



# “Language is Life”

## 「言葉は命」

ことば いのち



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Every nation has its own status, pride, glory, culture, customs, traditions and language. Although some countries have the same language as other countries, most countries have their own separate language. However, some countries have many mother or ethnic languages aside from the national language. For example: China has nearly 400 languages in addition to the national language, and it is said that Switzerland has four official languages. Also I would like to say that my country Nepal has more than 120 ethnic languages besides the national language Nepali.

各国にはそれぞれのステータス、プライド、栄光、文化、習慣、言葉があります。他の国と同じ言葉を持つ国もありますが、多くの国が独自の別の言語を持っています。しかし、公用語のほかにたくさんの母国語、エスニック言語を持つ国もあります。たとえば、中国は公用語の他に400近い言葉があり、またスイスには4つの公用語があります。私の国のネパールには公用語のネパール語のほかに120以上のエスニック言語があります。

Everyone is born without language. Slowly they grow up and want to talk but at first, they do not know what to talk about. If no one teaches or guides the child, he or she cannot talk. And of course parents teach their children to talk.

誰も話が言語なしで生まれてきます。次第に成長して話し始めるようになりますが、最初は何を話していいかわかりません。誰も教えない、あるいは導いてやらなければ彼らは話すことができません。

ないのです。当然、両親は子供達が話せるように教えます。

Language is a very important thing whether you live in your homeland or abroad. Even if you go traveling to foreign lands, if you are weak in the language of that country, you may get into trouble and suffocate in each and every corner of your travels and sightseeing. And of course, once you live and survive in a foreign land, it is best for you to become familiar with the customs, culture and traditions of the country, but if you do not learn the language, you may not be able to do this easily. Unless you are familiar with daily activities, you will be faced with a very difficult situation in your journey of life. That's why I could say that it is better to come to learn the language of the country.

あなたが母国に住んでいようが、海外に住んでいようが、言葉は大切なものです。外国に旅行する際でも、その国の言葉に弱ければ、トラブルに巻き込まれ、旅行や観光をする先々で毎回の詰まるような思いをするでしょう。もちろん外国で生活をして、しのぐことができれば、それはその国の習慣や文化、伝統に親しむ最良の方法ですが、言葉を知らなければそうすることもままなりません。日常の活動に親しんでいない限り、人生行路でとても難しい局面に直面するでしょう。それゆえに、その国の言葉を学んだ方がいいと言えます。

As a matter of fact, knowing the Japanese language is the most important thing to live, work and survive on Japanese soil. Almost

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certainly you will have been asked many times in Japan when you were looking for work: "Do you speak Japanese well?" And it's sure that most of the foreigners were not proficient in Japanese and the company manager would soon reject the foreign job seekers before inspecting their skills for the job. And many foreign workers are exploited by Japanese brokers who introduce them to companies and provide jobs. Providing jobs to foreigners and taking a set amount of the salary (as a commission) is not a bad thing, but without rules and regulations, some brokers cut the workers' salaries and reduce the amounts that should be paid until it is not good enough.

実際のところ、日本の国で生活し、働き、暮らすには日本語の知識は最も大切です。日本で仕事を探するとき、ほぼ間違いなく、何度も「日本語を上手に話せますか？」と聞かれるでしょう。外国人の多くが日本語に堪能でなく、企業のマネージャーは仕事上の技能について聞く前に、断ってしまうに違いありません。多くの外国人は仕事をくれる会社を紹介する日本のブローカーの食べ物にされています。外国人に仕事を提供することや、サラリーを設定(手数料として)することは悪いことではありませんが、しかし、ルールや規則のないまま、労働者の賃金を削り、不十分な額に減らす業者もあります。

Not only is this an evil act, but also sometimes foreigners end up facing unpaid salaries and threats, instead of payment and respect. Mostly the foreigners who are laboring at factories and constructions sites in Japan are facing this type of disgusting behavior during their

period of stay in Japan. The question is — why does it occur to you? And there is only one answer or cause: Language. It all occurs due to foreigners' lack of Japanese language skills which makes it very easy for brokers to take advantage of aliens.

これは悪徳行為であるばかりでなく、支払いを受ける、あるいは感謝される代わりに、給料の未払いや脅しに直面する外国人もいるのです。日本で工場や建築現場で働くほとんどの外国人が、日本滞在期間中にこのような腹のたつ行為に直面しています。問題はなぜこのようなことが起きるのかですが、その答え、あるいは原因はたった一つ——言葉です。それらはすべて外国人の言葉の欠落から起こります。ブローカーにとってはこれら外国人の扱いは極めて簡単なのです。



My dear friends, all foreigners — I do believe that once you are fluent in Japanese, no one devil would have the courage to step in your way and exploit your labor. And also I would like to state that you must be sincere and punctual in your duties even if you are fluent in the language. In this way, language helps to remove your anxieties and fears and plays a great role in helping you your life live in a comfortable way. That's why I say "Language is Life."

外国人のみなさん、もし日本語がうまければ、あなたの道に悪魔が忍び寄り、あなたの労働を食べ物にしないものと私は確信しています。また、言葉が堪能でも、業務に誠実で約束を守らなければいけないと言いたいです。このように、言葉は心配や恐れを取り除き、快適に一生を過ごせる大きな役割を果たします。それゆえに、「言葉は命」と言いたいです。

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