I entrusted my Fijian passport to one of my employees heading to Fiji for a business trip, so he could apply for a commercial visa in Japan at the Japanese Embassy in Fiji and bring it back for me. I figured I'd at least be able to prevent myself from getting arrested for unauthorized labor.

Attorney Yamawaki refused to give me any further advice as a lawyer because my actions may be violating laws and regulations, but kindly told me that if I wanted to acquire my Japanese nationality again, I would need to apply for naturalization. The condition for applying naturalization in Japan was to (1) obtain a proper visa to reside in Japan such as a working visa or marriage engagement visa, and (2) reside in Japan for five years. For a person like myself, spending half of the time in Japan and the other half in Fiji, five years are long. Considering that I keep my dual lifestyle, I would have to wait at least ten years to be able to qualify as an applicant for naturalization. By then, I would be 55.

I guess that means, I would most likely die before I could become naturalized as a Japanese.... or in other words, end my life as a Fijian. (lol)