Tokyo, January 13, 2002

Dear O,

Occidentals like me, children of Roman women raped by the Burgondes, Visigoths and Ostrogoths, through a rich culture of pagan orgies that nearly a millennium of Christendom only further ignited; Speak, it is not to be forgotten, a language of merchants, of politicians, of cheaters, and of sophists.

Twenty-six letters accomplished there an alphabet without error or absence, in which the cold efficacy is not without recollection of its original nature: To commerce.
If the first known writing is the Sumerian cuneiform script, it is in the Cananeene merchant towns of Ougarit and Byblos that the twenty-two letters of the Phoenician alphabet from which descended the Latin, hence European script, was established.
Only one aim: To commerce on the Mediterranean.

Meticulous language that is written as you align numbers -- isn`t it sometimes said in English that one "deciphers" a message? -- in spite of a grammar that meanwhile permits rich poetry.

If in French there are three accepted ways to write the vocable "O": "o", "au", and "eau", (it must be said in passing what a beauty is the French word "eau"; what a nuance in three letters of which none is pronounced alone in the same manner that they will be read once united to form the nuance itself: l`eau), in Japanese there are at least thirty-seven ways to write "O", and that is short for Japan. Language of twenty-six letters that can nevertheless write without difficulty any Japanese words in a manner that a youth may read without deformation, while the Japanese who dispose of a double syllabary of seventy-one letters coupled with thousands of kanji are unable by using them to pronounce my name without transforming it.
Latin languages: languages of merchants, languages of poet-merchants, languages of sophist-merchants.

Distant at least in this, the Occidental affirms where the Japanese infirms himself: misunderstood encounters between a commercialist who might know how to sell without knowing why and a consumer who, without knowing why, might not be able to say no.
In frindship,   Eric