

龍馬伝

RYOMADEN

NHK 大河ドラマ

『龍馬伝』を英語で読む!

新連載

今年のNHK大河ドラマ『龍馬伝』の物語を作家のクリストファー・ベルトンさんが英語で執筆します。「黒船」や「開国」などは、英語でどのように表現されるのでしょうか。

文・クリストファー・ベルトン(作家) 企画協力・NHK

龍馬と弥太郎

(第1回「上士と下士」より)

人物ファイル①

Hanpeita Takechi (武市半平太)

文武に優れた土佐藩士。後に土佐勤王党を結成。

Kao Hirai (平井加尾)

土佐藩士の平井収二郎の妹。龍馬に恋心を抱く。

Yataro Iwasaki (岩崎弥太郎)

土佐藩地下浪人。貧困に耐えて学問に励む。

【あらすじ】『龍馬伝』は、坂本龍馬が岩崎弥太郎や武市半平太をはじめ、さまざまな人物たちと出会い、維新の志士として成長していく姿を描く壮大なドラマだ。物語が始まるのは、天保14年(1843年)、坂本龍馬が9歳のときである。当時、土佐藩の武士には、大きく上士と下士に分けられる厳しい身分制度があった。下士の子として生まれた龍馬は、学問も剣術も苦手だったが、父の八平や姉の乙女は龍馬に武士らしく、強く育てほしいと願っていた。この頃、龍馬は鳥かごを売り歩く岩崎弥太郎という少年と出会う。弥太郎の身分は下士よりも下の地下浪人で、下士と同様に上士から屈辱的な差別を受けていた。

One day, the young Ryoma accidentally angered a young man from a high-level family. This nearly cost him his life, but instead his mother laid her own life on the line to prevent the samurai from killing him. Although Ryoma escaped unharmed, the incident resulted in his mother's health deteriorating even further, and it was not long before she breathed her last. Her final words became engraved on Ryoma's heart, and from that day on he resolved to live by them.

As the years went by, Ryoma spent much time perfecting his swordsmanship and he grew into a fine young samurai. Kao Hirai, who had been attracted to Ryoma since their childhood days together, also grew into a



岩崎弥太郎(左:香川照之)は、美しく成長した平井加尾(右:広末涼子)に、好意を寄せる。

beautiful woman, but she was unable to tell Ryoma her true feelings for him. Ryoma also had dealings with several other samurai, and one of these was Hanpeita Takechi, who became the leader of the low-ranked samurai. Yataro Iwasaki, on the other hand, immersed himself in his studies while continuing to sell birdcages.

Until one day, when Yataro, out of despair for having lost his mentor, got himself into trouble by crashing into a higher-ranked samurai. Ryoma immediately rushed to intervene, but showed no inclination to draw his sword. The image that floated into Ryoma's mind at this point was his mother valiantly throwing herself between him and his own attacker.

龍馬ついに江戸へ

(第4回「江戸の鬼小町」より)

人物ファイル②

Sadakichi Chiba (千葉定吉)

千葉道場の道場主で、龍馬の剣術師範。

Jutaro Chiba (千葉重太郎)

千葉道場の二代目で、佐那の兄。

Sana Chiba (千葉佐那)

千葉定吉の娘で、「鬼小町」と呼ばれる剣の達人。

【前回までのあらすじ】自分の生きる道を探すために世の中を見てみたいと、龍馬は父親の八平に江戸行きを願い出る。加尾は龍馬を訪ね、縁談の話が来たと打ち明けるが、龍馬は加尾の気持ちを受け止めることができなかった。最終的に剣術修行という形で江戸行きを許された龍馬だが、加尾が龍馬への思いを断ち切れず、縁談を断っていたことは知るよしもなかった。

Having arrived in Edo, Ryoma joined the Chiba Dojo, a fencing school famous for teaching the Hokushin Itto-ryu style of fencing. He was shown around the dojo by Sadakichi Chiba's son, Jutaro, where he came across female fencer Sana, who challenged him to a practice duel. As the duel began, Sana rushed Ryoma with a level of skill that prevented him from returning the attack, and knocked him off his feet. Amazed at the skill of Edo swordsmanship and at the fact that Sana was the pride of the Chiba Dojo and went under the name of **Onikomachi, or Beautiful Devil**, Ryoma came to the conclusion that swordsmanship had given him something to live for.

Meanwhile, in Tosa, Hanpeita was busy recruiting students for his own dojo, and, not to be outdone, Yataro had started up his own school of academic studies, which Kao had decided to join.

Dedicating all of his time to sword practice at the Chiba Dojo, Ryoma was turning into a fine swordsman. Egged on by her father, Sana challenged him once more to a duel, but Ryoma refused to fight her. Before she knew what was happening, Sana was taking more and more notice of Ryoma, and she began to feel extremely attracted to him.

Check ① 「鬼小町」を英語でどう表現する?

鬼小町はとりあえず日本語でそのまま Onikomachi と述べておいてから、英語における近い表現で言い換えます。or Beautiful Devil の or は、「つまり」とか「すなわち」といったニュアンスです。



剣術ひとすじだった佐那(貴地谷しほり)だが、龍馬と出会って、少しずつ変わっていく。