

## Tesimony Hattori Michiko

20140328\_Singapore



**Ms. HATTORI Michiko**

*Hiroshima Survivor (exposed to a-bomb at age 16)*

Ms. Hattori worked as a nurse for the Military Medicine Department during the war. She was exposed to the atomic bombing and lost consciousness 3.5 km away from the hypocenter. She was shaken awake by a Japanese soldier and ran into an air-raid shelter, and for the following several days, without food or water, had to treat the injured and dispose of the dead. Ms. Hattori left Hiroshima and moved around the country after the war ended, but continued to suffer from discrimination and illness caused by radiation from the atomic bomb. Since 1985 she has been giving testimonies at schools and other places to explain the reality of nuclear weapons.

As I am here in Singapore today, I pray that all the souls that was lost during the war may rest in peace, regardless of the sides they were on. During the war time my father worked for the Japanese military as a chief of military radio communication on the boat used to carry supplies here. One time my father's ship was struck by a torpedo in the sea off the coast of Seram. He stayed on the ship to send out an SOS until the very last moment, and was the last one to jump in to the ocean when the ship finally sunk. But my father couldn't swim. He clung to one of his co-workers in the rough water. The co-worker shouted, "Get off me! We will both drown." But hearing my father say "Please, it's me" the co-worker said "Oh chief – I couldn't leave you. Hold onto my belt"; and that is how my father was saved. Later on, my father told me "Michiko, I was saved because I was good to people on daily basis. If you do good everyday, someone will be there when you are in trouble. If you are trouble to others, no one will be there for you." The ocean near here is a memorable place for my father.

All adult male were sent to war. While their absence, women and children were used as workforce under the motto of "We won't ask for anything, until the victory comes." They worked under harsh conditions for the country. Even when I was in elementary school, I myself spent days collecting pieces of scrap iron and iron sand. I used magnet tied on a string to attract any piece of iron from the side of the roads. Does this really help making battle ships and airplanes? Even as a child I had a feeling that my country may lose the war, but no one was allowed to express such feeling out loud. Students were used as workforce instead of adults. Boys dug up pine tree roots to make oil for the military use and made air raid shelters. Girls trained with bamboo spear and fixed holes and buttons on the used military uniforms. If I make a little mistake, the officers would hit me in the face. I cleaned for subway trains cars, while training as a nurse at a hospital.

Back then, Japan was in the middle of invasion. Once Japanese military occupied the places, they put local children in a cage and shot them in front of their parents as

a warning. The soldiers had to obey their officers' command unconditionally; otherwise they would have to risk their own lives. That is how the soldiers killed the children. How would a human being feel under such condition? What do you think?

Let me share some more stories I have experienced after the bomb was dropped. Countless people rushed into the aid station. They were all deeply burnt. Their mouths were ripped, eyeballs were popped out, and their hair was all standing. They were walking around with their hands facing the front waving like seaweeds. You could not even distinguish if they were a man or a woman. The kimonos were stuck into their bodies, and they were heavily burnt that they looked like zombies. I was so scared seeing that scene and I ran around trying to escape. I was not able to cure any one at this moment. After some time, I found my father. I realized, "I have a family. And these seriously burnt people also have a family. What have I been training to become a nurse for!?" After I came into realization, I made up my mind and went back to work. I went to the military doctor and reported, "I am Michiko Hattori. I will do my best to cure these patients!" He said, "You idiot! Where have you been? This place has become a field hospital and we need you to start working immediately!" At the aid station, I laid down the patients on to a straw mat and asked their names, address, and their gender. I wrote their information on a card and knotted it on to the mat. When I needed to give out medicine to the patients, the doctors will say, "Don't give shots to those who have no chance surviving. Give it to only the ones who can be saved. Be especially kind to the soldiers and forget about the rest." From that day on, I've worked day and night for 3 straight days without any rest. On the 3rd day, maggots started to crawl around the patients' bodies. Many died. They died just like an insect and no family members saw their final moments.

Not all Hibakusha (the atomic bomb survivors) can talk about their memories of the moments after the bomb. Let me share one case. After the bomb, there was a mother who had her own child under the debris. The child was alive, but she could not go help. She had to decide whether to escape from the fire, or stay and die with the child. Those crucial decisions needed to be made. She decided to leave, but she regretted her decision all her life.

People who experienced the nuclear weapon went through absolute hell. The atomic bomb did not allow anyone to die or live with dignity. After the war, the survivors suffered due to the fact that they were Hibakusha. In some cases, they were discriminated against being a hibakusha and in other cases, they were isolated in the villages they lived. Some marriages were cancelled because they were Hibakusha. I started working as a teacher but I was diagnosed with typical Hibakusha symptoms and was always in bad health. Sometimes, those symptoms kept me from work and my coworkers, thought I am just lazy. The atomic bomb is used as a tool for

extinction. Any weapon that emits radiation will ruin people throughout his or her life.

I believe the nuclear power plants have the same danger as well. Japan possess many plants without the solution on how to dispose the nuclear waste, and yet the government is trying to export the power plants to other countries. As a hibakusha of the atomic bomb, I am ashamed of the actions the Japanese government is taking.

That day, in Hiroshima, my 16year old body, have felt the inhumanity of nuclear-weapon with all 5 senses. In order to realize my hope to never create another hibakusha, I would like to continue sharing my testimony. As a survivor, I believe it is my mission. Next year, in 2015, the NPT conference (Nonproliferation treaty review committee) is taking place. In addition, 2015 is the 70th anniversary after the atomic bomb incident. Now, the nuclear free countries are moving towards creating a world without nuclear weapons under the belief, "the nuclear weapons should never be used under any situation". As a victim of the nuclear weapon, I would like to appeal to "Never start any nuclear war! Abolish all nuclear weapons!" I want to cry out for "abolition" with the people from all over the world hand in hand, no matter what our ideologies or beliefs are. We have no other choice but "abolition" It is important to learn and understand how the nuclear weapons, atomic bombs, radiation, and the nuclear power plants can harm people and the entire world. Through that process, I am confident that we can learn in which direction the we should walk towards to create a peaceful world.

Thank you very much.

### <シンガポールという国と自分の国との関わり>

いま、このシンガポールの土地に来て、過去の戦争当時を思い、戦争で亡くなった被害者、加害者すべての人のご冥福をお祈りいたします。

過去に、父は、船乗りで無線局長として、この土地に兵隊、戦車を運んだり食糧を運んだりして戦争に荷担していました。

ある時、父が乗っていた船はセラム島のブラ沖で魚雷の被害に遭いました。父はSOSを通信し、沈没寸前、死を覚悟しました。そして父は最後に海に飛び込みました。

しかし父はカナヅチでした。浮き上がったとき、一緒に溺れた仲間にしがみつきました。

彼は「ダメだ、溺れる、死ぬからつかまらなくてくれ。」と叫びましたが、父が、「頼む俺だ」と助けを求めると、「ああ、局長じゃあしょうがない、俺のズボンの紐につかまってくれ。」と言って、助けてくれたそうです。

父は私に、「道子、無事帰還出来たのは、俺が普段の行いを大切にしていたからだ。普段の行いが良ければ、いざというときに誰かが助けてくれる。常に他人に迷惑をかけているような人間であれば誰も助けてくれない」と、話してくれました。

この近くの海は、父の思い出の地でもあります。

### <軍国主義>

成人男性は戦地に行ってしまう、女性も子どもも、「欲しがりません、勝つまでは」を合い言葉に、お国のために過酷な労働をさせられました。

私も、小学生の頃から、道端で磁石に紐を付けて、鉄くずや砂鉄まで拾う日々でした。こんなんで軍艦や飛行機が作れるのか？子供ながらに日本が負けるのではと感じていましたが言葉にすることは許されませんでした。

子どもたちは大人に代わって学徒動員として働かされました。男の子たちは軍用油のために松の根っこを掘って油とりをしたり、防空壕をつくったり。女の子たちは竹槍の訓練をしたり、軍服のボタン付けや穴かがりなどをしました。少しでも失敗をすると上官に叱られ、ビンタされるような日々でした。

私は、列車の中の掃除をしながら鉄道病院で看護課の特訓をしました。

その頃、日本は侵略戦争を行っていました。

日本は占領した土地で見せしめの為に、捕まえた子供を籠に入れ、その子供を親の前で銃殺しました。上官の命令は絶対で、従わない兵隊の命も危ぶまれたので、兵隊は従わざるを得ず、子供を殺したのです。

そのような状況での、人間の思いは如何ばかりでしょうか。みなさんは、どう思いますか。

### <被爆当時>

これから、原爆投下直後に私が目にした惨状をもう少しお話しをしましょう。

救護所には、次から次に大火傷した人々がなだれ込んできました。口はさけ、目は飛び出し、髪は逆立ち、手を前に、わかめを垂らしたような恰好で男か女か見分けが着かないほどでした。

着物は体にこびりつき、焼け焦げ、幽霊のようでした。私はそれを見たとき、足がすくんで手当どころではなく逃げ回っておりました。

何時か経って父親の姿を見て「私には家族が居る。この火傷した人達にも家族はいるだろう。私はこれまで何のために看護の勉強したのか。」と我に返り、仕事に就きました。

軍医殿に「服部道子です。ただいまより治療に従事します。」と名乗ると、「馬鹿野郎！どこに行っていたんだ！ここは野戦病院と化したんだからすぐに手当にあたれ！」と怒鳴られました。

軍の救護所では、患者をむしろの上に寝かせて、住所と名前と男か女かを聞いて荷札に書いて枕元のむしろにゆわいつけました。患者に薬を与えるとき、「死ぬような者には注射を打つな。生きられるものだけ手当てしろ。軍人には丁寧に。民間人は放っておけ」

そこから三日三晩寝ずに働きました。三日も経てば、生きた人間からウジが湧いて、家族から看とられることもなく虫けらのように死んでいきました。

被爆者がみんな当時の記憶を話せるわけではありません。例えば、我が子ががれきの下でもがいている。逃げるか、子どもと共に焼け死ぬか。そんな選択を迫られるのです。そのとき逃げることを選んだ人は、死ぬまで後悔しました。

### <まとめ>

人類が初めて体験した核兵器・原爆はまさに「地獄」其の物でした。原爆は人間として死ぬ事も人間の尊厳をもって生きる事も許しませんでした。

終戦後も、被爆者ゆえの悩みがつきませんでした。例えば、ヒバクシャとして差別されたり、村八分にされたり、結婚も何回か破綻を受けました。

教員として就職した学校では、ブラブラ病というヒバクシャ特有の病気だったので、貧血で仕事が出来なかったり、体調が常に悪く、差別やいじめも受けました。

原爆は「絶滅」だけを目的とした凶器の兵器です。放射能を発する兵器は、生涯、人間の生命をむしばみ通す代物です。

原発も同じです。廃棄処分すらできない代物を保有している日本は、原発を外国へ輸出すると言っています。私は被爆者の一員として恥ずかしいと思っています。

あの日、広島で、16歳だった私は五感を持って原爆放射能による非人道的な被害を受けました。「再び、被爆者を作らない」という願いを実現させるために、生き残った被爆者の一人として、限られた時間の中で語り伝える責務を感じています。

来年、2015年にはNPT再検討会議が行われます。そして被爆70周年を迎えます。現在、非核兵器保有国を中心に「いかなる状況においても核兵器を使ってはならない」と核兵器の全面廃絶の動きがあります。

唯一の核戦争被害者として、「核戦争おこすな！核兵器をなくせ！」思想・信条を超えて国々の人々と手を取り合って、平和を愛するよう「廃絶」を訴えたい。「廃絶」しかないのです。

それは、核兵器・原爆・放射能そして原発が人間社会、また地球に何をもたらしたのかを知ること、学ぶこと、理解することが重要です。そこからどの方向に進むべきかを学び未来を築けると確信しています。