

※ 自彊前進…自ら努め励み、前に進むこと (校歌3番の詞から)

2つの英語スピーチ大会

8月17日、新潟市中学校英語発表会が白根学習館で行われ、学校代表として中村紫音さん(3年生)が参加しました。また、9月30日、高円宮杯英語弁論大会県予選会が万代市民会館で行われ、遠藤星羅さん(1年生)が参加しました。

遠藤星羅さんは、最優秀賞に輝き、11月23日から東京で行われる高円宮杯全日本中学校英語弁論大会に出場します。

今回は、二人の発表したスピーチの全文を紹介します。

Holding on to Feelings Like a Rice Ball with Something Special Inside

Shion Nakamura

Please imagine an onigiri "rice ball". If you take a bite of a rice ball, you can taste the soft outside and chewy inside. Rice balls are made up of boiled rice, usually wrapped with seaweed. They usually have pickled plum, salmon or other ingredients in the center. The seaweed is wrapped around the boiled rice. Our true feelings are like rice balls. Things are different on the inside, even though people might look similar on the outside. For example, a person who is actually a sociable person could pretend to be someone else. Thus, he can hide his true feelings like covering a riceball with seaweed.

It is difficult to peel the seaweed off of the boiled rice. What does this mean? Now, I will tell you about my experience.

I had a grandfather. He was very strict. He pretended to be stubborn in front of us, his grandchildren.

His pretending to be stubborn was like seaweed covering who he really was, but in fact his true nature was that he was very kind. His true nature was like soft boiled rice. This grandfather that I loved died when I was seven. I didn't understand that situation at that time. I cried my heart out. I sometimes wished I could have met him again. One day, I asked my grandmother about how they first met. I will never forget her tearful eyes and her childlike smile. She said, "You should have talked with him and told him about you true feelings." I thought she had many thankful feelings toward him and that she loved him. I couldn't say anything while I listened to her story. Her mind must have been wrapped in seaweed. Likewise, we cover our true feelings without saying how we feel. So, we are sometimes left with big regrets.

Let's think about how to deal with this problem. Do you dislike people who cover their true feelings like rice balls with seaweed? For me, I like them because they have depth in flavor with seaweed on the outside. However, seaweed is like an obstacle to understanding each persons' true feelings. I tend to cover my true feelings like seaweed covers a rice ball. The important point is that accepting that our seaweed covers our feelings helps us deeply understand what is in our hearts. If we can do that, then we can find something special inside.

I have a friend whose true feelings I can understand. I can share my heart with her without covering my true feelings with seaweed. Sometimes the seaweed covering our hearts is an obstacle and we can't taste the rice, so we can't share our true feelings. Pretending to be someone else makes communication more difficult. But, once we recognize our true feelings, we were able to accept the seaweed surrounding our feelings. Although I couldn't express what was in my heart the first time, we have been removing the seaweed around our hearts little by little and thereby, learning to communicate deeply. We are able to find our something special inside.

To tell the truth, my grandparents were able to understand each other even though they were pretending to be someone somewhat different at that time. Holding on to feelings like a rice ball with something special inside is very important. Now let's coexist with our seaweed.

Thank you for listening.

<内容要約>

おにぎりを覆うのと同じように、心を覆っている海苔。それは本当の気持ちに壁をつくってしまう。大切なことは、子どものようにありのままに言い合い、相手と分かり合えるようになることだ。さあ！子どもの心に戻って相手と分かり合おう。

Take off the Glasses of Prejudice

Endo Seira

"Really? You eat nothing?" my mother asked.

"Yes, it's true. But, actually I am hungry." her friend replied.

"Then why don't you eat?"

It was because she was a Japanese Muslim. That conversation took place during the period of Ramadan. During Ramadan, she couldn't eat when the sun was up. There are many cultures in the world, and each of them has different characteristics. Differences are a good thing. But people often dislike things which are different from their own. I believe that this inability to accept differences leads to "prejudice".

Last year, a Japanese journalist was killed by Islamic State terrorists. When I saw this news, I was very frightened, and I thought "Muslims are scary."

In the summer of that same year, I went to Dubai with my family. At first, I didn't feel like going because there were many Muslims in Dubai. But after we went there, my impression totally changed through several experiences.

First, I saw a lot of modern and gorgeous buildings and houses in Dubai, for example, the tallest building in the world, called "Burj Khalifa", which is 828 meters high, and the huge artificial island that we can see from space called "Palm Jumeirah". Second, they have prayer rooms in many places. I even saw one in the airport. Many people come on time and pray to their god faithfully. They pray 5 times a day every day. I was impressed by their religious piety. Third, when I went to McDonald's, I saw some women covered with black clothes from their head to their feet! And their face was masked so I wondered: How do they eat? I took a closer look at them. They were eating through an opening near their mouths at the top of their clothes. I also noticed that they were wearing everyday clothes under it. One of them had a stroller. There was a cute baby in it. She held and played with her baby. Then, I felt the mother's love for her baby, even though I was only able to see her eyes through the slit in her clothes. When I saw this, my heart was warmed and I felt a sense of familiarity with Japan.

At first I felt strange about their behavior and their clothes. But I gradually accepted their culture by seeing what things are important for them and finding some common points with Japanese culture. At the same time, I noticed that I had looked at the people with glasses of prejudice. Small feelings of prejudice may be the beginning of hatred. And if it happens on a large scale in a country unit, it may escalate, become a bigger problem and even lead to war.

What can we do to stop it? I think "misunderstandings" are the origins of prejudice. So I will suggest two solutions. One is that we should stop thinking our way is best in the world. We must not judge other cultures by comparing them with ours. What is special about all cultures comes from what people think is important in each country. The other thing is that we must understand what others cherish and why they cherish it, and then we can discover the good points of others and the common connections between us. This is how we can take off the glasses of prejudice.

Small efforts, such as this, will create a great power. If everyone makes these small changes, little by little, we can stop prejudice. Let's make a peaceful world free of prejudice together.

<内容要約>

世の中には様々な文化があり、それぞれに素晴らしい個性がある。しかし、人はしばしば自分とは異なるものを嫌う。違いを受け入れられない心が「偏見」につながっているのではないか。自分と相手の共通点や自分にはない相手の良さを見つけて、「偏見のメガネ」をとることが大切である。そうすることで「偏見」のない平和な世界をつくることができる。