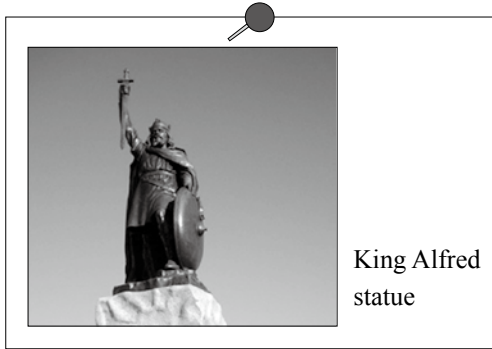


Chapter 4

Alfred the Great and the Danes

異民族を食い止めた古代のヒーロー



アルフレッド大王といえば、文武両道に長けた9世紀の人物。日本の聖徳太子に匹敵する古英語時代のヒーロー。デーン人の侵入をなんとか食い止め、学問を奨励した名君。ロンドン Waterloo 駅から西へ列車で約1時間のところにあるウィンチェスター (Winchester) の町がその本拠地。そこにイギリスで最も古い public school があるのもうなずける。

Pre-reading

King Alfred を知るには、せめて 15 分の予習は必要です！

1. CD の範読を聞きながら本文に目を通す。(3分)
2. パラグラフごとの話題をつかむため、最低限の語句を辞書で調べる。(7分)
deserved = _____ retreat = _____
prevent = _____ make a treaty with ~ = _____
pirate = _____ in return = _____
3. 再度本文に目を通し、パラグラフ毎に理解する。(5分)

Reading Passage



King Alfred, who lived from 849 to 899, is usually known as Alfred the Great. Kings expected to receive the respect of their people even if they did nothing for them. But in the case of Alfred, his title “the Great” was fully deserved.

Alfred was an Anglo-Saxon. By the time he was born, the Anglo-Saxons dominated Britain almost completely. The country was divided into different Saxon kingdoms. Alfred’s father was king of Wessex, in the southwest part of Britain. The young Alfred probably thought it was very unlikely that he would become king as he was the youngest of four brothers. He wanted to become a scholar.

But the circumstances at the time prevented him from becoming a scholar until much later in his life. The country was threatened at the time by the Danish Vikings. The word “Viking”

is Scandinavian and means pirate. The Vikings came from modern-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They began to move from their home countries in the 8th century, possibly because food was scarce. The Norwegian Vikings were settlers; the Swedish Vikings were traders; but the Danish Vikings were widely feared as they raided, killed and stole wherever
15 they landed.

By Alfred's time, the Danes had begun to settle in the north and east of Britain. Eventually, they had defeated all the Saxon kingdoms except Wessex. After one Danish attack, Alfred retreated deep into the marshes. He secretly assembled a new army and defeated the Danes in 878. Some years later, Alfred made a treaty with them, which recognized that the Danes
20 controlled a large part of Britain. In return for a yearly tax, they agreed to stay in their own part of the country and not invade their neighbours.

Though Alfred had great success as a warrior, he is also remembered for being a wise king in peacetime. He encouraged his people to read and write English. He reformed the law to protect the weak against the strong, and he tried to spread knowledge of the Christian
25 religion throughout the country. Alfred the Great started to build the strong foundations on which modern Britain was constructed.

Notes

Alfred the Great = アルフレッド大王(849-899) Wessexの王 **ℓ.4 Anglo-Saxons** = アングロサクソン族(3章の内容参照) **ℓ.10 the Danish Vikings** = デーン人のヴァイキング、一般的にヴァイキングとは9-11世紀に欧州の北部や西部を略奪した北欧人・海賊のこと **ℓ.14 raid** = 襲撃する **ℓ.16 the Danes** デーン人(9-11世紀にイングランドへ侵入した北欧人) **ℓ.17 Wessex** = ウェセックス地方(現在のイングランド南西部 Dorsetshire とその周辺で、古代のサクソン王国の所在地) **ℓ.18 marsh** = 沼地、低湿地帯
ℓ.22 a warrior (= a warrior king) = 武勇王

Reading Comprehension

Reading Passage をスキャン・リーディングして次の間に答えなさい。

- 1) When did King Alfred live?
- 2) What happened by the time Alfred was born?
- 3) How many brothers did Alfred have?
- 4) What is the original meaning of the word "Viking"?
- 5) Where did the Vikings come from?
- 6) When did Alfred defeat the Danes?

Listening Comprehension

教室用 CD07

次の対話を聞いて、空欄に適語を入れなさい。(J: Junko / B: Brian)

J : We learned about _____ in school today. He was a very important king in British history, wasn't he?

B : Yes, he was _____ the founders of modern Britain. Was there anyone similar in Japan?

J : I think the closest person we have is Shotoku Taishi. Have you ever _____ of him?

B : No, I haven't. When did he live?

J : Around _____ years before Alfred.

B : Was he an emperor?

J : No, he wasn't. His aunt was the empress but he was actually more active and important.

B : And what's he famous _____ ?

J : Well, he made Japan's relations with China much closer. That's when China's influence on Japanese culture got much stronger.

B : I know that Alfred was very religious. How about Shotoku Taishi?

J : Yes, he was _____. He helped establish Buddhism in Japan.

B : Do you think his name should be changed to Shotoku the Great?

J : Why don't you write to the prime minister and suggest it?

Japanese Training

次の英文の文型を明示した上で、日本語に直してみなさい。

He encouraged his people to read and write English.

Writing Practice

Passage の中で出てきた表現を参考に次の日本語を英語に直しなさい。

アルフレッド大王は名君として知られています。

Overlapping

教室用 CD08



次の英文を英国人の先生が2度音読します。1度目はしっかり聞き、2度目は先生の声にかぶせるようにして音読しなさい。

In 878, Alfred defeated the Danes. Some years later, Alfred made a treaty with the Danes.

(*[l][f][tr] 音 (sound) とリズムを真似ましょう)

Further Learning

Yahoo! や Google などの検索エンジンを使って King Alfred について、①その像 ②本拠をおいていた Winchester の町の概要についてまとめなさい。

Tea Break



Skimming

すでにスキミングという表現は使っていますから、おおよその内容はお分かりいただけていると思います。これは、読みの技術 (Reading Skills) のひとつとして Skim Reading とも言います。この概念は「ある一定量の文章」(1本の記事や論文、本など) が「何について書かれたものか」を読み解く技術といえましょう。何についての文章か、つまり全体的なことがらを把握するためですから、本文を最初から最後まで読んだりはいたしません。ではどこを読むか? それは、タイトル(題名)、あればサブタイトル(副題)、抄録 (abstract)、これを書いた人物はどんな人か、目次 (table of contents)、最初のパラグラフ、最後のパラグラフ等々です。これらの箇所を読むと overall idea はつかめます。

イマイチわからんとお思いの人は、書店で「外国語の学び方」についての本を探していると想定してみてください。『純粋理性批判』というタイトルを見て「やった! こりゃお目当ての内容の本かもね!」なんぞと思います? 即、棚へ戻すでしょう。誰が書いたか、目次は? などと先には進まないのがフツーですね。

こういった読みが skimming の一部です。読書を神聖な行為とのみ考えている人には納得できないかも知れませんね。「読書百篇、意おのずから通ず」的の行為も否定はしませんが、それは生涯にせいぜい 100 冊読む程度で間に合った時代のことでしょう。あくまで skimming というのは「全体的な考え」を把握するのが目的の技術なのです。