

# 新化か変貌か

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長崎はかつては日本で最初に海外へ開かれた港町で時代を先取りした先進の町であった。それが原爆の被爆都市になった。歴史が変わり、当時から数十年経過して現在の長崎がある。其処には原爆投下の悲劇の片鱗さえ無くなった。原爆の惨劇を物語る場所を喪失し、恰もそれを忌み嫌う様に立ち並ぶビル群を見ていると、昔の長崎の町並みが恋しくなってくる。南蛮船が往来していた当時に作られた南山手、東山手、出島等の面影はない。歴史の街としては悲しい現実である。これから長崎は更に変貌していくであろう。これは良し悪しの問題だけであろうか。何処かでもいい、古い長崎の町並みの一端を残す意味はあるのではなからうか。発展という言葉は響きがいい、然し歴史の面影もあってもいいのではあるまいか。特に原爆の悲劇を忘れさせない何かをしたい。と私は思っている。



Nagasaki was the very first town in Japan to open the door, to open herself towards the outside world hundreds of years ago in the past. It had always been the most progressive town in Japan for a long time. Then the atomic bomb was thrown over this town. It has become a city of victims. History later has brought many changes, and the town has become very different again after many decades. Today there is not much sign left of that tragedy of post-war times nor any scar any more nowadays. It is in fact very difficult to find places to talk and recall the agony of those who suffered from the bomb aftermaths. Not many sites are left in the town to remind us of them. High-rising buildings dominate the landscape and stand today square as if they even want to shout they hate to be forced to remember the historical tragedy. One who knows how the town looked like long before in the past, feels sorry and very sad. One would like to cry after those wonderful romantic streets and paths which formed the olden Nagasaki. Centuries ago, those Western vessels crossed the bay, and there were the Uptowns of Minami and Higashi as well as the Deshima, the only trading-post islands reserved in the old days where interaction with foreigners were prohibited otherwise. People now try to establish the image of Nagasaki as “a town of historical values”, but there is not much left from those days to remind us of the fact. This is very deplorable.

Nagasaki will change in the future, too. The question encompasses us all: Is it not possible for us to try to preserve or give historical shapes again to at least a small bit of corners of Nagasaki? People talk of the word “development” and “progress” to destroy the old. These words sound quite positive but in the end they have wiped out all the old images and landscape of Nagasaki. We could also try to construct and reconstruct those images of the past. I would dare to say: to ensure something where one would come to think and try not to forget those sufferings of the Dead and the Bombed to warn the Future.

