Tips for living in Japan 日本生活事情

Women-Only Coaches Offering Shelter from "Chikan" are Flourishing

ost Japanese in big cities commute to office by trains so crowded that bodies stick together during rush hours. Exploiting these occasions are male passengers called "chikan" who grope women's bodies. Many women hesitate to shout out from embarrassment and shyness. Recently, chikan have increased.

日本の大都市では多くの人が電車で通勤する。ラッシ ュアワー時には乗客の身体が密着するほど込み合ってい る。それをいいことに、女性の身体をさわる、痴漢と呼 ばれる男性の乗客がいる。女性は恥ずかしさから、なか なか大きな声をあげない。このところ痴漢は増え続けて いた。



The molestation of *chikan* is, of course, a crime. When discovered the criminals are in many cases subjected to mass media reports and dismissed by their employers. On the other hand there are more than a few cases of men being mistaken for chikan, which is getting to be an issue. Under these circumstances, women-only coaches have recently become available during rush hours (mostly the first or last coach).

痴漢行為はもちろん犯罪で、発覚するとマスコミなどでも報道 されたり、会社を解雇されたりすることが多い。一方では、痴漢 に間違えられるケースも少なくなく、問題となっている。そのよ うな事情から、ラッシュ時間に限り女性専用車両(多くは先頭、 あるは最後方車両)が、最近設けられるようになった。

Many women are quite pleased, but there are complaints as well about unpleasant perfume odors, women easily falling down because

there is no one standing firmly, old or women hesitating to get on the coach (as they think no chikan touch them), as well as young women being mistaken for easily tolerating chikan on regular coaches. Some people say that coaches for the handicapped and elderly should have been provided instead of women coaches. Currently, only one coach is provided as women-only, but it is not very crowded.

女性専用車両を素直に喜ぶ女性も多いが、香水の匂いが気にな る、電車が揺れると支える人がいないから将棋倒しになりやすい、 年輩の女性はちゅうちょする(痴漢される心配がないと思われて いるから)、反対に若い女性が普通の車両に乗ると痴漢されても いい女性のような誤解を受ける、など不満の声もある。また、女 性専用者よりも、老人や障害者専用車両を作るべきだなどの意見 もある。今のところ、女性専用車両は一両しかないが、あまり込 み合ってはいない。





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