



Haf a Adai

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Pure heart and deep love

On Wednesday, November 29, 2023, Ms. Toshie Ito, an expert on American labor law and a member of our school's board of directors, visited our school and gave a lecture to our middle school students on one of the manners for working in society. The content of the lecture was about how to speak, including greetings. In other words, the lecture and exercises showed how to behave in various situations and how to give a good impression to others by talking to them and talking back to them. The students' expressions were serious, as the next day was their work experience at JAL. Even though it was a common practice in the society, it seemed to be a new experience for the students. According to Ms. Ito, she felt that her words were being absorbed by the students. Perhaps it was because she was working with adults and felt like she was talking to a cloudy mirror, but on this day, she felt as if she was talking to a clear mirror. She frankly told me that she felt as if her heart had been cleansed.



There is more to this story. Ms. Ito told me what happened that night.

"For some reason, I (Ito) could not sleep at all after midnight because something was bothering me. I can't get the images of the students I met at the school out of my head. It was as if the sight of the students practicing earnestly during the lecture, the sound of their young voices, and the atmosphere of the teachers watching over them had slipped into my mind. I couldn't sleep until 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. At about 4:00 a.m., I was starting to doze off a little bit. The students gathered around and said to me, 'Auntie, it's okay. You can believe in yourself,' I could hear them talking to me. I was startled awake. At that time, I was having a hard time deciding what to do, and I was very worried. But when I heard that voice, I knew exactly what it meant. I immediately made up my mind, my heart was cleared, and tears of joy flowed. My heart was cleansed, the fog of gloom disappeared, and I instantly knew what I had to do. I had experienced childhood, but I felt as if I had forgotten the purity of my childhood somewhere. But thanks to the interaction with the students, I was able to awaken it. I guess I am the one who should be thanking you for this experience."



I believe that this purity of children is what is important for learning. In school, I believe that teaching them ideals, teaching them how to be human beings, and instilling in them an attitude of honest learning are very important elements that will carry the next generation. Certainly, society is not as ideal as it should be. There are many ugly parts, but these are things that they should gradually get to know over the course of their life experiences. However, it goes without saying that we need to teach them in advance anything that could be

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dangerous to themselves. I believe that a pure, honest heart is the factor that will lead to a respect for others and a willingness to learn from them, which will lead to a great development of the child, which will also lead to an encounter with a fateful person, which will develop into a significant change in one's own life.

I believe it is important for us to watch over our children with deep affection, gradually, from the time they are very young, keeping our hands, eyes, and hearts close to them.

In his novel "Jiro's Story," Kojin Shimomura, a social educator and writer from Saga Prefecture in Japan, has Jiro's dying mother say to Jiro's father from her hospital bed, I am deeply impressed by the scene in which Jiro's mother, recalling the image of Jiro's father, who was the only one who continued to give deep love to Jiro, who had been raised strictly by others, says to Jiro's father, "All we have to do is to love our children...." and then dies.

There is no doubt that deep love has a profound meaning, but it is fundamental to raise children with deep affection.

The students who appeared in Ms. Ito's ear must have been raised with deep affection.

