



Japanese are the least talkative of ethnic groups. They would be completely comfortable in silence in the presence of others. Foreigners might mistake this behaviour for rudeness. In no way are they eager to practice their English. Japanese are like some Amerindians whose symbolisms are *double entendre*. The Japanese may have the most extensive vocabulary in this world. Besides their long native words, there are borrowings from China via *Kanji* logograms and from the West via *Katakana* phonograms. Sentence particles and word endings are in *Hiragana* phonograms. Sometimes, Roman letters are used, *Rōmaji*.

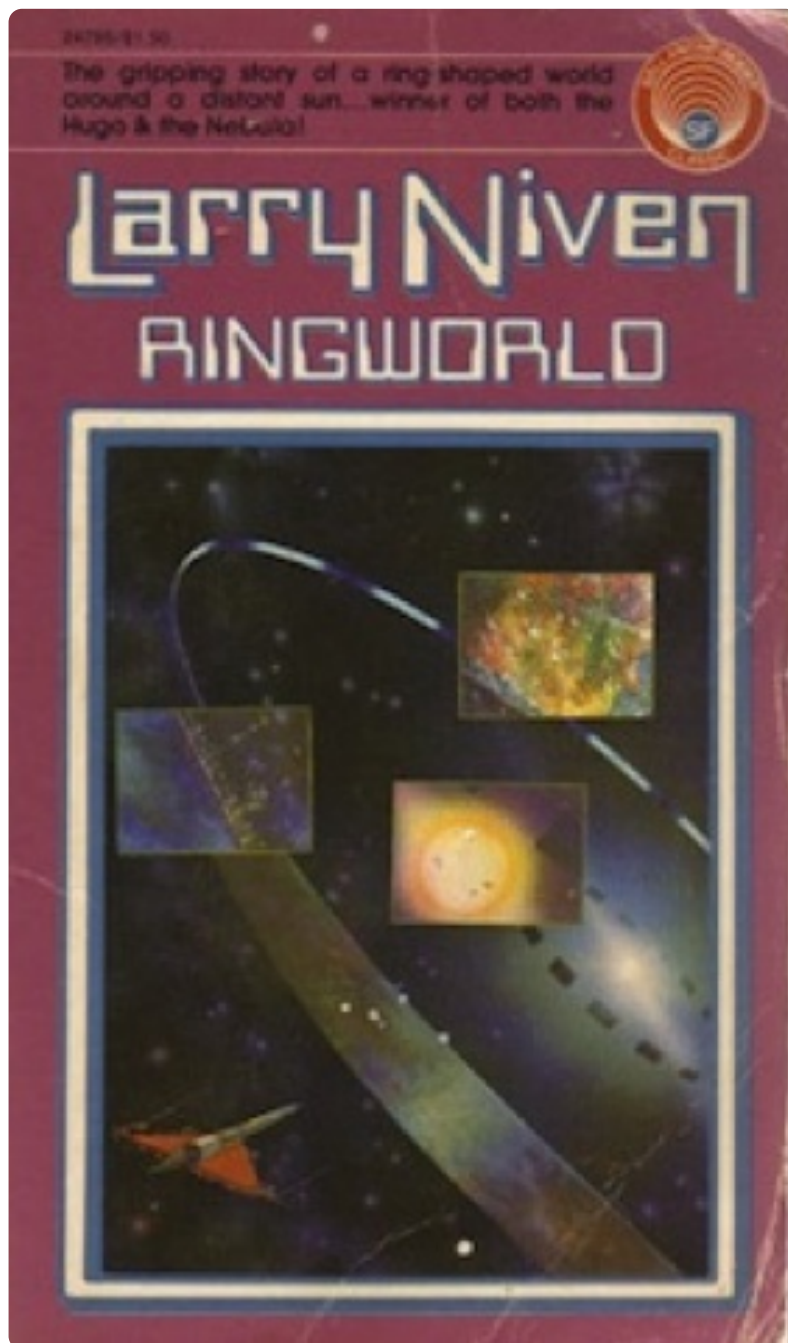
When I was in Japan from 1992 to 1994, it seemed like a wholly different planet. Everything in Canada seems cruder. I don't dislike Canada, but like the rest of North America, it seems bland.



In the Philippines, in the 1970's, my family used to vacation north of Metro Manila, in mountainous Baguio City. They have strange candy called *sundot kulangot* ("pick snot"). He he!



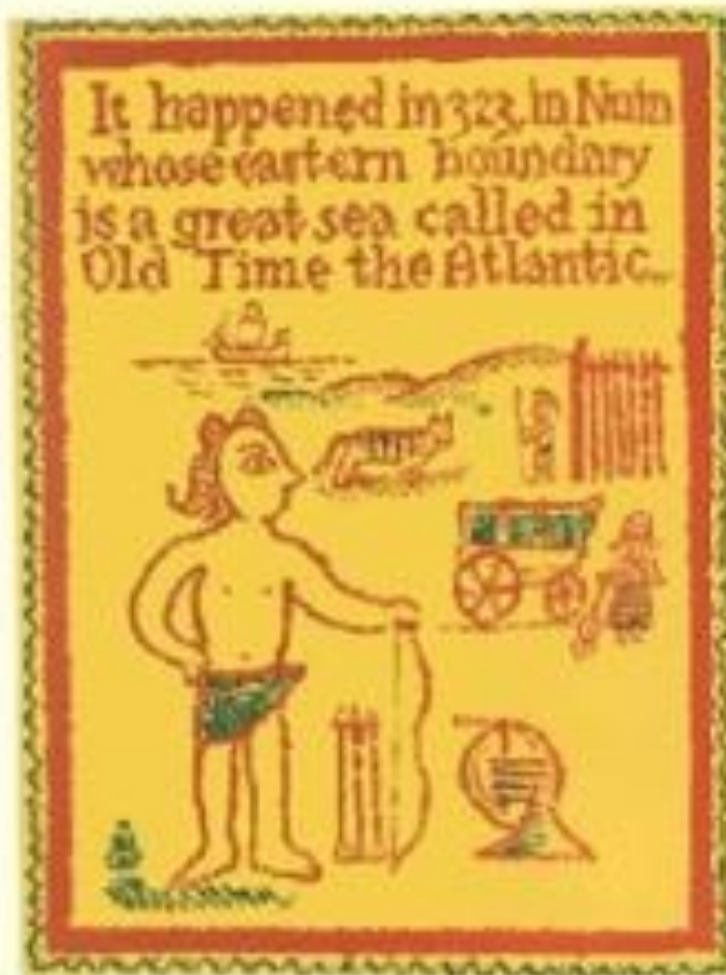
At an art school on verdant surroundings, opposite of the Philippine Heart Center, there was a disorganized library where I found an old copy of the book *Red Planet* by Robert Heinlein. It fascinated me.



On Lulu Island in BC, as a teenager, I loved the book *Ringworld* by Larry Niven. I imagined the terrain of my surroundings as Ringworld, as I bicycled around my town.

Davy

Edgar Pangborn



Edgar Pangborn

At the main Vancouver Public Library, I encountered the eerie book *Davy* by Edgar Pangborn. It's about a post-apocalyptic society on the East Coast of North America.