

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

220 Jordan Hall

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Dear Lambda-jin:

How you do get around! Imagine, a trip to my fatherland. Dr. Tim who has been so interested in me for quarter of a century, thinks my ancestors came over from the ponds and stream of Japan long ago by puddle-hopping across to Alaska when that region was much warmer and there were many puddles in a continuous land bridge. In fact, he has some little glass-enclosed ponds here right next to mine and there are some kappas in it that he had flown over from Japan, water and all. I can't get out and make friends with them because he keeps me shut in my little glass-enclosed pond except when he puts me under a microscope and throws a bright light on me. Once when he was looking at me I heard him say "Gad, little kappa, you are exactly like the kappas that were sent to me from Japan". And it was only yesterday that I heard him say "You little devil, I knew you were an elusive, slippery water-sprite and that you delighted in showing me how stupid I am; but I didn't know much else about you because that beautiful book about you that Makino sent me is in Japanese. But Lambda-jin was thoughtful and kind enough to send me one in English and now I find you are charming in a gawkish kind of way and that it is not just me you show up as stupid, but human beings in general. I will certainly write Lambda-jin and tell him how grateful I am for his gift."

Smelhorn

So, I thought I'd let you know first. Do come see me when you can and meanwhile my best regards to your litchi-wife.

As ever,

Tim
Kappa-jin