

FOR THE MEMORY OF THE LATE HONARABLE VISITING PROFESSOR PETER ELY

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Mr. Peter Ely was a senior lecturer of social work at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Keynes College, the University of Kent, Canterbury. I met him at Canterbury in 1985 at first time by the introduction of British Council. Since then, he became a very best friend and wonderful teacher of English culture of mine. I invited him to our University and he stayed there for four months as an visiting professor along the joint programme of exchange of Monbu-sho and British Council in 1988. He gave us some lectures on juvenile delinquency in England. Just few days after he arrived at our University, he went to the Kurobane Prison in the Nagano prefecture with me and my students. At that time, he had still a very bad jet lag, but without saying anything about his condition, he patiently joined with our journey and discussion with students even till late night. This made him one of the most wonderful teachers for my students.

It was the most exciting and enjoyable time for me to visit England and talk with him. Our discussion extended to very wide range of matters, not only about juvenile delinquency but also the world affairs. When I visited him just after the Gulf War, we had a heating discussion on it. That it was Justice to save the victims from the intruders, was his opinion, but mine was, 'leave the Arabian matters to the Arabian people.' I was back to Japan and almost forgot what I had said to him. One or two months after that, I got a letter from him, saying that he understood the implication of what I had said when he listened to a speech given by one arabian professor of political science. This was his attitude, how sincere and generous!

I had a plan to have an international seminar of the legal and sociological problems of the elderly persons at our university in 1996. I was expecting Peter to be one of panelists and I told him my plan when I visited him in the summer of 1994. He agreed with my plan and willingly promised to me to come to Japan again.

January in 1995, I got one shocking letter from him, quated below.

"I thought it best to write to you before you heard from somebody else, to tell you that at the end of October 1994 I received a medical diagnosis of cancer of the bone marrow, and I have since been away on sick leave undergoing a course of chemotherapy which will end in the summer of 1995. The prognosis is not yet certain as it is complicated by some possible kidney damage."

In the summer of 1995, I visited him. He waited for me with the japanese Kimono-style pajama called Yukata, which he had got at the department store in Tokyo in 1988. He looked better and made cooking for me with Joy, his wife. I feared if my visit might make him exhausted, but he liked to talk with me and promised to come to Japan next summer.

However, I had to get an sad information from him again. In November of 1995, he wrote to me,

"I am writing with great regret to tell you that I shall not be well enough to accept your

generous invitation to visit Japan in 1996. Instead of getting better since the summer I have been getting steadily worse and I am now under very frequent medical supervision and I have to visit the hospital once or twice a week. I can walk only a very short distance and eating is rather difficult for me. I have now had 11 hospital stays in 13 months. It would be impracticable for me to try to come. Please accept my apologies. Needless to say, I have not been able to complete my article."

This letter forced me realize his serious condition. At the same time, it informed me that he was still trying to write the article on the juvenile and adult crime control system of Japan even in the midst of struggle against his illness. Some years ago we had made promise with each other to cooperatively publish a book on the comparative research of juvenile justice system between England and Japan. He remembered this promise.

I thought we would have to give up to publish it when I read his letter. But unexpectedly, I received a copy of his article one month after through Professor Moriyama at the Takushoku University. Immediately after receiving the copy, I rushed to the head of editorial committee of the Hitotsubashi Journal of Law & Political Science, Professor Otani, to ask for publishing it in the Journal. He willingly gave a consent with me. I was very glad to write him this good news and I received his short message to appreciate my arrangement.

Who could predict his death just a month after receiving this message? But a fatal news reached me in the night of the 2nd of February, 1996, from Canterbury by a telephone-call of Joy.

The article printed below is the last message from my best friend, the honourable Visiting Professor Peter Ely. The message addressed to me, "I carried out our promise to write a paper on the Japanese system. Then, it's your turn to do." I swear I will. Please sleep well until we meet again someday, Peter.

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