

A Song of Faith in the Future

Our generation grew up watching the NHK TV puppet show *Hyokkori Hyotanjima*. There is a song in the show that has left a strong impression on my memory. It is "Mirai wo Shinjuu Uta" sung by Don Gabacho.

"If today is not good enough, let's do it tomorrow. If tomorrow's not good enough, let's do it the day after tomorrow. If the day after tomorrow doesn't work, the day after tomorrow will. No matter how far we go, there is always tomorrow."

Gabacho himself is just postponing his problems, but the song gives him a strange kind of energy. Hisashi Inoue, one of the script writers, told me that he received a letter from a family member who said that he had decided not to commit suicide because he had happened to hear this song. It is true that this song gives us the impression of a positive attitude towards life, of a willingness to live with hope for the future in the face of great difficulties, of a resilience to strive for ideals in the face of real obstacles.

Try changing the lyrics as follows:

"If today is no good, tomorrow is no good. If tomorrow is no good, the day after tomorrow is no good. If the day after tomorrow is no good, the day after tomorrow is no good. If it's no good today, it's no good tomorrow."

With this wording, the song offers no hope and no dream. It's a defeatist way of thinking that is bound to fail anyway. As soon as you think, "It's not going to happen," you've lost the possibility of making it happen. We can do it because "we think we can" and we can do it because there are people who think like that.

There are some dreams, hopes and ideals in this world that are not so easy to achieve. For example, the eradication of cancer, the development of nuclear fusion energy, the eradication of poverty, the guarantee of human rights, the elimination of discrimination, and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

People who never give up are the ones who create the future. Let's not be defeated by the COVID-19 pandemic, let's stay positive and believe in a bright future!