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The Quiet Boy

少年が孤立していた理由とは？



“No wonder he looks so lonely; his mom and dad can only visit him once every two weeks,” the nurse commented.

“Why?” she was asked.

5 “I heard they live 140 kilometres away from here. Travelling that distance is expensive,” she replied.

This was Sunday afternoon. The ward consisted of twenty-five beds where about fifty people were visiting loved ones. They all seemed to be laughing and enjoying themselves as if they were attending a party. I felt some were staring at me and whispering.

“How come he has no visitors?”

“I don’t know, he must be from out of town.”

Some visitors passed my bed, trying not to look at me.

15 One whispered, “He makes me feel guilty and uncomfortable.”

“Why?” said the other.

“Well, he looks very sad. I can’t help that he has no visitors. Why doesn’t he read a book instead of staring at the ceiling?”

The other said, “Oh, he is picking up a book now. He must have heard you. Look, he’s wiping tears from his eyes. At least he can cry, that helps to relieve the tension.”

I looked at my watch—another hour to go before the busy Sunday visiting hours were over. It amazed me that nobody made the effort of saying hello or giving me an encouraging smile. Everyone was so involved in their own little worlds. Did they not know what it was like to have no

VOCABULARY

- 1 • **No wonder ...** (It's) no wonder ... …は不思議ではない
- 7 • **ward** 病棟
- 7 • **consisted of** consist of ... …から成り立つ
- 8 • **loved ones** loved one 愛する人, 家族
- 10 • **as if ...** まるで…であるかのように
- 12 • **How come ...?** どうして…なのか?
- 15 • **One whispered ... said the other one ...** the other ... 一人は…もう一人は…
- 19 • **instead of staring** instead of ... ing …する代わりに
- 23 • **At least** at least とにかく, せめて
- 25 • **visiting hours** 面会時間
- 25 • **It amazed me that ...** …が私を驚かせた

visitors? No sir, this was not part of their thoughts.

You are just feeling sorry for yourself, that's all. You have to toughen up. You have never been away from home; don't be like a crybaby! Now try to read, so people will stop
 5 *staring at you. What, more visitors? Why does it make you depressed to see all these happy faces? You have to learn to cope, even at nineteen years of age, or else you wither*
away, I thought to myself.

Well, there was my doctor.

10 “Gerald, you are scheduled for another skin graft surgery at eight o'clock tomorrow morning, so you will be fasting at midnight.”

“Thank you, Doctor.”

Another one! How many more would follow? Well, at
 15 least he didn't have to chase away any of my visitors.

I was finally able to tune out the conversations around me. One nurse walked in and closed the curtain around my bed. “Gerald, I am going to shave your leg and hip. You are booked for an operation at eight a.m. tomorrow.”

20 “Yes, I know. The doctor was in just a few minutes ago.” I said to her.

“Oh, was he?” she paused. “I thought, since you have no visitors, it was a good time to do your skin prep.” By the time she had completed this, the visitors had all left.

25 This special orthopedic clinic was very famous for their knowledge; that was why I had been sent here. There was also a rehab centre and a school for physically handicapped patients. I was a patient there for a year and a half and

- 2 •feeling sorry for yourself
feel sorry for oneself ふさぎ込む、しょげる
- 2 •that's all それだけのことだ
- 3 •toughen up たくましくなる
- 4 •crybaby 泣き虫、弱虫
- 7 •or else さもなければ
- 8 •wither away 弱る
- 10 •skin graft surgery 皮膚移植手術
- 11 •fasting 絶食の
- 16 •tune out 無視する
- 19 •booked book 予約する
- 19 •operation 手術
- 23 •skin prep 手術や注射の前に皮膚を消毒して清潔にすること. prep=preparation
- 23 •By the time ... …した時には
- 25 •orthopedic clinic 整形外科クリニック
- 25 •was very famous for be famous for ... …で有名である
- 27 •rehab centre リハビリテーション(rehabilitation)センター



underwent seventeen operations. Another thing I had to endure was the strict Roman Catholicism of this institution when I was one of the very few non-Catholics there! I was not accepted, but totally ignored.

5 The nurses joked and laughed with other patients, but when they came to my bedside, it seemed as though they had lost their tongues. My ordeal lasted for six months, many nights during which I cried myself to sleep. God began to have pity on me, however, and made the staff
10 aware of their poor treatment of me. The head nurse (a nun) became very kind. She stated, “We have more respect for a person with principles than for a person who is ignorant about it.” They finally accepted me. Patients and staff were now interested in what I had to say. What a change—I
15 couldn’t get over it!

Once a month they had some kind of entertainment in the recreation hall—for instance, a choir would perform classical or folk music, or the Air Force band would visit, or we would watch a play. Most patients were there for a year or
20 longer and looked forward to some kind of activity.

When I finally left the clinic, I had a hard time saying goodbye to all my friends, which seems difficult to believe given my initial experiences there. Ten days later, my parents, brothers and sisters and I emigrated to Canada along with
25 many people leaving our small European country because of its poor economy. Wages were very low—too low to make ends meet. The government subsidized fares for most emigrants to get them to their destination. This was in the 1950s, forty-seven years ago. My family members have
30 all become Canadian citizens and are proud of it!

- 2 •Roman Catholicism ロー
マカトリック教会の教義・儀式・慣習など
- 3 •Non-Catholics non-
Catholic 非カトリック教徒
- 4 •not accepted, but totally
ignored not A but B A
ではなく B
- 6 •as though ... まるで…で
あるかのように(as if ...)
- 7 •lost their tongues lose
one’s tongue (恐怖・驚き
で)口がきけなくなる
- 7 •ordeal 試練
- 9 •have pity on ... …をかわ
いそうに思う
- 10 •head nurse 看護師長
- 13 •were now interested in ...
be interested in ... …に興
味がある
- 15 •couldn’t get over ... not
get over ... …を信じられな
い, 理解できない
- 17 •for instance 例えば
- 18 •Air Force 空軍
- 20 •looked forward to ... look
forward to ... …を楽しみ
に待つ
- 21 •had a hard time saying
have a hard time ...ing …
するのがつらい
- 23 •given ... …を考慮に入れる
と
- 24 •emigrated emigrate 移
住する
- 24 •along with ... …といっし
よに
- 25 •because of ... …が原因で
- 26 •too low to make ends
meet too ... to ... あまり
に…すぎて…できない。
make (both) ends meet
借金をしないで暮らす, 収支
を合わせる
- 27 •subsidized subsidize 助
成金を出す
- 27 •emigrants emigrant 移
民
- 30 •are proud of ... be proud
of ... …を誇りに思う

A 本文の内容に合うように()内に入る語を下から選び、必要があれば形を変えて記入しなさい。

Gerald was in an orthopedic clinic for a long time. His family () 140 kilometers away from the clinic, so he had no visitors. During his admission, he underwent operations many times. He had to () the strict Roman Catholicism of the clinic, because he was one of the non-Catholics there. Six months later, he was finally (). After he was () from the clinic, he () to Canada with his family.

accept bear discharge emigrate live

B 次の英文の()内に入る語を音声を聴いて答えなさい。



1. The crowd () largely () college students and office workers.
2. Nancy is () () travel, so she visits a different country every year.
3. Marie Curie is () () discovering radium.
4. Jack is very () () his daughters.
5. The flight was delayed () () bad weather.

C 日本文の意味に合うように()内の語句を並べかえ、英文を完成させなさい。

1. 我々がそこに着くまでには、彼女はもう行ってしまっていた。
(got, the time, had, by, there, we, already, she, gone).
2. 彼らが決して疲れないのが、私には驚きだ。
(me, never, it, they, tired, amazes, get, that).
3. 彼女は彼らをかawaiiそうに思い、食べ物を与えた。
(them, pity, she, food, and, them, on, gave, had).

D 次の英語に相当する日本語を下から選び、記号で答えなさい。

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. orthopedics () | 2. neurology () |
| 3. surgery () | 4. ophthalmology () |
| 5. internal medicine () | 6. obstetrics () |
| 7. pediatrics () | 8. gynecology () |
| 9. urology () | 10. psychiatry () |

a) 産科 b) 外科 c) 神経科 d) 精神科 e) 小児科 f) 婦人科
g) 整形外科 h) 泌尿器科 i) 内科 j) 眼科