

Dear T■■■■,

I thought I might usefully mirror back to you something I have noticed from the first three days.

On Monday you gave clear body signals that the 10.30 break should be respected fairly closely. On Tuesday you gave off clear signals too. You were then honest enough to tell me that I had said something that offended you about the time boundary question. I mumbled an apology.

Mindful of the above, on Wednesday I was careful with my time management and when ten thirty reared its head in the middle of the Covey presentation by D■■■■, I asked the group if they would give D■■■■ permission to over run by 10 minutes.

Your reaction, if I have remembered accurately, was to say something like
“It’s fine if we overrun: I am really interested in this topic.”

This came 50 minutes after you making it fairly clear to some folk in the group that you were unfamiliar with their names.

All this aroused strong feelings in me to do with my own stuff. I did not go to primary school and only began to have friends at around 13. I socialised very late and still have some problems in this area. They are well camouflaged from other people.

This means that I have a fierce, secret sympathy with wildly individualistic behaviours, yet, when I think of them from the intensely civilised viewpoint of Japanese culture, I find them childish and disordered.

Mario.