EGAMI GOROKU (Egami's Sayings). 7

**“If I find a mountain people have overlooked, I wish to climb it quickly.
If I climb a mountain people have noticed, I wish to climb it slowly.”**

江上語録 7

「ひとに見えない山をみつけたら、ぼくは早く登りたい。
ひとにも見える山に登るなら、ぼくはゆっくり登りたい。」

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“I was bitten by a rabid dog when I was a child. Since this accident, I became less intelligent.”

This is one of phrases that Prof. Egami told us repeatedly, but it cannot be included in Egami's Sayings, because it was nothing than one of his usual exaggerations.

My teacher! Do you mean that you would have been much cleverer if you had not been bitten by the rabid dog? You are kidding! I believe it would have been completely the opposite. In the history of the human race, it might have occurred only once that a rabies infection helped develop the network of nerve cells of a man, and finally made him much cleverer than before. You are probably the only living evidence of such a miracle. Your cleverness was extraordinary and rather close to abnormality. We often wondered whether you were in your right mind or not, because your ideas always looked only one remove from the absurd. I guess it might have been a hangover from the hydrophobia.

In his infancy, Fujio Egami was bitten by a rabid dog which he unfortunately encountered at the vet's surgery, where he took his sick pet dog. He was immediately treated with the vaccine against rabies and fortunately escaped infection. (Was it possible to prevent infection from the virus by treatment with the vaccine after the bite? I am not sure.) Since the vaccine against rabies had been developed by Pasteur, a great French scientist, the name of Pasteur and his country of origin would have been deeply imprinted in Egami's mind. His lifelong affection for France must have originated from this accident. He indeed decided to go to France after he graduated from university. He got a scholarship from the French government at the age of 24, moved to France, and worked for a half year in Strasbourg and one and half years in Paris.

“I am looking forward to becoming president of Maison du Japon (Japan House) in Paris when I retire from university.”

This was also one of his favorite phrases. In the southern part of Paris, there is a large area called “Cité universitaire (city

「私はねえ、子供のときに狂犬に咬まれたの。それ以来、すっかり頭が悪くなってしまった」

これは江上語録に入れるほどの言葉ではなく、単なる先生の口癖くらいのものであったが、それでも何回となく聞かされた。まあ江上先生らしいホラ話のひとつと言えよう。

先生！狂犬に咬まれていなかったら、もっと頭が良かったということですか？僕はその逆だと思いますけど。人類史上に一回か二回くらいは、狂犬病ウイルスのおかげで、脳細胞の配線が変わって、かえって頭が良くなった人がいるかも知れない。きっと先生はそんな奇跡の生き証人ですよ。それに先生の頭の良さときたら、普通の頭の良さとはちょっと異質でした。あまりにもぶっとんでいたの、あれ？大丈夫なのかな、とよく心配になりましたもの。もしかしたらあれは狂犬に咬まれた後遺症だったのかも知れない。

先生は小学生時代、病気になった自分の家の犬を犬猫病院に連れて行って、そこで運悪くよその家の狂犬に咬まれてしまった。それ大変だと、すぐに狂犬病ウイルスワクチンで治療を受けたので、発病しないですんだということである(咬まれた後でワクチンを接種して有効だったのだろうか?)。狂犬病ウイルスワクチンはフランスの偉大な生物学者パストゥールが開発したものであったので、先生の頭にはパストゥールの名前と、彼を生んだフランスがしっかりとインプットされたに違いなく、それが終生のフランスびいきにつながった。実際に、大学を出てから、弱冠24歳でフランス政府給費留学生として渡仏、1934年から1937年にかけて、ストラスブールで約半年、パリで約1年半を過ごした。

「私はね、大学を定年退官したら、パリの日本館の館長になりたいと思っているの」

これも先生の口癖だった。パリの南はずれに、数十の学生寮が集合した広大な大学都市という地域があり、その中に薩摩

of universities)” where dozens of dormitories for students from all over the world are gathered together. Maison du Japon is one of the dormitories constructed in 1929 with the donation from a Japanese millionaire Baron Jirohachi Satsuma, who was enjoying life in Paris in the 1920’s and generous enough to help young students from Japan. This house, called Satsuma Yashiki, built in a unique style mimicking old Japanese castles, was a memorable place from Egami’s youth (as it was for me), because he stayed there during his days in Paris.

Since the president of Maison du Japon was appointed from among Japanese academic members by the Ministry of Education of Japan, he intended to put himself as a candidate for its president after retirement, and enjoy calm life in Paris. He repeatedly talked to us about this wonderful dream, which unfortunately ended only as a dream. Even after retirement, he could not escape his busy tasks, like the launch of an institute for life science founded by a totally new concept.

Anyway, because he knew that realization of his dream would be difficult, his passion moved in an outrageous direction. It occurred to him to send his students to France as substitutions for him, no matter whether the sacrifice was willing or not. What a troublesome teacher he was!

It was a relief for us that Prof. Egami was always very busy and able to come to the lab only twice or three times per week, because his presence in the lab was a nuisance to us. He could not stay quietly in his office but took to patrolling the rooms where we were doing experiments. What a disaster! He was always eager to know if someone had made a major finding, and wandered around the room looking for a chance to question his students at random. It would be a fatal mistake if anyone carelessly revealed his/her recent results, because the news would be all over Japan in a week or so thanks to the Egami broadcasting. For me, a major finding which would please Prof. Egami never happened and ended as an unfulfilled dream.

A sign of Egami’s attack always caused panic. A student who had been sitting at his desk idly gazing at the ceiling absent, or one who was chatting with others, suddenly rushed to the benches and began to shake test tubes and flasks, and pretended to be unaware of Egami’s visit. You had to make him notice without a word that he was not welcome, and wait patiently until he would give up and move to other sacrifices. However, such a strategy did not necessarily work every time. Sometimes, Egami dared to question someone pretending he was sorry to disturb them.

“The competition for the scholarship of French government will take place next February. Isn’t there anyone who wants to apply?”

It was the worst timing to pose such a silly question, because I was extremely impatient about the very slow progress in my research project even as I was reaching the end of the first

屋敷とも呼ばれる日本館がある。これは1920年代にパリで豪遊していた日本の大富豪、薩摩治郎八男爵の寄付によって1929年に建設された。先生が青春まっただ中を過ごした思い出の場所である(私にとっても)。

ここの館長は日本の文部省が任命して派遣することになっていた。日本での大学教授としての義務を果たし終えたら、今度は館長をして就任し、もう一度ゆっくりパリ生活を楽しみたい、そんな夢を常々語っていた。しかし先生は定年退官後も、新しい研究所の立ち上げなどのため超多忙の毎日が続き、そんな優雅な夢は、結局、実現することはなかったのだが。

もう一度フランス生活をと願っても、現在の立場では実現はまず無理だ。となると先生の情熱はとんでもない方向に噴出する。自分の弟子をフランスへ行かせよう。本人が嫌がろうがなんだろうがかまわない。何がなんでも送り出してやる、と。まったくはた迷惑なことを考える先生だ。

東大時代の先生はいつも忙しく、私達にとっては幸いなことに、三日と続けて大学にでてくることはまれだった。なにしろ大学に出てきた日には、教授室におとなしくこもっているなんてことは到底できない。実験室を何度も何度ものぞきに来て、誰からでもいいから新しい実験結果を聞き出そうとして、ウロウロと徘徊する。しかし先生にうっかり何か実験結果を漏らしたら、再現性が怪しいものでも、一週間のうちに全国に広められてしまう。それに先生に胸を張って言えるような実験結果なんて、三月に一度も出やしない。

敵襲の気配を察知すると、さあ一大事。それまではデスクの前の椅子にだらしく座って、壁か天井を放心状態で見ていたり、隣と世間話をしていた大学院生、卒業研究の4年生達が、あわてて実験台の前に移動する。そしてにわかに試験管を振り始めたり、ピーカーを熱心に観察し始め、先生が部屋に入ってきててもまるで気がつかない(ふりをする)。先生があきらめてほかの奴のところへ行ってくれるように、無言のうちに拒否の姿勢をかもしたさねばならない。すると先生はさすがに、話しかけたら実験の邪魔になるかなあ、といった風情でおずおずと切り出す。

「来年の2月にフランス政府の留学生試験があるんだけど、誰か受けたい人はいないかな？」

修士課程の1年目が終わる頃になっても研究にほとんど何の進展もなく、私があせりにあせっていた頃、こんなお尋ねがひんばんに来るようになった。この忙しいのに冗談じゃない。

year of my master's course in graduate school. Such a ridiculous inquiry was nothing more than a disturbance for me. I was too busy. The best thing I could do was to respond as indifferently as possible. If I failed to let his words pass, and responded sincerely to his question, it would bring the worst consequence. Prof. Egami was a person who always jumped to conclusions, and his misunderstanding could not always be corrected. Therefore, if I failed to show him that I was completely negative, he would stretch my words and believe that this person was eager to apply to the competition and go to France. Once he believed something, irrespective of whether it was true or not, he immediately sprang into action. Therefore, everything turned to an established fact and became an irreversible process.

There was a terrible example. On the occasion of the first meeting after we were accepted in Egami's lab as final year students of the undergraduate school, we were told that one person, Sadako Sugai, was absent because she was working in Australia at that time. Though she kept her position as a doctorate student of the graduate school, she was temporarily out of school and working in the lab of one of Prof. Egami's friends in Australia. She had gone to Australia after she finished her master's course of the graduate school, and was supposed to return to Egami's lab the following year.

"You have to be prepared for her because she is very tough as a senior."

Her profile which was exaggerated by our senior Tairo Oshima made us nervous.

If I tell you why Sadako Sugai was staying in Australia, you can understand how terrible the hasty conclusion made by Prof. Egami was. You had to take every precaution against it. The whole story given by Oshima was as follows.

One day, one of Egami's friends in Australia asked him to send a young scientist to his lab. Then he came to the room where his students were doing experiments to find someone who would go to Australia. He caught every student who had failed to escape from the room and asked.

"Is there anyone interested in working in the lab of my friend in Australia?"

All the students except one were clever enough to escape the disaster by ignoring Egami's inquiry. However, Sadako Sugai was too kind to treat her teacher so coldly, and imprudently responded out of sympathy.

"Australia! It looks interesting."

This was the final phrase to be uttered. It was critical in determining her destiny.

The word "interesting" is usually only a polite expression for "I am reluctant". However, Prof. Egami was not a person who could understand such a subtle expression, and misunderstood that she was 100% positive. He immediately jumped to the conclusion that Sadako Sugai was eager to go to Australia.

もちろん無視。「ハア」、「そうですか」などと、上の空で、いかにも興味なんかありませんよと受け取ってもらえるように生返事しなければならない。うっかりまともに受け答えして、少しでも肯定的な反応を見せたら最後、とんでもないことになる。先生はとにかく早とちりで、しかも不可逆。いったん思い込んだら、もはや訂正不可能。もしも完全に否定的に反応しなければ、この者は留学生試験を是非とも受けたい、フランスに行きたいと熱望している、と超拡大解釈されてしまう。そしてすぐさま行動に移すので、あっという間に既成事実化してしまう、不可逆過程になってしまうのだ。

なにしろ恐ろしい前例がある。私達が卒業研究のために江上研究室に配属されたとき、先輩達を紹介された。そのとき、今は休学中なのでここにいないが、須貝貞子さんという人も博士課程に在籍している。オーストラリアへ留学しており、来年になると帰ってきて、また博士課程に復学することになっている。「怖い先輩だから、お前ら、覚悟して待っておれよ」と、大島泰郎先輩からさんざんおどかされた。

須貝さんがオーストラリアへ行っているわけを知ったら、江上先生の早とちりがどんなに恐ろしいことなのかひしひしと身にしみてわかる。十二分に警戒しなければならない。大島先輩によるとそれはこういう顛末だった。

ある時、江上先生のオーストラリアの友人が、自分の研究室に若い人を留学させてくれと依頼してきた。そこで先生は実験室にやってきて、研究に励んでいる(?)弟子達一人一人に、「誰かオーストラリアへ行きたい人はいないかね」と尋ねまわった。ほとんどの者は賢明にも、そのお尋ねをけんもほろろにあしらって難を免れたのだが、心やさしい須貝さんは、誰にも相手にされない先生について同情して、「オーストラリア? おもしろそうですね」と言ってしまったそうである。それを言っちゃあおしまい。これぞ運命の一言となった。

「面白そうですね」なんて社交辞令で、本音は「お断りします」のところを、差し障りのないように表現しただけだ。しかし先生には100%肯定と聞こえる。たちまち先生は須貝さんがオーストラリアへぜひとも行きたいのだと思い込んだ。先生

lia. It was always impossible to ask Egami a few days of extension before making the final decision. He immediately took action, and her emigration to Australia became a determined and irreversible fact. It was totally Egami's misunderstanding due to the hasty conclusion. But once he took action, everything began to proceed irreversibly, and no one could resist. It was her kindness to be sympathetic to Egami, who had been treated badly by his students, that caused her exile to the island. What a tragedy it was!

Australia is now one of the most popular sightseeing places for Japanese people. Nobody needs to make a pathetic resolution before leaving Japan. However, at that time (1960's), Australia was a dreadful unknown continent far away beyond the Pacific ocean for us. If you had once crossed the ocean, you would never know when you could return to Japan. Today, it will take only a few hours by plane. However, at that time, traveling by plane was beyond our reach. We had to travel by cargo-passenger ship which left the port of Yokohama, and called at several ports of various islands in Pacific ocean. We had to spend two to three weeks before getting to Australia.

Since the age of tourism overseas had not yet come to Japan, we had only poor information about foreign countries. Only a few television programs (still in black and white) provided information on foreign countries, but that on Australia was negligible. Australia was really a mysterious place full of prejudices. For example, "an extremely vast area covered by desert as far as one can see", "the population of kangaroos is much larger than that of humans", and "you will meet only kangaroos but no humans when you take a walk outdoors", and so on. Going to Australia was like an exploration of unknown parts of the Amazon. (Many apologies to Australians!)

What an irresponsible teacher Prof. Egami was! It was unbelievable that he intended to send a young lady who had just finished her master's course to such an uncertain place. However, he was an extraordinary optimist, and did not have the slightest anxiety about his young student whether she could overcome a variety of difficulties. Such a tragic example was horrible enough for us to watch Egami carefully. Since he was a person who could casually send his student anywhere in response to a request from his friends, we had to be careful not to return a positive reaction to his inquiry and induce his misunderstanding. Otherwise, nobody knows what fate I would face. Abracadabra!

What was the fate of Sadako Sugai who had been exiled to Australia?

We had valuable testimony presented by one of her friends, Etsuko Mitui. She received letters almost every month from Sugai complaining repeatedly about her solitude in a place isolated from Japan and surrounded by foreign people. It was indeed an expected consequence. Severe homesickness. How-

には、「済みません、ちょっと二三日考えさせて下さい」なんてまったく通用しない。直ちに実行に移り、彼女のオーストラリア行きは確定し、絶対に撤回不可能な現実となってしまった。もちろんそれは先生の一方的な早とちりだが、先生がいったん早とちりしたら、後はすべて不可逆的に進行し、もはやひっくり返すことはできない。先生に同情したばかりに、オーストラリアへの島流しが決まってしまったのだ。なんという悲劇だろうか。

今の日本人にとってはオーストラリアはもっともポピュラーな観光地のひとつで、そこに渡ることになんの悲壮感もあるはずがない。しかし、当時(1960年代)は赤道を超えた太平洋のはるか彼方、いったん渡ったら帰ってこれるのはいつの日か、というくらいの最果ての大陸だった。今日みたいに飛行機で数時間で行けるところではなく、貨客船で太平洋の島々を伝いながら、2~3週間かけてようやくたどり着けるほど遠い。日本人にとって海外が観光旅行の対象になるよりもはるかに以前の時代で、現地の情報はまるで乏しい。テレビもまだ白黒で、外国の紹介番組なんてほとんどなかった。だから私たちにとっては、オーストラリアはまさに謎の大陸。やたらと広いが、砂漠ばかりで、人よりもカンガルーの方が数が多い。表を歩いても出会うのはカンガルーばかりだそうだと、などと言われるとついつい信じてしまうほどだった。オーストラリアへ行くなんて、未開のアマゾンのジャングルへ踏み込む探検隊のような冒険に思えた。(オーストラリアの皆さん、ごめんなさい)

修士課程を終わったばかりのうら若き女性を、そんな恐ろしい最果ての地にたった一人で送り込むなんて、なんて無責任な先生だろう。まったくあきれかえるばかりの超楽天主義者で、弟子がうまくやっていけるだろうかなんて心配は一切しない。友人に頼まれたからといって、いたって気楽に送り出す。うっかり先生の言葉にポジティブに反応して早とちりされたら、いかなる運命が待ちかまえていることやら。くわばらくわばら。

かくしてオーストラリアへ島流しにされた須貝さんの運命やいかに?

須貝さんの友人の三井恵津子さんの貴重な証言がある。オーストラリアへ渡った須貝さんから、毎月のように手紙が届いた。来る手紙、来る手紙に、日本から遠く離れて、知らない人ばかりの中で毎日過ごさねばならず、寂しい、寂しい、と書いてあった。やっぱり予想どおり、重いホームシックだ。とこ

ever, her complaints about loneliness disappeared from her letters without notice from about one year after she had moved to Australia. Etsuko Mitsui wondered why. The answer was given when her period of stay in Australia ended and Sadako Sugai could finally return to Japan. She arrived back with a fiance instead of a kangaroo. His name was Yasuo Inoue.

Which of the eight million gods had made such a plan? Dr. Inoue, who had been a student of Prof. Egami when Egami was professor of Nagoya University, was working by chance in Australia, a place where only a limited number of Japanese scientists were working. Each of the couple were drawn by a red thread to the same point located in the continent far away from Japan. Egami had nothing to do with this unexpected fateful falling in love. He played unconsciously a role of blind match-maker, but, this was one of his biggest contributions to the field of glycobiology, because this resulted in the birth of a golden couple, Drs. Sadako and Yasuo Inoue, who have accomplished many important findings in the area of glycobiology.

No matter how eagerly Prof. Egami wished to send his students to France, in the 1960's, it was only the odd person who preferred to go to France. It was the United States to which all scientists longed to go. Top ranking scientists all over the world had migrated to the States after World War II. Due to their incomparable economic power, conditions for research in US were excellent. Researchers could enjoy ideal circumstances, such as a big budget for research, plenty of the most modern instruments and a good salary which Japanese researchers could only dream of. It was said that one can build a new house in Japan if one worked two years in the States. It was not a joke but true. The average salary of a recruit who had just graduated to top companies, was about 15,000 Japanese yen per month. On the other hand, the salary for a postdoc in the States was about 10,000 dollars per year. It corresponded to 3,600,000 yen, that is, higher than the salary for ten years in Japan (the rate was 360 yen to 1 dollar). If you saved money as much as possible, and brought it to Japan, you really could build a new house.

Though biochemistry was growing rapidly in that period, important findings which could lead the world appeared mostly from the States. If one had the chance to work in such a good environment, and worked hard with the famous hungry spirit of Japanese (today almost disappeared), you would be able to return to Japan in triumph. Triumphant lectures given by people just returned from the States were always dazzling and enviable to us. It was the common view at that time that you were stupid not to go to the States.

On the contrary, European countries had not yet recovered from the damages of the war, and were far less brilliant in comparison with the States. Though some important work such as three-dimensional structure of proteins and double helix of DNA molecules had been carried out in the United Kingdom,

ろが1年くらい経った頃から、寂しいと言う言葉がいつの間にか消えてしまったそうである。どうしてだろうと怪訝に思っていたら、その謎は須貝さんの島流し期間がめでたく終わって日本に帰ってきたときに解けた。彼女はカンガルーではなくて、婚約者を連れて帰ってきたのだ。井上康男さんという人だった。

日本人などほんの僅かしかいなかった当時のオーストラリアに、いったいどんな神様の配剤だったのだろうか、井上さんも偶然に留学していたのである。井上さんは江上先生が名古屋大学教授だったときの教え子だが、この件に関しては先生が手を回していたわけでもなんでもない。二人が知らず知らずに赤い糸をたぐり寄せたら、最果てのオーストラリアに引き寄せられたとしか言いようがない。こうして糖鎖生物学に多くの足跡を残すことになったゴールデンカップル、井上夫妻、が誕生したのである。江上先生は盲目の仲人を務めた訳だが、これぞ先生の糖鎖生物学への最大の貢献のひとつではないだろうか。

いくら江上先生が弟子をフランスへ行かせたがっていても、1960年代のあの頃、フランスに是非とも留学したいなどという日本人研究者がいたら、よっぽどの酔狂者と思われただろう。ほとんどの自然科学研究者はアメリカにあこがれていた。第二次世界大戦で一人勝ちをしたアメリカに世界の頭脳が流れ込み、抜kindでた経済力のおかげで、研究費は湯水のように。最先端の設備と最高の研究環境。待遇の良さも夢のようで、アメリカに2年留学すれば、日本に帰ってから家が建つと言われた。なにしろ一流企業の大学出の初任給が1万5千円くらいの時代に、アメリカのボスドクの年俸は約1万ドル。1ドルが360円の時代だから360万円。日本の収入の10年分をはるかに超えていたのだから、給料を倹約して使って帰国すれば、本当に家が建った。

生化学はまさに急成長期に入っていたが、世界をリードする研究の多くがアメリカから出ていた。そこに受け入れてもらって、日本人持ち前のハングリー精神(今は昔となったが)で働けば、まず間違いなく一旗揚げたて日本に凱旋できた。アメリカ帰りの人の帰朝報告は、夢のような研究環境で挙げた目覚ましい成果に彩られており、ため息が出た。それやこれやで、アメリカに留学しないなんて馬鹿さ、といった雰囲気だったのだ。

それにひきかえ、ヨーロッパ諸国は第二次世界大戦の打撃が大きく、立ち直りにも時間がかかっており、アメリカの輝きの前にはまだまだ影が薄かった。まだしもイギリスではタンパク質の立体構造解明、DNAの二重らせん構造の解明など、科学史上燦然たる成果が出ていたが、かのパストゥールの伝統を引

France, which had kept the great tradition in life science originating from Pasteur, had not yet recovered the glory of the past.

"Is there anything advantageous to your career if you go to France?"

This was a typical view of almost all Japanese scientists.

In addition to this pejorative view of Japanese scientists, ordinary Japanese people traditionally kept a considerably twisted stereotypic view on France. Unfortunately, such prejudice originated from the Meiji era (19th century), and still remains in today's Japan, that is, looking up to Germany, and looking down on France. People regarded German people as simple and sturdy, and strict on discipline. In contrast, French people have been looked with a prejudiced eye, that is, they are weak, have a loose character, and their principal interests are only love, food, or fashion. Going to France might have been taken as that you were planning to become a gigolo. France was not estimated as a suitable country to learn science. (Many apologies to the French!)

Three graduate students including myself had been accepted and did experiments in Egami's lab. Since Prof. Egami was too enthusiastic in sending his students to France, it looked almost inevitable that at least one of our classmates had to become a sacrifice and go to France. If I was forced to go to anywhere after the master's course, France looked somewhat more tolerable than Australia, because I knew a little about France. I had read stories of D'Artagnan and Count Montecristo written by Alexandre Dumas, and learned the brilliant era of Louis XIV, the revolution and Napoleon, etc., in my history class during high school. Paris was famous as the city of arts. Our knowledge of France was much richer than that of Australia. Nevertheless, I had no intention of going to France at all.

The biggest problem was French. It was impossible for me to gain the competition for the scholarship, because I could not understand French at all. It was also said that one could not survive in France without speaking French because nobody understood English there. I learned only German during the first two years of undergraduate school. It was impossible for me to hear, read and write French. Therefore, there would be no possibility of succeeding in the French examination, which was the most important part of the competition. I was convinced that I would never become a candidate for the sacrifice.

However, Prof. Egami insisted as usual with his irresponsible character and total optimism.

"No problem. French is very easy to learn. If you attend a class at the *Athénée Français*, a French teaching school, for six months, you will become a good speaker of French. A high standard in language is not demanded for applicants studying natural science, in contrast to those who are studying human science. You will be able to pass the examination very easily."

You are kidding! Though I learned German for two years,

くフランスなどまるで目立たなかった。「研究者としてやって行くうえで、フランスなんかに行って何か得るものなんてあるの?」と言うあたりが大方の見方だった。

科学研究に関してこんな見方をされていたばかりか、そもそも日本人が持つフランスのイメージが、伝統的にまるでゆがんでいた。日本人は今でもそうだが、伝統的にフランスとドイツを並べて、決まってドイツは過大評価、フランスは過小評価する。ドイツ人は質実剛健、規律正しいが、フランス人は軟弱でルーズ、色恋沙汰と食べ物とファッションだけが関心事、などという偏見がまかり通っている。女の子の紐にでもなつてボヘミヤン暮らしをするならいざ知らず、フランスなんて真面目に学問しに行くところなの、とでも言われかねなかった。(フランス人の皆さん。ごめんなさい)

私と同期の修士課程の大学院生は3人いた。先生があまりの御執心なので、修士課程を終わったら、誰か一人は犠牲になって、フランスへ行かなければならないだろうという空気が日毎に濃厚になっていった。どうせどこかへ行かされるのなら、オーストラリアよりはフランスの方がましだろうな。フランスのことなら、三銃士やモンテクリスト伯爵の物語は読んだし、ルイ王朝にフランス革命にナポレオンも世界史で習った。花の都パリは芸術の宝庫らしい。オーストラリアに比べると、はるかに情報がある。でも私はフランスに行こうなんて夢にも考えなかった。

なにしろ最大の障害はフランス語である。フランス語がしゃべれなければ留学生試験に合格できない。フランスでは英語は通じないそうで、フランス語をしゃべれなければ生きてゆくことさえおぼつかないらしい。しかし私は大学でドイツ語しか習っておらず、フランス語なんて、読み方さえもまったくわからない。これじゃあ留学生試験を受けるなんて到底無理というものだ。自分だけはフランス行き候補者になるはずがないと確信していた。

ところが江上先生は、例のごとく無責任かつ超楽天的に、「フランス語なんて簡単ですよ。アテネフランセへ通えば、半年でしゃべれるようになる。留学生試験のフランス語だって、文化系の人なら要求水準が高くて大変だが、理科系の人なら大目に見てくれる。日常会話が出来る程度で良いのだからまったく大丈夫さ」と言ってやまない。

まさか。大学の教養課程で2年間もドイツ語をやったの

I could scarcely read German with the aid of a dictionary. I was a long way off from being able to speak German. It would be absolutely impossible to master French in one year. I would never succeed in the competition and never reach a level to be able to speak. Impossible!

The turning point of my life appeared abruptly as usual. One day, almost at the end of the first year of the master's course of the graduate school, Prof. Egami entered our room. After moving around, unfortunately, he stopped behind me. I, of course, pretended to be absorbed in observing test tubes and completely unaware (?) of the presence of the teacher. Are you ready? Now, you have to dodge his attack skillfully as usual.

However, something was different on that day. I expected that he would say,

"Aren't you willing to have a go at the competition for the scholarship of the French government?"

His words were totally unexpected however.

"I heard you wish to go to France. Is it true?"

Oh my God! The game is over!

Who on the earth was so irresponsible as to report such a false rumor? Though I might have sometimes let it slip that France would be a little more tolerable than Australia, there was no possibility for me, who could not understand French at all, to consider going to France. Someone must have told Egami who was struggling to escape his attack.

"Ahh, let me see. I have just remembered that Kasai said that France would be more tolerable than Australia."

The person who said this should be blamed. However, if Egami heard something that sounded positive to his proposal, he immediately reached the same conclusion irrespective of the reliability of the word.

"Kasai desires passionately to go to France. Therefore, I have do my best to help him."

He immediately made a decision which could never be withdrawn. This meant that I lost any alternative way to choose. I had only to surrender to admit my new destiny. The gears would rotate and never go back. Within a minute, my career was twisted compulsorily to a new direction which I had never imagined before.

"Ahh, yes. But Yoshida is also hoping to go to France."

I tried to escape this difficult situation, and let Egami remember one of my classmates Yoshida. Since Yoshida had learned French for two years, he should have been a more promising candidate in comparison with me. But my tiny struggle to transfer the destiny to Yoshida only made the situation worse. It resulted in nothing but involving Yoshida in the same trouble.

"Are there two candidates?" Egami said. "It's somewhat too many."

But he did not suggest to narrow the two candidates into one, and decided to send both to France.

に、辞書を引きひき文章を読めるようになった程度で、ドイツ語をしゃべるなんて夢の夢だ。フランス語がそんな簡単に身につくはずがない。留学生試験に合格でき、日常生活に不自由しないほどのレベルにたった1年で到達できるはずがない。とても無理だ。

いつもそうだったが、運命の日は突然やってくる。修士課程の1年目の終わり頃、実験台の前で一心不乱に試験管を見つめ、江上先生が入ってきたことなどまったく気づかなかった(?)私の後ろに、先生が立ち止まった。まずいなあ、いつものようにひりとかわしてやらねば。

しかしこの日は勝手に違った。

「君はフランス政府留学生試験を受ける気はないかね？」と来ると思っていたら、なんと、

「笠井君、君はフランスへ行きたいんだって？」

なんだこれは？万事窮す。

誰だ、そんなことを先生の耳に入れた奴は？確かにフランスならまだましだと思って、なんかの拍子にそんなことを漏らしたことはあるかも知れない。だけどフランス語がまったく駄目なんだから、行く気になるはずがない。ところが誰かが無責任にも、先生の攻撃をそらすために、「そういえば笠井が、フランスならまだましだと言っていました」などと口を滑らせたのだろう。しかしどんな内容であれ、先生の耳に少しでも肯定的にひびく情報が入ったら最後、早とちりの先生の反応は決まっている。

「笠井はフランスへ行くことを熱望している。それでは絶対に行かせてやらねばならない」と動かし難い決意をしてしまう。覚悟を決めるよりなかった。こうして決して後戻りしない歯車がグルグル回りだしてしまった。たった1分で私の人生は予想だにしていなかった方向へ転換してしまった。

「はあ、でも吉田も行きたいと行っていますが」。私は動転して、同級生の吉田浩にこの運命を振ろうと、苦し紛れにそんなことを口走ってしまった。吉田は教養課程でフランス語をかなり勉強していたので、私よりも候補者としては適任のはずだった。しかしそれは吉田までも巻き添えにただけだった。先生は「二人？それはちょっと多いな」と言ったけれど、一人に絞りなさいなどとはまったく言わず、二人ともフランスへ送り込む気になってしまった。

Matters turned rapidly and irreversibly, descending downhill. Next day, Egami came to our room taking a list of several French biochemists with whom he had been keeping contact.

"It is advisable to get an agreement in advance from a lab to accept you before the challenge to the competition. I have selected some laboratories. Choose one from this list yourself"

It was the same as the selection for the research project when we were admitted to Egami's lab. He did not make a decision, but let his students choose from among several possibilities. The list contained laboratories in Paris, Lille, Grenoble, Marseille, Strasbourg, etc. Names of both cities and bosses were not familiar at all for me, because I knew almost nothing about French scientists.

Egami briefly explained each boss. The lab in Paris was the division of biochemistry of the institute of physico-chemical biology where Egami had once worked. Dr. Grunberg-Manago, who had once worked with Dr. Ochoa on polynucleotide phosphorylase, was in charge of the director of the lab.

Egami added,

"A very beautiful blonde lady."

Without the slightest hesitation, I decided to go to Paris.

I am still wondering why I made such a rash decision at that time. Ordinary people would have spent at least one week or so before the final decision. They would have considered carefully the reputation of the boss, the main projects of the lab, research environment, etc. However, I jumped to a conclusion without considering the consequences. I replied to Egami on the spot.

"I am willing to go to Paris."

Why could I choose my future with such imprudence? Even today, I cannot understand myself. I must have been infected with the rabies virus which Egami still carried, and become as optimistic as my extraordinary teacher.

Yoshida chose a lab in Strasbourg which was lead by Professor Ebel. Since Yoshida was not very good with women, it seemed to be a reasonable choice. Therefore, we did not compete with each other. Strasbourg is also a memorial city where young Egami had stayed for half a year.

About ten days after I declared my choice of Paris, Egami appeared bringing a letter with him.

"I have just received a letter from Dr. Grunberg-Manago replying to my inquiry on the possibility of acceptance of you. She wrote, 'Dear Professor Egami. I don't have a slightest doubt on your recommendation. I believe Mr. Kasai will be a first-class researcher. I am very happy to accept him.' Would you like to see it for yourself?"

I could not read the letter because it was written in French, but I was panicked. How had Egami introduced me to Dr. Grunberg-Manago? He must have exaggerated my ability to the maximum extent. He made her believe that I was a great genius. I was not confident in myself to respond to such an over-

その後の展開も急坂を転げ落ちるように、迅速かつ不可逆だった。翌日には先生はフランスの知り合いの生化学者数人分のリストを持って来た。

「留学生試験を受けるには、前もって受け入れてくれる研究室を決めておく必要がある。受け入れ先の候補を挙げたら、どこに行きたいか自分で決めなさい」

卒業研究や大学院での研究テーマを選ぶときと同じで、先生がここへ行けと命じるのではなく、複数の可能性の中から自分で選べということだった。パリ、リール、グルノーブル、マルセイユ、ストラスブールなどの研究室が挙っていたが、フランスのことなどあまり知らない私には、なじみのない地名や研究者がほとんどだった。

それぞれの候補について簡単な説明をしてくれた。パリの研究室は先生がかつて留学していた生物物理化学研究所の生化学研究室で、今はグルンベルグ-マナゴという女性が室長をやっている。オチョア博士のところでポリヌクレオチドホスホリラーゼの仕事をやった人だそうである。「金髪のすごい美人だよ」と先生はつけ加えた。その一言で、私はパリに決めた。1週間くらいはかけて、ボスの評判とか研究内容とかを熟慮検討してから結論を出すのがふつうだろう。しかし私はあどさきのことなど何も考えずに、その場で「パリにします」と返事をしてしまった。自分の未来をなんであんなにいい加減に決めてしまったのか、ずいぶん無茶な人間だったなと今でも思う。江上先生の狂犬病が伝染して、超楽天病に犯されていたからだろう。

吉田はストラスブール大学のエーベル教授を選んだ。吉田は女性が苦手なので、私とまったく競合しなかった。ストラスブールも先生が最初の半年を過ごしたゆかりの地である。

私が「パリにします」と言ってからほんの10日くらい経った頃に先生がまたやってきた。「ほら、グルンベルグ-マナゴさんから君を引き受けるという手紙が来たよ。すごいことが書いてある。あなたが推薦なさるのだから、笠井氏は最高級の人材に間違いないと信じます。よろこんで引き受けます、と言っている」見せてくれた手紙はフランス語だったから読めなかったけれど、先生は私を紹介するときに、とんでもない大ボラを吹いたらしい。グルンベルグ-マナゴ先生は私のことを大天才だと思い込ま

estimation.

There remained only one year before the competition. I had to learn French from the beginning and master it in order to reach the level of daily French conversation. I had to make use of every possible means for success in the examination. Firstly, I began to attend class in the French school, *Athenée Français*. If I took a school bus leaving a bus stop in the university campus, I could reach *Athenée Français* within 30 minutes. I attended three times a week in a class for beginners. In the afternoon around 6 o'clock, I interrupted my experiment and left the lab. After the class of one hour, I returned to the lab, and started my experiment again. I used to return home around midnight. In the *Athenée Français*, every lecture was given only in French. This was extremely effective for rapid progress, because it enabled me to learn firstly aurally. Such a method was not adopted in universities. Yoshida also started again to learn French, but in a more advanced class, because he had already reached a much higher level than I. In contrast to him, I had to make every effort.

I also listened to radio programs to learn French broadcast by NHK channel 2 every day. It was the time when tape recorders for personal use appeared on the market. It was really a big machine looking like a small suitcase, weighing around ten kilograms. Open reel tapes of 5 or 7 inches had to be used, because cassette tapes were not yet invented. I bought a tape recorder at a cost corresponding to the scholarship for several months. I used to record programs broadcasted early in the morning making use of a timer, and listen to playback as frequently as possible.

Fortunately, TV programs for learning foreign language broadcast by NHK had started in those days. They were the most useful and effective means to learn foreign languages. Among them, the French teaching program had had great success in obtaining great popularity due to its hostess, a young and attractive French lady, *Françoise Moréchand*. Everybody was fascinated by her when she pronounced French sentences as good examples with her charming smile. How sexy were the nasal sounds typical for French when she pronounced them! We could not help mimicking them to the best of our ability. This was really the most effective way to master French. She was already married, but only a little older than twenty and in full bloom, and attracted many audiences. Both Japan and France should appreciate her contribution to making French so popular.

This program was broadcast three times a day, and the latest one started at 11. p.m. On those days, I always returned home a little earlier than usual to worship her smile. *Madame Moréchand*! I am greatly indebted to you for my success in mastering French. Many thanks!

There was another means which also greatly helped me, *Linguaphone* records for French lesson, which Prof. Egami had

くれたのではないだろうか。これはえらいことになった。

留学生試験までにあと1年しかない。それまでにフランス語をゼロから出発して日常会話ができ、試験に合格できるようにしなければならない。とにかくあらゆる手段を使わなければ間に合わないだろう。まず江上先生が若き日に通った語学学校 *アテネフランセ* へ通うことにした。東大校内からバスで御茶ノ水駅まで行き、そこから徒歩で3分くらい、合わせて30分以内で通えるので、週3回の夜の初級コースに申し込んだ。6時だけのクラスだったから、夕方実験を中断して *アテネフランセ* へ行き、1時間の授業が終わったら、また研究室に戻って実験の続きをやって、夜中に家に帰るという生活を続けた。*アテネフランセ* では最初に日から全部フランス語で授業をする。これは外国語を耳から習うことになり、上達には非常に効果的だった。吉田もフランス語の再勉強のため、同じく *アテネフランセ* に通うことにしたが、十分に下地があるので、初めから中級クラスに入った。私の方はとにかく必死だった。

ラジオのNHK第二放送のフランス語講座も毎日聞いた。そのころ、ようやく家庭用のテープレコーダー(旅行用カバンほどの大きさで、重さも10キロを越す。まだカセットテープはなく、5インチや7インチのオープンリールを使うものだった)が売り出されたので、奨学金の数ヶ月分をはたいて買った。朝の6時半頃の放送をタイマーを使って録音しておき、後で繰り返し繰り返し聞いた。

ちょうどその頃から、テレビでも外国語講座が始まって、これがいちばん役に立った。中でもフランス語講座が一番人気で、そのわけは初々しいフランス美人、*フランソワーズ・モレシャン* がホステス役に起用されたからである。あの鼻音まじりのフランス語のセンテンスを、彼女がお手本として何度も何度も発音してくれる。その表情の艶っぽさ、音の美しさに誘われて、懸命にその口の形や音を真似した。これぞフランス語会話上達の早道。彼女はすでにマダムだったのだけれど、まだはたちを出たばかりの花も盛り、フランス語講座に大勢のファンを引きつけ、地味な語学講座を人気番組にしまったのだから、日仏双方に対してその貢献は大きい。この講座は夜の11時過ぎに再放送があったので、その日だけはマダム・モレシャンを拝めるように必ず早めに帰宅した。マダム・モレシャン、おかげさまでフランス語ができるようになりました。本当にありがとう。

その他にもすごく役立ったのが江上先生のリンガフォン。先生がフランス語リンガフォンのレコードを持っているという

bought in 1950's. I borrowed them. It was a rather heavy and precious set containing about 20 SP disks. Each side of one disk recorded only three minutes program, that is, two hours in total. Therefore, Egami would have had to turn upside down or change disks every three minutes when he listened to them. A lot of work! I was fortunate enough to make use of my tape recorder. I recorded all lessons in the set on one tape. Though the whole program was very short in comparison with contemporary teaching materials, it was advantageous because I was able to listen to the whole lessons a thousand times and remember them from the beginning to end, though I hardly remember any of it today.

When about six months had passed after starting the life being submerged in French up to my neck, Prof. Egami appeared and told us.

"I was asked by Hakusuisha publishing company to translate a small book written in French, which describes the essence of the knowledge on nucleic acids. Since no appropriate book introducing briefly nucleic acid biochemistry has been published in Japan, it will contribute to making nucleic acids popular, if it is translated and published. I replied to the publisher. 'I am too busy to occupy myself, but I have two disciples both of them are excellent young researchers, Mr. Yoshida and Mr. Kasai, and also quite at home in French. They are ideal persons to do this job because their research field also fits the subject of the book.' I told the publisher that I would immediately persuade them to accept this job, so you have to translate this book in two months. It is extremely advantageous for the competition for the scholarship of French government, if you have a good record as translator of a French book."

"What? Isn't it too reckless? I started learning French only six months ago. I am the complete opposite to being at home in French. Please don't exaggerate my ability. I am a green-horn just graduated from university, and only a beginner as a researcher. I don't have any experience of translation of even an English book. It is impossible for me to translate a French book."

Egami of course ignored our desperate protests as usual.

"You don't need to be so nervous. When you translate a scientific book, you have only to be careful to avoid mistranslation. If you can translate each sentence correctly enough to make readers judge properly its meaning, it is OK. You don't need to care whether your sentences are beautiful or easily understandable. The only thing you have to do is to translate them obeying strictly the grammar. There is no problem for translation of a French scientific book if you have studied French for six months."

Yoshida and I could not escape his order. Egami did not have a slightest sympathy for readers who would face the succession of awkwardly translated sentences. What a bad teacher!

The book was one of the series "Que sais-je", which was compared to "Iwanami Shinsho", one of the typical Japanese

のでお借りした。相当な時代物だが、当時としては貴重品、全部でせいぜい2時間くらいの内容だったが、SPレコードで約20枚のセット、ずっしりと重かった。レコードの片面に約3分、両面合わせて6分くらいしか入っていない。先生が使ったときには、3分毎に裏返したり、取り替えたりしなければならず、相当に面倒くさかっただろう。私は幸いテープレコーダーを利用できたので、全部を1本のテープに録音した。最近の語学教材みたいにやたらと長時間でないことがむしろよくて、短い分、繰り返して聞くことができた。今ではさすがに忘れたところも多いが、当時は初めから終わりまで全部覚えていた。

フランス語漬けになって半年くらい経った頃、吉田と私のところへ先生が来た。「白水社からフランス語の本を翻訳してくれと頼まれた。核酸のことを扱ったコンパクトな啓蒙書で、日本にはまだこんな本はないから、翻訳すればみんなの役に立つよ。私は忙しくて手が回らないけど、私の弟子にフランス語に堪能な優秀な研究者で、学問領域もぴったりの若い人達がいる。彼らが最適だからやらせましょう、と言っておいたよ。君たち二人でこれを2ヶ月で翻訳しなさい。フランス語の翻訳書を出しているという実績があれば、留学生試験のときにすごく有利になるし」

「えっ? そんな無茶な! フランス語を習い始めてまだ半年ですよ。堪能だなんて大ボラもはなはだしい。去年、大学を卒業したばかりの青二才で、研究者としてもまだまだ卵だし。英語の翻訳書ですら出したこともないのに、ましてフランス語の翻訳書だなんて、とても無理です」

でも、もちろんいくら逃げ口上を並べても、認めてくれる先生ではない。

「科学関係の本は誤訳さえなければいいんだ。たとえ読みにくくても、読む人が間違っただけで判断することがないように正確に訳してあればいいんだから、文章に凝ったりしないで、文法に忠実に直訳すればそれで十分だよ。フランス語なんて、半年も勉強すれば翻訳なんて何でもないさ」

嫌も応もなく、やらされる羽目になった。下手な直訳を読まされる読者のことなんかまるで頭にない。まったく先生は無責任なんだから。

それはフランスの岩波新書と言われたクセジュ文庫だった。100ページ余りの小さい本なので、量的にはそれほど多く

series of concise books dealing with an introduction to a variety of subjects. Though it was a small book of about 100 pages, I had no confidence in my ability to accomplish such a work. Egami was too reckless to leave such a job to greenhorns like us. We felt remorse for the publisher, because they were forced to accept an inexperienced translator who had learned French only six months according to Egami's irresponsible suggestion. What a guilty person he was!

Yoshida and I each shared half of the book. After a struggle for two months, we produced something which was too remote to be called a translation. Though we had absolutely no confidence in our work, we hesitantly handed the manuscript to Egami.

"Ah, so. Finished?" He said. "Now, I am leaving because I have to visit Kanazawa University. I will check your manuscript on the train."

In a few days, he appeared bringing our manuscript with him. We were panicked. Our work would receive the worst criticism. However, to our surprise, he only said.

"Not so bad. However, I found some tiny mistranslations. This and this. Correct these parts, and send it to the publisher."

He only pointed out several sentences to be corrected. He did not revise our manuscript at all. Since he was always extremely busy, it is obvious that he could not have time for a careful check. He could only have scanned the manuscript, because the time available for checking was very limited. Checks by Prof. Egami were always the same, even for scientific reports to be submitted to scientific journals. Even if his student was aware of the poor quality of his/her report and ashamed to have it published in the original form, Egami did not care at all to publish a paper nothing more than a work sheet or a trial product.

This is why our awkward translation, the result of our practice of French, was published as a book. Since Prof. Egami did not want to add his name as one of translators, only the names of Yoshida and I appeared on the book. It could not have been worse for the publisher from a business viewpoint, because sales of the book would not be promising due to unknown translators. We have to sincerely apologize to the publisher for using it as a tool for our success in the competition.

Then, came the next scheme of Prof. Egami for our success.

One day, he told us.

"A small meeting of the Japanese-French biological society will be held soon. You have to present your results obtained so far. You can talk in Japanese. If you present your work in this occasion, your report will be accepted for publication in Comptes Rendu, one of the famous French scientific journals. It will be extremely advantageous for the competition if you have a record of a paper published in a French journal."

はないが、まったく初体験。やり通せる自信があるはずがない。俺達みたいな浅学非才がそんなだいそれたことをやるなんて。本屋さんも気の毒な限りで、なまじ江上先生に話を持ち込んだばかりに、フランス語を半年しか勉強していない人間を、最高の人材だからと言いくるめられて、押しつけられたのだから。まったく罪作りの先生だ。

ともかく吉田と二人で半分ずつ分担して、翻訳などとはおこがましいが、とりあえず日本語に置き換えた。まるで自信のもてないしろものだが、おそろおそろ先生に差し出すしかない。先生の反応は、「あ、そう。できた？それじゃあ、これから金沢まで出張するから、汽車の中で見ておくれよ」

2、3日後、出張から帰ってきた先生は、もう原稿を持って私たちの前に現れた。「なんだ、このひどい訳は！」と一刀両断されても文句など言えるはずがない。ところが先生の言うことは、

「大体いいよ。でも、こことここは間違っているね。そこだけ訂正しておきなさい」

コメントされたのはほんの数カ所だけ。文章の修正なんて全然やっていなかった。先生の超多忙ぶりから考えれば、そんなに細かく点検できるはずがないし、汽車の中で見ただけだから、当然、斜め読みだったのだろう。先生の点検はいつもこんな調子で、学術雑誌に投稿する論文原稿だって同じ様なもの。こんなものを世の中に出したら、どんなに恥をかくことになるだろうかと、当の弟子はおじけついているのに、弟子が仕上げた練習帳、あるいは試作品程度のものを、ほとんど無修正で平気で世の中に送り出してしまふ。

そういうわけで、私達の仏文和訳の練習みたいな直訳の文章が活字になってしまった。「私の名前は入れなくてもいいよ」と先生が言うので、翻訳者としては吉田と私だけになってしまった。先生の名前が入らずに、まったく無名のふたりの翻訳者では、本の売れ行きなど期待できそうもない。私達を留学生試験に合格させる手段に利用されて、本屋さんは踏んだり蹴ったり。申し訳ありませんでした。

留学生試験合格へむけての先生の陰謀はまだ続く。

次に来たのは、「今度、日仏生物学会の例会があるから、これまでにやった実験の結果をまとめて研究発表しなさい。発表は日本語でできるから心配ない。そこで発表すれば、その内容をフランス本国で発行している学術雑誌 Comptes Rendu に掲載してもらえる。フランス語の論文を出していれば、留学生試験では非常に有利になるからね」

“My teacher! I can talk on my work, but it is impossible to write a report in French.”

“No problem. If you prepare a draft, I will check and complete it.”

It was a short report of three printed pages. This time, my poor draft written in French looked intolerable to Egami, and he took the trouble to rewrite my draft.

In consequence, I was set up as a perfect candidate for the scholarship from the French government, because I was the translator of a French book, had already published a scientific report in a French journal, promised to be accepted in the lab in Paris, although I was only a marionette manipulated by Egami.

Preparation of the documents needed for the application to the competition was very hard. We had to prepare eight copies of a set of ten forms, all of which had to be filled in French. Since Xerox had not yet appeared, we had to struggle with a primitive copying instrument, which no longer exists, based on the same principle as the photograph and required development of both negative and positive papers. It was very difficult to find the best conditions. Then, on the day before the deadline, we had to work throughout the night to complete the whole set.

The certificate of academic record in the university was also required as one of the documents. This should also have been translated into French. I translated the mark ‘very good’ to ‘très bien’, and the mark ‘good’ to ‘bien’. When Egami saw this, he immediately yelled at me.

“You should not make such a form. You have to translate the mark ‘very good’ as ‘excellent’ and the mark ‘good’ as ‘très bien’ in order to look more talented.”

“However,” I protested. “if there were a mark ‘superior’ or something like that, it would be possible to translate it to ‘excellent’. It does not seem to be honest to translate the mark ‘very good’ as ‘excellent’.”

“No problem,” Egami said. “Translate ‘very good’ as ‘excellent’ and ‘good’ as ‘très bien’. French people don’t know the marking system in Japan. You don’t need to be too honest to obey dictionaries. I recommend you demonstrate yourself as talented as possible.”

My conscience warned me that it was too exaggerated. But, Prof. Egami did not feel such a trick as big talk.

The competition was held during the winter of my second year of the master’s course of the graduate school. I had to pass two categories of examination. One was on French conversation and the other on my speciality. I had to make my presentations by myself for both examinations. As to the former, I had to talk with an examiner of native French on ordinary subjects required for daily life in France. Since the examiner was a French lady whom I had seen many times in the TV programs (though she was not Madame Moréchand), and she talked slowly enough,

「先生！発表はなんとかなるとしても、フランス語で論文などとても書けません」と言ったら、「じゃあ、下書きだけでいいよ。後は仕上げてあげるから」刷り上がり3ページの短いレポートだったが、さすがに今回は私の下書きそのままというわけにはいかず、結局、先生が全面的に書き直してくれた。

こうやって、実際には江上先生の操り人形にすぎないのだが、フランス語の翻訳書を出版しているわ、フランスの学術雑誌に研究成果を発表しているわ、受け入れ先からは大歓迎されているわという、これ以上に完璧な留学生候補はいない、という状況が着々と仕上げられていった。

留学生試験を受けるための書類を用意するのも大変だった。全部フランス語で書かねばならないし、同じものを8部提出しなければならなかったのだが、まだゼロックスが登場していない時代である。ものすごく原始的なコピー手段しかなく、写真と同じように、ネガとポジを使うものだったが、ちょっとした条件のずれで、まったく使い物にならないものができてしまう。四苦八苦の連続で、締め切り前日は徹夜になった。

書類の中に大学の成績証明書もある。もとは日本語のものをフランス語に翻訳しなければならない。良がビヤン (bien) から、優はトレビヤン (tres bien) ということになる。そのように訳した成績表を江上先生に見せたら、たちまち一喝。

「こんなものじゃ駄目だ。優はエクセラン (excellent)、良はトレビヤンと訳しなさい」

「でも、先生。秀という評価でもあればエクセランと訳せますが、優をエクセランと訳したのでは嘘になるんじゃないですか？」

「いや、優がエクセラン、良がトレビヤンでいいんだ。どうせフランス人には日本の制度なんかわかるはずがないんだから、馬鹿正直に辞書どおり訳さなくても全然かまうことはない。できるだけ優秀に見えるようにしなさい」

これじゃあまりにも誇大宣伝だ。いささか良心がとがめる。でも先生にとっては、この程度ではホラのうちに入らないのだろうな。

留学生試験は修士課程の2年目の冬に行われた。フランス語会話と専門科目の試験があり、どちらも一人ずつで受ける。フランス語の会話の方は、理科系の受験者の場合は、日常会話ができるかどうかを確認する程度。フランス人の試験官と一対一で、ごくあたりまえの日常会話をかわす。試験官はテレビのフランス語講座で何度も見たことのある女性だったし(モレシャンさんとは違う人だったが)、十分に手加減して話してくれたの

I felt quite at home. There was no difficulty.

The examination on my speciality was also done orally. When I entered the room, I found about a dozen professors of different fields (they were all Japanese) sitting in front of me. I had to defend in French against the questions also in French shot by the examiners. However, it was mainly Prof. Egami who put questions to me. He asked me to explain some subjects related to nucleic acids. Since I was the first person who had translated a French book featuring nucleic acids, it was very easy for me to reply fluently. There was no room for claims from examiners other than Prof. Egami. Oh, I cannot help feeling a little guilty.

My challenge for the competition was over without a slightest failure, thanks to the perfect preparation made by Prof. Egami. Both Yoshida and I were accepted as scholarship students of the French government. I was scheduled to leave Japan and go to France in September of 1964. However, it was obvious that my success was totally due to Prof. Egami. I was only a marionette whose strings were pulled by the great manipulator Egami. Without his plot, there would have been no possibility of me to going France, the country which I had never imagined to go. It was he who drastically changed my destiny, though no romance happened to me in France. Throughout my life, I have always been Egami's marionette. Even today, I am still operated by the manipulator now sitting in heaven, and made to repeat the same speeches he taught me forty years ago.

Prof. Egami was notorious as an exceptional boss who did not take care of his students in terms of fixing appropriate positions. He was quite exceptional because, at that time, to be regarded as a powerful boss, one had to keep as many academic positions as possible where one could allocate one's disciples. Many students wished to be accepted in the lab of such a boss because he seemed to be quite dependable. In contrast, Egami was totally indifferent towards such efforts to build empires and place his disciples there. He was totally passive and used to introduce his students only when he was asked by someone. From the viewpoint of common sense, he was not a powerful boss.

"Don't expect that Prof. Egami will find a position for you when you finish graduate school. You have to be prepared to find one by yourself."

Since our seniors repeatedly warned us, we did not depend on him at all concerning to job finding. I in deed did not depend on him when I needed to find an academic position.

However, contrary to his indifference to job finding for his students, he was exceptionally enthusiastic in sending Yoshida and me to France, and made perfect preparations. Why did he take care of us to such an extent doing his best concerning this matter? Was there any student other than I who was taken care of to such an extent? I don't know. Why was he so zealous in sending us to France? Why did he work so hard to send us to France?

で、楽な気持ちで会話できた。

専門科目の試験も口頭試問だった。試験室に入っていくと、各分野の先生達(ただしみんな日本人)が10人ほどずらっと座っている。ここでフランス語で質疑応答する。しかし主に質問したのは江上先生で、内容は核酸関係だった。なにしろ私は日本で初めてフランス語で書かれた核酸の本を翻訳したのだから、すらすらと答えられないはずがない。これでは他の試験官の先生達も文句のつけようがなかっただろう。でも私としてはちょっと後ろめたい。

こうして失敗は皆無という結果で試験は無事にすんで、吉田も私も合格でき、その年(1964年)の9月にはフランスへ行くことになった。でもこのような大成功は、先生が用意周到に完璧な準備をしてくれたからである。私など、先生に操られて、その糸のままに動いた人形にすぎない。フランスに行くなんて夢にも考えていなかったのだから、私の人生は先生によって決定的に変更させられた(須貝さんとは違って、フランスでパートナーを見つけることにはならなかったが)。私はしょせん初めから終わりまで、江上先生の操り人形。今でも天国にいる人形師に操られて、大昔に吹きこまれたセリフを相も変わらずしゃべらされている。

江上先生は弟子の就職の面倒を見ない、ということで有名だった。研究室のボスとしては、あの当時としてはまったく異色だった。偉い先生になればなるほど、自分の弟子をいかに多くの各地のポストに押し込み、植民地を拓ける力があるのかを競った。そういうボスが実力者で頼りがいがあるとみなされ、沢山の弟子が集った。しかし先生は誰かから頼まれれば弟子を紹介しないわけではないが、自分から積極的にどこかへ売り込もうという気などさらさらになかった。ふつうなら頼りがいのないボスと言われてもしかたがない。

「先生はお前達の就職の世話はしてくれない。大学院を終わるときには、就職口は自分で探さなければならないから、ちゃんと覚悟しておけよ」と研究室の先輩達から常々言われていた。そんなものかと私達も特に気にはしていなかったが。

そういう先生で、就職に関しては私も御世話にならなかったけれど、吉田と私をフランスへ留学させることに關しては、先生は最大限の情熱をかけ、完璧な準備をしてくれた。どうして先生はあれほどの情熱を持って世話を焼いてくれたのだろうか。先生にあれほど手取り足取り面倒を見てもらった弟子がほかにいるのだろうか。私の知る限りでは思い当たらない。なぜ、先生はあれほど熱心に、私達をフランスに送り込もうと動いてくれたのだろうか？

"If I find a mountain people have overlooked, I wish to climb it quickly.

If I climb a mountain people have noticed, I wish to climb it slowly."

This is a part of the only poem Prof. Egami published. At that time, everybody wished to climb a mountain noticeable from everywhere and having dignified appearance, that is, the United States. In contrast, the shape of the mountain France was obscure and almost no-one paid attention to it or wished to climb it. However, Prof. Egami did not like the mountain which everybody wished to climb in a rush. If he had to climb such a mountain, he wished to climb slowly enjoying looking at small flowers blooming both sides of the path, after all other people had gone away. But, the most desirable thing is to find a mountain overlooked by almost all people, climb it quickly, and reach the top first.

"Avoid doing the same thing as other people do. It is useless to participate in such a research project which many people will compete with each other. Find a new target which nobody has ever noticed, and bring it up to one of the most important object for future science by yourself. France has had such a tradition. Go and learn it."

Now I understand from the bottom of my mind the right message which Prof. Egami wished to convey to us.

"You don't need to practice dance before going abroad."

This word cannot be qualified as one of Egami's sayings, but it was also a favorite phrase of Egami. I was too naive to believe this advice, but it turned out to be a critical mistake.

"I have often been asked to give an advice by people who are going to work in a foreign country. 'Is it better for me to practice dance?' I don't think so. Since famous researchers don't dance, there will be no problem if you cannot dance."

My teacher, you are a liar! Thanks to your erroneous advice, I missed a lot of happy times. If you have a plan to go to France, practice of dance in advance is essential.

Shortly after I started life in France, I learned that, not to mention famous researchers, every young French girl was zealously fond of dance. Dance parties took place frequently on the occasion of Christmas, new year, and other anniversaries, etc., in order to entertain not only French students but also students from a variety of countries, and many young people gathered together. I was often invited by my friends and participated in them. However, I realized that it was a fatal mistake that I had not practiced dance. Except for me, all young people were good dancers, and they danced skillfully gogo, twist, Charleston and mambo, etc. It was impossible for me to go to the floor and dance among them because I was ashamed of my awkward dancing. The only thing I could do was to become a flower decorating the wall, and cast envious glances at people joyfully dancing.

「ひとに見えない山をみつけたら、ほくは早く登りたい。
ひとにも見える山に登るなら、ほくはゆっくり登りたい」

これは江上語録の中の唯一の詩の一節である。あの頃、誰も彼もが、アメリカという、どこからもよく見える偉容を誇る山に急いで登りたがっていた。フランスなんて山はすっかりかすんでいて、ほとんどの人の目には入らなかっただろう。みんなが登りたがる、しかも急いで登りたがる山など先生は好きでなかった。もしそんな山に登らねばならないのなら、みんながわき目もふらずに争って登った後で、路の左右の小さな花をゆっくり愛でながら登って行きたい。それよりもっと良いのは、ほかの人には見えない山を見つけて、誰よりも先に登ることだ。

人と同じことなんかやるな。みんなが争ってやりたがるような研究をやってなんになる？みんながまだ気づいていない領域から新しい課題を見つけて、それを将来の重要な研究課題に育てなさい。フランスにはそういう伝統がある。それを学んで来なさい。先生があれば一生懸命になって私達に伝えたかったのはそのことだったのだと今にして思う。

「外国に行くときにダンスなんて習わなくてもいいよ」

これも江上先生がよく言っていたことだが、江上語録というほどのものではない。しかし先生には簡単にたぶらかされてしまう私だから、その通り信じてしまった。しかしこれが大失敗だった。

「これから外国へ留学しようという人によく質問される。外国へ行く前にダンスを習っておいた方がよいでしょうかと。だけどそんな必要はないよ。有名な研究者はダンスなんかあまりやらないから、できなくても何も困らない」

先生の嘘つき！先生を信じてずいぶん損しちゃいました。フランスへ行くなら絶対にダンスを練習しておくべきです。

フランスへ行ったらわかったことは、有名な研究者はともかくとして、若い女の子はとてつもなくダンス好きだということだった。クリスマス、新年、その他もろもろ、人が集まればダンスパーティーがある。フランス人学生や各国からの留学生のために、いろいろなパーティーがひんばんに催されており、私も友人達にちよくちよくさそわれた。しかしダンスができないのは致命的だった。ゴーゴー、ツイスト、チャールストン、マンボなどなど、みんなものすごくうまい。これでは恥ずかしくて、とても踊りの中に入っていけない。壁の花になってうらやましげに見ているだけ。

Sometimes, during the intermission, a pretty Parisienne who paid attention to young Japanese happened to come to me to exchange some general conversation. It was really a delightful moment and I made every effort to talk with her. Such a happy time, however, never lasted very long. When the dance music started again, my presence immediately left her mind, and she rushed to the dance floor, and began to dance in an ecstasy. I wished I could dance with her, but I was totally worthless. How sad it was to become a wall-flower again!

It was too regrettable for me to have failed to practice dancing before I left Japan. My life in France might have been much more brilliant if I could dance.

My teacher! I blame you for having given me such erroneous information.

それでも音楽の切れ目になると、かわいいパリジェンヌが若き日本人に興味を示してくれて、何かと話しかけてもらえるチャンスがないでもない。すっかりうれしくて会話を交わしていても、それはつかの間の幸せ。再び音楽が始まったら、彼女はもう私なんか眼中にない。脱兎のごとくフロアへ突進し、恍惚状態となって踊りまくる。一緒に踊りたくてもとてもお相手できない。ああ、また壁の花に戻るのか？

ちゃんとダンスを練習しておくべきだった。そうしたらもっと華やいだフランス生活が味わえたのに。

先生！間違ったことを教えてくれて、一生恨みますよ。