

It's said that the Japanese of recent times have no religion or faith, but if you look over the whole lifespan of these "people of no faith" you'll see that their lives are colored by various kinds of religious events.

Their infant years are passed enveloped in shrine visits, the Shichigosan Festival and other events with close connections to Shinto. As they grow up they may be educated at nurseries attached to shrines, churches, temples and the like, then at elementary and high schools run by Christians, and/or universities run by Buddhists, and so on. Their wedding ceremonies will be according to Shinto rites, and the various costumes worn by the bride during the reception will blend Japanese with western styles. The ends of their lives too are enveloped in a religious environment, since for example their funerals will be held at their local cult's family temple in their home town, even if they live in a city. And their relationships with neighbors and relatives will be tied down by social conventions and other customary practices. Breaking free from those and treading one's own independent path requires the courage to overcome considerable pressure from those around one.

The practice of conducting funerals at one's local-cult family temple arose from the *terauke* system whereby the Edo Shogunate made the masses register with their family temples and ordained that the temples should undertake the management of funerals and graves. Shinto-style weddings first became popular with the wide publicity given to the wedding ceremony of the Crown Prince (later Emperor Taisho) in 1900, which took place within the imperial palace. Thus, surprisingly perhaps, such practices are not so old in historical terms.

- On the forms of funerals, see:

<http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E8%91%AC%E5%84%80>

- Description of the *terauke* system can be found at:

http://www.photo-make.co.jp/hm_2/ma_19_5_6.html

- For a history of Buddhist funerals, consult:

http://www.geocities.jp/johannes_schiffberg/sotsuron.html#3

- For a history of Shinto-style weddings, go to:

<http://www.tokyodaijingu.or.jp/wedding/index.html>

In this society there is progressively formed a way of thinking possessed by people of good sense. The ancient Greeks called it *endoxa*.

One could say that problems have arisen over organ transplants and surrogate births because medical practice has made steady progress without any *endoxa* being formed regarding it.

As people become familiar with gene therapy and other advanced techniques that science is in the process of

revealing, the resulting *endoxa* is leading to calls to go down the path of these advanced treatments.

There is also the theory that culture, customs, images, modes and thought are passed on and survive analogously to genes. Seigo Matsuoka, Japan's doyen of things intellectual, has coined the Japanese term “意伝子” (“meme”) for this.

- Learn about *endoxa* in Greek philosophy at:

<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/gps/>

- More about *endoxa* at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endoxa>

- Read about Seigo Matsuoka's “意伝子” memes at:

<http://www.isis.ne.jp/mnn/senya/senya0647.html>

In the U.S., *endoxa* concerning product safety started out from a 1965 prosecution by the lawyer Ralph Nader against defects in automobiles, and has since become fully formed. In Japan it is dealt with by a Product Liability Law enacted in 1995.

In 2000 the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) established the international standard IEC 61508 concerning functional safety, based on ISO/IEC Guideline 51. In the same year, the standard JIS C 0508 *Functional Safety of Electrical, Electronic, and Programmable Electronic Safety Related Systems* was established in Japan.

The IEC 61508 functional safety standard covers the whole safety lifecycle of products and systems from the concept stage through to disposal, and demands continual maintenance of safety.

IEC 61508 is a standard that targets professional organizations such as safety system manufacturers, companies combining engineering with systems, and companies operating plant and machinery.

Another functional safety standard, ISO26262 is currently being formulated. This deals with functional safety for in-vehicle software, and corresponding guidelines for safety analysis have been drawn up. These are the MISRA-SA (MISRA Safety Analysis) Guidelines, known as MISRA-C, devised by the UK's MISRA (Motor Industry Software Reliability Association).

In the field of embedded software, effort is being put into development conforming to ISO26262 and MISRA-SA.

- Concerning Ralph Nader, see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Nader

- MISRA's website is at:

<http://www.misra.org.uk/>

- Information on MISRA's activities:

<http://www.jasa.or.jp/et/ET2005/conference/05PDF/C-9.pdf>

- The MISRA guidelines are described at:

<http://www.kumikomi.net/article/explanation/2007/21misr/01.html>

- ISO’s website is at:

<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage>

- Information on ISO26262 can be found at:

<http://www.electronicstalk.com/news/ese/ese115.html>

EMC performance is the basic element in functional safety and is also a requirement in laws and regulations. Therefore, in order to further its development efficiency, it has become more important than ever to render it front-loading in via design responses, and to assure reproducibility and reliability of its testing, analysis and evaluation. Accordingly, it will be necessary to form a popular-level *endoxa* so as to realize first safety, and then reassurance and comfort in an automobile community that is constantly evolving through the advent of hybrid vehicles, fuel-cell cars and so on.

For that, they will have to disclose more readily understandable information regarding use of electric wave and EMC and develop PR activities so as to form an *endoxa* that can promote the expansion of electronics and telecommunications technologies, in the interest of realizing safety, reassurance and convenience of their products.



Shinto-style wedding hall



Funeral altar



Nobuhiko Tsunefuka

1943	Born in Tokyo
1968	Graduated Osaka University School of Engineering Science
To 1984	Engaged in development of IT equipment at Hitachi Ltd.’s Taga Plant
1991 onward	Engaged in electromagnetic environment related education at Hitachi Technical College
1999 onward	Planning Manager at Hitachi Technical Research Institute
2006 onward	Ability InterBusiness Solutions, Inc. Tokyo Branch