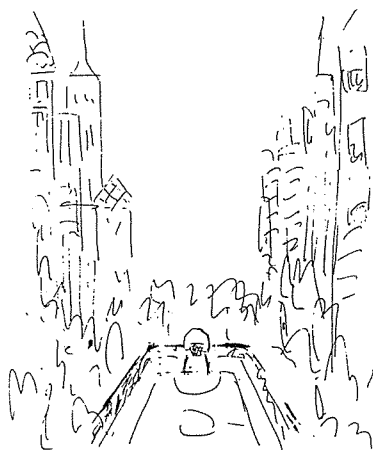


The Best American Essays

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Woody Allen
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edited, with notes, by
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SANSHUSHA

まえがき

The Best American Essays は毎年アメリカの雑誌に掲載されたエッセイの中から、とくにすぐれたものを集めた定評あるエッセイ選集である。編集は著名な文学者や評論家が担当し、1991年版(1992)は Joyce Carol Oats が編者で John Updike や Margaret Atwood のエッセイをはじめとして、21編を収録している。その中から、大学、短大の学生向きに5編を選んでみた。ここに収めたエッセイは知的な内容のもので、かならずしも平易とはいえないかもしれない。しかし、語学の勉強には、実用的英会話の練習ばかりでなく、知的な読書もまた必要であり、実際にアメリカやイギリスの良質な雑誌を読むためには、この程度の英文に慣れておくことが望ましい。注はかなり詳しくつけたつもりなので、十分読みこなしていただけると思う。

原書では多民族国家アメリカの現実を反映するように、アメリカの少数派民族を扱った文章が非常に多い。アメリカでは最近「褐色化」が急速に進み、21世紀には人口比率が変わり、現在の少数派民族が多数派になると予想されている。黒人、ユダヤ人だけでなく、アジア系やラテン系アメリカ人の書いた評論や文学作品がさかんに読まれているが、アメリカ国内はもちろん、国際的にも、冷戦が終わってから人種や民族の問題が大きくクローズアップされている。このテキストでは4編がアメリカの少数派民族のかかえる問題を主題にしているが、いずれもすぐれた文学者の書いた味のある文章であり、社会科学の論文とはまたちがった形で、民族や人種について考えるきっかけをあたえてくれるはずである。

教室では英文の内容と難易度を考え、たとえば、Amy Tan, Garrett Hongo, Woody Allen, Dorian Ross, Gretel Ehrlich の順で読まれるのも一つの進め方であろう。

1992年 秋

編注者

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| Amy Tan

MOTHER TONGUE

I AM NOT a scholar of English or literature. I cannot give you much more than personal opinions on the English language and its variations in this country or others.

I am a writer. And by that definition, I am someone who has
5 always loved language. I am fascinated by language in daily life. I spend a great deal of my time thinking about the power of language—the way it can evoke an emotion, a visual image, a complex idea, or a simple truth. Language is the tool of my trade. And I use them all—all the Englishes I grew up with.

10 Recently, I was made keenly aware of the different Englishes I do use. I was giving a talk to a large group of people, the same talk I had already given to half a dozen other groups. The nature of the talk was about my writing, my life, and my book, *The Joy Luck Club*. The talk was going along well enough, until I
15 remembered one major difference that made the whole talk sound wrong. My mother was in the room. And it was perhaps the first time she had heard me give a lengthy speech, using the kind of English I have never used with her. I was saying things like, “The intersection of memory upon imagination” and “There is an aspect of my fiction that relates to thus-
20 and-thus”—a speech filled with carefully wrought grammatical phrases, burdened, it suddenly seemed to me, with nominalized forms, past perfect tenses, conditional phrases, all the forms of standard English that I had learned in school and through
25 books, the forms of English I did not use at home with my

mother.

Just last week, I was walking down the street with my mother, and I again found myself conscious of the English I was using, the English I do use with her. We were talking about the price of new and used furniture and I heard myself saying this: “Not ⁵ waste money that way.” My husband was with us as well, and he didn’t notice any switch in my English. And then I realized why. It’s because over the twenty years we’ve been together I’ve often used that same kind of English with him, and sometimes he even uses it with me. It has become our language of intimacy, ¹⁰ a different sort of English that relates to family talk, the language I grew up with.

So you’ll have some idea of what this family talk I heard sounds like, I’ll quote what my mother said during a recent ¹⁵ conversation which I videotaped and then transcribed. During this conversation, my mother was talking about a political gangster in Shanghai who had the same last name as her family’s, Du, and how the gangster in his early years wanted to be adopted by her family, which was rich by comparison. Later, the gangster became more powerful, far richer than my mother’s ²⁰ family, and one day showed up at my mother’s wedding to pay his respects. Here’s what she said in part:

“Du Yusong having business like fruit stand. Like off the street kind. He is Du like Du Zong—but not Tsung-ming ²⁵ Island people. The local people call putong, the river east side, he belong to that side local people. That man want to ask Du Zong father take him in like become own family. Du Zong father wasn’t look down on him, but didn’t take seriously, until that man big like become a mafia. Now important person, very hard to inviting him. Chinese way, came only to show respect, ³⁰

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don't stay for dinner. Respect for making big celebration, he shows up. Mean gives lots of respect. Chinese custom. Chinese social life that way. If too important won't have to stay too long. He come to my wedding. I didn't see, I heard it. I gone to boy's
5 side, they have YMCA dinner. Chinese age I was nineteen."

You should know that my mother's expressive command of English belies how much she actually understands. She reads the *Forbes* report, listens to *Wall Street Week*, converses daily with her stockbroker, reads all of Shirley MacLaine's books with ease
10 —all kinds of things I can't begin to understand. Yet some of my friends tell me they understand 50 percent of what my mother says. Some say they understand 80 to 90 percent. Some say they understand none of it, as if she were speaking pure Chinese. But to me, my mother's English is perfectly clear, perfectly natural.
15 It's my mother tongue. Her language, as I hear it, is vivid, direct, full of observation and imagery. That was the language that helped shape the way I saw things, expressed things, made sense of the world.

Lately, I've been giving more thought to the kind of English my
20 mother speaks. Like others, I have described it to people as "broken" or "fractured" English. But I wince when I say that. It has always bothered me that I can think of no way to describe it other than "broken," as if it were damaged and needed to be fixed, as if it lacked a certain wholeness and soundness. I've
25 heard other terms used, "limited English," for example. But they seem just as bad, as if everything is limited, including people's perceptions of the limited English speaker.

I know this for a fact, because when I was growing up, my mother's "limited" English limited *my* perception of her. I was

ashamed of her English. I believed that her English reflected the quality of what she had to say. That is, because she expressed them imperfectly her thoughts were imperfect. And I had plenty of empirical evidence to support me: the fact that people in department stores, at banks, and at restaurants did not take her 5 seriously, did not give her good service, pretended not to understand her, or even acted as if they did not hear her.

My mother has long realized the limitations of her English as well. When I was fifteen, she used to have me call people on the phone to pretend I was she. In this guise, I was forced to ask for 10 information or even to complain and yell at people who had been rude to her. One time it was a call to her stockbroker in New York. She had cashed out her small portfolio and it just so happened we were going to go to New York the next week, our very first trip outside California. I had to get on the phone and 15 say in an adolescent voice that was not very convincing, "This is Mrs. Tan."

And my mother was standing in the back whispering loudly, "Why he don't send me check, already two weeks late. So mad he lie to me, losing me money." 20

And then I said in perfect English, "Yes, I'm getting rather concerned. You had agreed to send the check two weeks ago, but it hasn't arrived."

Then she began to talk more loudly. "What he want, I come to New York tell him front of his boss, you cheating me?" And 25 I was trying to calm her down, make her be quiet, while telling the stockbroker, "I can't tolerate any more excuses. If I don't receive the check immediately, I am going to have to speak to your manager when I'm in New York next week." And sure enough, the following week there we were in front of this 30

Amy Tan

astonished stockbroker, and I was sitting there red-faced and quiet, and my mother, the real Mrs. Tan, was shouting at his boss in her impeccable broken English.

We used a similar routine just five days ago, for a situation that was far less humorous. My mother had gone to the hospital for an appointment, to find out about a benign brain tumor a CAT scan had revealed a month ago. She said she had spoken very good English, her best English, no mistakes. Still, she said, the hospital did not apologize when they said they had lost the CAT scan and she had come for nothing. She said they did not seem to have any sympathy when she told them she was anxious to know the exact diagnosis, since her husband and son had both died of brain tumors. She said they would not give her any more information until the next time and she would have to make another appointment for that. So she said she would not leave until the doctor called her daughter. She wouldn't budge. And when the doctor finally called her daughter, me, who spoke in perfect English—lo and behold—we had assurances the CAT scan would be found, promises that a conference call on Monday would be held, and apologies for any suffering my mother had gone through for a most regrettable mistake.

I think my mother's English almost had an effect on limiting my possibilities in life as well. Sociologists and linguists probably will tell you that a person's developing language skills are more influenced by peers. But I do think that the language spoken in the family, especially in immigrant families which are more insular, plays a large role in shaping the language of the child. And I believe that it affected my results on achievement tests, IQ tests, and the SAT. While my English skills were never judged as poor, compared to math, English could not be consid-

ered my strong suit. In grade school I did moderately well, getting perhaps B's, sometimes B-pluses, in English and scoring perhaps in the sixtieth or seventieth percentile on achievement tests. But those scores were not good enough to override the opinion that my true abilities lay in math and science, because 5 in those areas I achieved A's and scored in the ninetieth percentile or higher.

This was understandable. Math is precise; there is only one correct answer. Whereas, for me at least, the answers on English tests were always a judgment call, a matter of opinion and 10 personal experience. Those tests were constructed around items like fill-in-the-blank sentence completion, such as, "Even though Tom was _____, Mary thought he was _____." And the correct answer always seemed to be the most bland combinations of thoughts, for example, "Even though Tom was shy, Mary 15 thought he was charming," with the grammatical structure "even though" limiting the correct answer to some sort of semantic opposites, so you wouldn't get answers like, "Even though Tom was foolish, Mary thought he was ridiculous." Well, according to my mother, there were very few limitations as to what Tom 20 could have been and what Mary might have thought of him. So I never did well on tests like that.

The same was true with word analogies, pairs of words in which you were supposed to find some sort of logical, semantic relationship—for example, "*Sunset* is to *nightfall* as _____ is 25 to _____." And here you would be presented with a list of four possible pairs, one of which showed the same kind of relationship: *red* is to *stoplight*, *bus* is to *arrival*, *chills* is to *fever*, *yawn* is to *boring*. Well, I could never think that way. I knew what the tests were asking, but I could not block out of my mind the 30

Amy Tan

images already created by the first pair, “*sunset is to nightfall*”
—and I would see a burst of colors against a darkening sky,
the moon rising, the lowering of a curtain of stars. And all the
other pairs of words—red, bus, stoplight, boring—just
5 threw up a mass of confusing images, making it impossible for
me to sort out something as logical as saying: “A sunset precedes
nightfall” is the same as “a chill precedes a fever.” The only way
I would have gotten that answer right would have been to
imagine an associative situation, for example, my being disobe-
10 dient and staying out past sunset, catching a chill at night, which
turns into feverish pneumonia as punishment, which indeed did
happen to me.

I have been thinking about all this lately, about my mother’s
English, about achievement tests. Because lately I’ve been asked,
15 as a writer, why there are not more Asian Americans represented
in American literature. Why are there few Asian Americans
enrolled in creative writing programs? Why do so many Chinese
students go into engineering? Well, these are broad sociological
questions I can’t begin to answer. But I have noticed in surveys
20 —in fact, just last week—that Asian students, as a whole,
always do significantly better on math achievement tests than in
English. And this makes me think that there are other Asian-
American students whose English spoken in the home might
also be described as “broken” or “limited.” And perhaps they
25 also have teachers who are steering them away from writing and
into math and science, which is what happened to me.

Fortunately, I happen to be rebellious in nature and enjoy the
challenge of disproving assumptions made about me. I became
an English major my first year in college, after being enrolled as

pre-med. I started writing nonfiction as a freelancer the week after I was told by my former boss that writing was my worst skill and I should hone my talents toward account management.

But it wasn't until 1985 that I finally began to write fiction. And at first I wrote using what I thought to be wittily crafted 5 sentences, sentences that would finally prove I had mastery over the English language. Here's an example from the first draft of a story that later made its way into *The Joy Luck Club*, but without this line: "That was my mental quandary in its nascent state." A terrible line, which I can barely pronounce. 10

Fortunately, for reasons I won't get into today, I later decided I should envision a reader for the stories I would write. And the reader I decided upon was my mother, because these were stories about mothers. So with this reader in mind—and in fact she did read my early drafts—I began to write stories using all the 15 Englishes I grew up with: the English I spoke to my mother, which for lack of a better term might be described as "simple"; the English she used with me, which for lack of a better term might be described as "broken"; my translation of her Chinese, which could certainly be described as "watered down"; and 20 what I imagined to be her translation of her Chinese if she could speak in perfect English, her internal language, and for that I sought to preserve the essence, but neither an English nor a Chinese structure. I wanted to capture what language ability tests can never reveal: her intent, her passion, her imagery, the 25 rhythms of her speech and the nature of her thoughts.

Apart from what any critic had to say about my writing, I knew I had succeeded where it counted when my mother finished reading my book and gave me her verdict: "So easy to read."

Woody Allen

thousand a game. I saw myself bathed in won money, sitting a-
round a green felt table or getting off great trains, my best dreidel
in a smart carrying case as I went from city to city looking for
action, always cleaning up, always drinking bourbon, always
5 taking care of my precious manicured spinning hand.

On the cover of this magazine, under the title, is printed the line
“A Bimonthly Jewish Critique of Politics, Culture & Society.”
But why a Jewish critique? Or a gentile critique? Or any limiting
perspective? Why not simply a magazine with articles written by
10 human beings for other humans to read? Aren't there enough
real demarcations without creating artificial ones? After all,
there's no biological difference between a Jew and a gentile
despite what my Uncle Max says. We're talking here about
exclusive clubs that serve no good purpose; they exist only to
15 form barriers, trade commercially on human misery, and provide
additional differences amongst people so they can further ration-
alize their natural distrust and aggression.

After all, you know by ten years old there's nothing bloodier
or more phony than the world's religious history. What could be
20 more awful than, say, Protestant versus Catholic in Northern
Ireland? Or the late Ayatollah? Or the expensive cost of tickets
to my local synagogue so my parents can pray on the high
holidays? (In the end they could only afford to be seated
downstairs, not in the main room, and the service was piped in
25 to them. The smart money sat ringside, of course.) Is there
anything uglier than families that don't want their children to
marry loved ones because they're of the wrong religion? Or
professional clergy whose pitch is as follows: “There is a God.
Take my word for it. And I pretty much know what He wants

NOTES

凡 例

- cf. 「参照」
colloq. = colloquialism 「口語」
F = French
G = German
Gk = Greek
informal 「くだけた表現」
L = Latin
pl. = plural 「複数」
sing. = singular 「単数」
Sp = Spanish
U. S. 「アメリカ英語 (用法)」

Mother Tongue

by Amy Tan

Amy Tan [éimi tan] は現在、アメリカで話題を呼んでいるアジア系アメリカ人作家である。1952年カリフォルニア州オークランドで生まれ、サンノゼ州立大学で言語学の修士号を取得、スコーヴァレーの創作プログラムに参加し、作家活動に入る。1989年にデビュー作として発表した **The Joy Luck Club** はベストセラーになり、一躍タンの名は有名になった。1991年現在、17万5千部売れたという。これは、四人の母親とその四人の娘たちを主人公にして、不幸や悲しみにめげず、たくましく、明るく生きていく中国系移民の家族を描いたもので、全米図書賞、全米文芸評論家賞の候補作となった。1991年6月に、母親をモデルに戦時中の中国での生活を描いた第2作 **The Kitchen God's Wife** を発表、これもベストセラーになり、現代アメリカの重要な作家になった。現在サンフランシスコに在住。1992年7月来日し、各地で講演した。

'Mother Tongue' は *The Threepenny Review* に発表されたものである。中国系移民の一世である母親の英語について語っているだけでなく、興味ある英語論になっていて、われわれ英語を学ぶものにとって示唆するところが大きい。

NOTES

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- 6 3 **its variations** Chinese English, Black English, Australian English, Creolized English, Pidgin English など英語も地域、人種、社会階層によって違いがある。
- 4 **by that definition** 「その定義からいえば；当然」 *cf.* by definition 「定義上；当然のこととして；明らかに」
- 7- **the way... truth** 「言語がどのように情緒や心像や複雑な思考や単純な真実を喚起するかということ」
- 8- **my trade** 作家である。
- 9 **them all** 次にくる all the Englishes I grew up with をさす。the Englishes は Standard English and its variations のこと。
- 13- **The Joy Luck Club** タンの処女作で、1989年に出版、ベストセラーになった。Joy Luck は漢字で書けば「喜福」。
- 16 **My mother** 中国系の一世代である。
- 19- **“The intersection... imagination”** 「想像のなかで記憶が交差するところ」
- 20- **thus-and-thus** 「これこれのもの」
- 21- **carefully wrought grammatical phrases** 「文法的に凝った言いまわし」 wrought の原形は work。
- 22- **nominalized forms** 「名詞化変形」 nominalize とは他の品詞の語を名詞に変えること。たとえば、名詞相当の語、または語句はこれにあたる。
- 23 **past perfect tenses** 「過去完了(時制)」
conditional phrases 「仮定法の言葉」
- 7 5 **I heard myself saying this:** 「いつの間にか次のように言っていた(いるのを耳にした)」
- 5- **“Not waste money that way.”** 文頭に Do をおぎなってみる。
- 6 **My husband** 白人系の Lou DeMattei 氏で弁護士をしている。
- 7 **switch** 標準英語から pidgin English に変わったこと。
- 10 **our language of intimacy** 「親しみのある言葉；わが家の常用語」
- 16- **political gangster** 「悪い政治ゴロ」
- 17 **Shanghai** [ʃæŋhái] 「上海」
- 18 **Du** [du] 漢字なら「杜」か。
- 21 **showed up** = appeared
- 23 **Yusong** [juːsɔŋ] 漢字なら「于誦」か。
having... 標準英語からいえば has であろう。
fruit stand 「果物売りの屋台」
- 23- **Like off the street kind.** = Like that of the street. off は of のなまった発音。
- 24 **Zong** [tʃɔŋ] 漢字なら「宗」。
- 24- **Tsung-ming** [tʃuŋ-miŋ] **Island** 「崇明島」揚子江河口の島。面積1,083平方キロ。中国で3番目に大きな島。
- 25 **putong** [putəŋ] 「浦東」

NOTES

- the river east side** putong (浦東) の直訳。
- 26 **belong to . . . people**=belongs to the local people on that side
pidgin English では三人称単数の動詞の s が脱落することが多い。以下の会話体ではいちいち注をつけないので、注意してほしい。
- 26- **Du Zong father**=father of Du Zong
- 27 **like become own family**=to become like his own family
- 28 **wasn't**=didn't
- 29 **that man . . . mafia**=that man became big like a mafia
Now important person,=Now being an important person,
- 29- **very hard to inviting him**=it was very hard to invite him
- 30 **Chinese way**=In a Chinese way 「中国人らしく」
- 30- **came only to show respect, don't stay**= [he] came only to show respect, but didn't stay
- 8 1 **Respect for . . . celebration**=To show respect for making a big celebration
- 2 **shows**=showed
Mean gives lots of respect.=It meant he gave lots of respect.
- 2- **Chinese . . . way.**=Chinese social life is that way.
- 3 **If . . . long.**=If he is too important, he won't have to stay too long.
- 4- **I gone to boy's side**=I went to the boy's side
- 5 **they have YMCA dinner**=they had YMCA dinner YMCA dinner は YMCA で結婚式の披露宴を開いたのであろう。
Chinese age=in Chinese age 「中国年齢でいえば；数え年でいえば」
- 6- **my mother's expressive command of English** 「母が表現豊かに英語をあやつること」
- 8 **Forbes** [fɔ:bz] **report** 『『フォーブズ』誌の記事』 *Forbes* はアメリカの経済雑誌で日本語版もでている。
Wall Street Week 「ウォール街週間情報」株式の市況放送。
- 9 **Shirley MacLaine's books** Shirley MacLaine [ʃɜ:li məkléin] (1934-) はアメリカの女優、本名 Shirley Beatty。演劇『マジヤマ・ゲーム』や映画『カンカン』などで有名。著作には *Dancing in the Light* (1985) など、いずれもベストセラーで邦訳もある。
- 10 **I can't begin to understand** 「わたしにはまったくわからない」
can't begin to 「まったく～しない」 cf. He doesn't begin to speak English. 「彼は英語のエの字もしゃべれない」
- 16 **observation and imagery** 「批評的意見や生き生きとした比喩的表現」
- 17- **made sense of** 「理解する」 make sense of = to understand
- 21 **"fractured"** 「(骨が折れたような) とぎれとぎれの」 fracture = to break or crack
- 23 **other than** = except
- 24 **wholeness and soundness** 「完全さと健全さ」

NOTES

- 26 **just as bad** 「まったくおなじように不適当だ」 as=equally
- 27 **the limited English speaker** 「“限られた(舌たらずの)英語”を話す人」
- 9 4 **empirical evidence** 「経験上の証拠」 証明となるような具体的な事実を経験しているということ。
- 5- **did not take her seriously** 「まじめに取り合わなかった」 take=to accept as true or worthy of attention
- 10 **In this guise** 「このように(母に)なりすまして」
- 13 **had cashed out** 「現金化した」
- portfolio** [pɔ:rtfóuliðu] = a collection of different business shares owned by a particular person or company 「(手持ちの) 有価証券」
- 15 **get on the phone** 「電話で知らせる」 get=to communicate with a person or place (as by telephone)
- 18 **whispering loudly** whisper と loudly という相反するような言葉の面白さに注意。こうした語法を oxymoron (撞着語法) という。
- 19 **check** 「小切手」
- 19- **So mad he lie to me, losing me money.** = He was so mad that he lied to me, and made me lose my money. me money=my money
- 24- **“What he want, I come . . . me ?”** = “What does he want ? Does he want that I come to New York to tell him in front of his boss, 'You are cheating me.?'”
- 10 3 **impeccable broken English** 「完璧なカタコト英語」
- 4 **routine** [ru:ti:n] = a regular and habitual way of working or doing things 「手順」
- 6 **benign** [bináin] **brain tumor** 「良性の脳腫瘍」 cf. malignant tumor 「悪性の腫瘍」
- 7 **CAT scan** = computerized axial tomography scanner 「CT スキャナーのレントゲン写真」。
- 10 **had come for nothing** 「来ても何もならなかった；むだ足だった」 for nothing=for no purpose ; with no good result
- 12 **diagnosis** [dâiəgnóusis] 「診断」 複数形は diagnoses。
- 16 **budge** [bʌdʒ] 「たじろぐ」
- 18 **lo and behold** 意外なことにたいする驚きをあらわす感嘆詞。
- 19 **a conference call** = a telephone call participated in by three or more persons, who may be in different locations 「電話による会議」
- 21 **had gone through** = had endured
- 27 **more insular** アメリカで中国系や日系移民は、ヨーロッパ系民族にくらべて孤立しているといわれる。
- 28- **achievement tests** 「アチーブメント・テスト」 アメリカで大学進学希望の高校生に要求される専門科目の試験で、試験科目は物理、化学、生物、文学、数学、歴史、フランス語、ドイツ語など外国語、作文のなかから選択。

NOTES

- 29 **IQ tests** 「知能検査」 IQ=Intelligence Quotient
the SAT=Scholastic Aptitude Test 「大学進学適性テスト」 アメリカで大学進学希望の高校生に要求される一般教養についての試験で、英語と数学の二科目についておこなわれる。
- 30 **math**=mathematics
- 11 1 **strong suit** 「得意」
grade school 「小学校」 正式には elementary school という。
- 2 **B's** アメリカの学校の成績は、ふつうAプラス、A、Aマイナス、という順位でDマイナスまであり、それ以下はFとして落第点。BにときどきBプラスがある、というのはまずまず普通というところで、とくに良い成績ではない。
- 2- **scroing . . . percentile** [pərséntail] 「6割か7割はできている」 percentile 「百分位数」
- 10 **a judgement call** 「判断力を要求するもの」
- 12 **fill-in-the-blank sentence completion** 「空所補充による文章完成」
- 14 **bland** 「面白みのない；個性のない」
- 17- **semantic opposites** 「意味が反対になるもの」
- 23 **word analogies** 「単語の類推」
- 26- **four possible pairs** 「考えられる四つの組み合わせ」
- 12 2 **a burst of colors** 「一挙に吹き出すような、さまざまな色彩」
- 5 **threw up** 「生み出した」 throw up=to produce ; bring into existence
- 6 **sort out** 「選びだす」
- 8 **right** 「適切に；ふさわしく」
- 9 **associative situation** 「連想される状況」 associative=of or involving association
- 9- **my being . . .night** 「言うことをきかないで、日没後も外にいたので夜に寒気がすること」
- 11 **pneumonia** [nju:móunjə] 「肺炎」
which 前文をうける。
- 15 **Asian Americans** 「アジア系アメリカ人」
represented 「描かれている」 represent=to depict アメリカ文学でアジア系移民が登場するものは少なかったが、最近はそうでもない。
- 17 **creative writing programs** 「創作講座」は小説の書き方を教える講座で、大学だけでなく、各地の夏季学校や文化講座のようなところでも開かれている。タン自身もカリフォルニア州スコウヴァレーの創作講座に出ていた。
- 25- **are steering . . . science** 「創作をはなれ数学や科学に進むように指導している」
- 28 **disproving assumptions** 「(おまえは)間違っているという考え」
- 29 **an English major** 「英文学専攻(学生)」

NOTES

- 13 1 **pre-med**=pre-medical 「医学部進学課程」
3 **hone** 「磨く」
5- **wittily crafted sentences** 「気がきいた巧みな文章」 craft=to make with skill, artistry, or precision 通例過去分詞形で使う。
6 **had mastery over** 「～に熟達している」
7 **the first draft** 「最初の草稿」
8 **made its way into** 「～のなかに入った」 make one's way=to go
9- **mental quandary in its nascent state** 「初期の状態にある知的苦境」
17 **better term** 「もっといい言葉」
20 **“watered down”** 「“水増しされた”」
22 **her internal language** 「母の頭の中にある言葉」
28 **where it counted** 「大事な点で」 count=to have value or importance

Random Reflections of a Second-Rate Mind

by Woody Allen

Woody Allen (Allen Stewart Konigsberg; 1935—) はニューヨーク・ブルックリン生まれのユダヤ系喜劇俳優、監督、脚本家、小説家。この多才なマルチ人間は大学在学中からテレビ、新聞にジョークやギャグを投稿、NBCのスタッフ・ライターを経て1960年代の初期にコメディイヤー・ライターならびにコメディアンとしてその特異な才能を認められる。以後自らの監督・主演による映画を通し、さまざまなコンプレックスや社会的不適応性を抱えた知的な道化像を創り出してきたが、最近ではコメディイヤーのなかにも人生にたいする認識を深めたアレンの心情がうかがわれるという。技法的にいっても白黒フィルムや記録のパステイッシュを使ったり、あるいは奇抜なアイデアによる演出を試みるなど彼独特の才気をみせている。

主要映画作品：*Bananas* (1971), *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask)* (1972), *Love and Death* (1975), *Annie Hall* (1977: アカデミー賞), *Manhattan* (1979), *Zelig* (1983), *The Purple Rose of Cairo* (1985), *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986) *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (1989) etc.
小説：*Without Feathers* (1975) etc.

この作品は冒頭からホロコーストにまつわる話で重苦しそうだが、すぐさま収容所に天使が現われ生き残る人に未来を告げたらという仮想の場面が入

NOTES

り、あるいは子供のときのいっばしの賭博師気どりの空想へととび、かと思うと旧約聖書の神を畏れる男どもをコケにしてイヴをはじめ女たちの肩をもつ……。いかにもアレンらしい想像力に富んだ、人の意表をつく発想はまさに“at random”な効果をいかんなく発揮している。しかし一方、“二流人物”という一步ひいたところで彼自身をも客観化しつつシリアスな話題をとりあげる。宗教的不合理や差別のばかばかしさとこわさについての鋭い指摘、また現代のイスラエルをめぐる自らの立場(イスラエルを思うがゆえの批判)の弁明にいやでもユダヤ系ならではの視点と苦渋がよみとれる。最後の人間性悪説はかねてからのものようだが、彼の場合人間不信へいくのではなくそこに立って、自演する人物のようにいくたのコンプレックスを内包した存在としての人間にたいし認識を拡めていくものと思われる。(Tikkun 誌初出)

Page Line

- 14 1 **chic** [ʃi:k|ʃik]=attractive and fashionable in style<F
 1- **Upper East Side** Central Park の東側 3rd Ave. までの間で北は 86th Street あたりまでの地区。ニューヨーク市の代表的な高級住宅地。
 2 **a Holocaust** [hɔːləkɔːst|hɔːlə-|hɔːl-] **survivor** 「ホロコーストの生存者」holocaust=large-scale destruction of life by fire<Gk *holos* (whole)+*kaustos* (burnt) 元来は燔祭のことだが、ここではナチス・ドイツによるユダヤ人の大量虐殺をいい大文字で使う。伝統的反ユダヤ主義を利用し、さらにユダヤ人の人種的劣等説や害虫説を国民に吹き込んだヒトラーはやがてその一掃をはかる。最終的解決 (Final Solution) の命を受けたヴァンゼー会議後の1942年春から本格的強制輸送と大量虐殺が始まり、1944年秋の中止命令までにユダヤ人犠牲者は約600万人(在欧者の67%)にのぼった。強制(絶滅)収容所はアウシュヴィッツのほかトレブリンカ、ブッヘンワルト、ダッハウなど多数設置され、連合軍による解放と戦犯裁判で全世界にこの非道さの全貌が明るみに出た。エルサレム郊外には Yad Vashem(“記念と追憶”の意)なる虐殺博物館があり、関係者の追及も執拗におこなわれてきた。
 3- **a number tattooed on his arm** 強制収容所の囚人は左の前腕に番号の入れ墨 (tattoo) を彫り込まれた。以後すべて名前ではなくその番号によって処理されたため、人格の喪失を招いた。また、入れ墨のためあとまで残り、生存者にとっては忌まわしい思い出ともなる。
 5 **Auschwitz**=Auschwitz concentration camp ポーランド南部のオンヴィエンチムにあったナチス最大の死の収容所。1940年兵舎を転用して収容を開始し、翌年その西方3キロに建設された Birkenau (現在ブジェンカ)と併せて最多時15,6万人(ユダヤ人のほかジプシーやソ連人捕虜を含む)を収容したといわれる。貨車で運ばれてきたユダヤ人たちはただちに選別され、労働に不適なものはガス室で殺され30分後には焼却炉で焼かれるというまさに“死の工場”の様相を呈した。ユダヤ人犠牲者だけでも200万人と推定され、これには強制労働のあげく病氣や飢餓、拷問、人体実