Show Notes:

In this episode, we welcome back Professor Steve McCarty to reflect on his forty-plus years of teaching and living in Japan. Over the course of the interview, McCarty shows his personality, values, and his personal philosophy on life. He describes encounters with Edwin O. Reischauer, Alan Watts, Ram Dass, Allen Ginsberg, and Donald Keene. Discussing his career as a professor, he advises navigating between assimilation and going native, consulting and negotiating to gain leeway, and remaining a professional foreigner. He applies the intercultural communication concept of public self and private self to reconcile cultural differences in an international family. He presents anecdotes at the local level of living in Japan such as community organizations and playing on baseball teams. He discusses Buddhism and avoiding inner conflict, balancing spontaneity with ethics so as not to harm others. Finally, he illustrates what makes real haiku possible in any language. If you would like to learn more about McCarty and his work, you can access his highly cited publications on e-learning, bilingualism, language teaching, Japan, Asia, and academic life at https://japanned.hcommons.org

Previous Podcast (2020):

"A Lecture on Japanese Prehistory and Mythology with Professor Steve McCarty"

https://deepinjapan.buzzsprout.com/1903791/9721806

In this episode, Professor Steve McCarty provides us with an interesting overview of Japanese prehistory, followed by a deep-dive into Japanese mythology, where he introduces some lesser-known stories uncovered in his research. He elucidates the origins of Japan, the Imperial line, and how people viewed their environment and sacred sites from 30,000 years ago to the golden age of Heian Period splendor. He tells moving legends to rival Sophocles, culminating in a fusion of many religions in a mountain range viewed as a maṇḍala that could be traversed.