

Email Auto Responder series for Fried Chicken and Sushi subscribers

Email #1

Subject: *Thanks for joining the fun!*

Dear Kathy,

This is Khalid Birdsong, the cartoonist or 'Comic Chef,' for the Fried Chicken and Sushi comics. I just wanted to say thanks for subscribing! You are now a part of the FC&S family and will receive an email with each new comic strip update on Monday.

You can also stay up to date with all the groundbreaking FC&S news with our newsletter that will be coming your way once a month. Pretty awesome, right?!

I truly appreciate you taking this step to be a part of a webcomic that is a labor of love for me. This comic started out as a way to tell some of my funny stories about the challenges of living as an American teaching English in Japan. It's become so much more and I'm excited you're along for the ride.

Just wanted to make sure you knew...

Your subscription is a valuable addition to the comic. You're pretty special.

Enjoy the laughter and fun each week!

All the best,
Khalid

P.S. If you haven't read all of the comic strips in the archive yet, click the link below to go there now and catch up!

www.friedchickenandsushi.com

Email #2

Subject: *Afraid to go out and see the world?*

I love to travel. One of the reasons I draw Fried Chicken and Sushi is to inspire people to get up off of their butts and take a trip overseas.

You gotta see what's really out there!

Yes. It can be expensive. I must admit it can also be frustrating dealing with culture shock in a country you've never been to before.

The gift of it all is, you are forced to grow as a person.

As you probably know, personal growth ain't easy! There can be a ton of laughter and tears but I know you can do it. Some of you already are.

When you read my comics each week I want you to feel the reality of living in Japan. The ups and downs can be full of humor and fun with a bit of sadness thrown in for good measure.

One of my goals is that my comics help you see that anyone can leave their comfort zone, travel very far away and still be a success. Even if they make a pile of mistakes along the way!

If you're thinking about taking a trip overseas, start making concrete plans and take consistent action to make it happen. That might mean saving a little money each month, or researching your dream country online. Take it one step at a time and you will be enjoying mind-boggling experiences on foreign soil before you know it!

Thanks for joining Karl and his family each week on their adventures in Japan.

Now, go out and create yours!

Best of luck,
Khalid

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Email #3

Subject: *How you look in another country...*

When you visit Japan, you will look like a foreigner.

Sorry. That's just the way it is.

Even if you're Asian, you will sound like a foreigner.

This can be frustrating and I know that hearing about this can make you scared to visit Japan or any country in Asia.

You don't want to look different or stand out but you can't hide it.

Even if you learn to speak Japanese fluently, you will always be considered a foreigner. You can never truly fit in.

This is difficult to accept if you're from North America or Europe where any person can come from another country and become a citizen in a society full of people from different races and backgrounds.

What can you do if you want to visit or even live in Japan?

Get rid of your need to feel comfortable.

For all humans, being comfortable is a major need in life. Everything we strive for can come down to our goal of getting, as my daughter likes to say, *comfy*.

Traveling to Japan, or anywhere for that matter, requires that you change your idea of what living comfortably means.

Remember these truths while in Japan:

-Everyone does not live the same way that you do and that is ok!

-You are in the minority; people will stare at you and treat you differently at times.

-You will not understand what people are saying but that's fine. Use your eyes and pay attention to what is going on around you. If your face looks confused, someone might notice and help. Accept their assistance.

-People will be fascinated with you and maybe a little scared.

-Japanese people treat foreign visitors very well. They are normally friendly and excited to see you.

-If you are living there, it will take some time for them to get used to you so take things slowly. Keep quiet, smile and behave as politely as possible.

Many of these seem obvious but it's amazing what can tick us off over time. Micro-aggressions can really drive you crazy if you cannot put them in the proper perspective.

You don't need to wait until you travel to Asia to open up your thinking. Do it today when you're running errands. Think about how you perceive people of different races. Are you being fair? Is someone just doing the best they can with what they have?

The more open minded you become, the easier your time in Japan will be.

Best of luck,
Khalid