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自助に関するメモ

竹濤軒

「自助論」の古典の序と一章からの引用である。お気づきのとおり、二章以下は読んでいない。より正確に言うと、日本語訳を読んで原典の該当箇所を参照した。ほかのところは読んでいない。あしからず。強調は私が付したものである。

使用したのは下記のテキストである。

Samuel Smiles. 1866. *Self-Help; with illustrations of character and conduct*. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street.
Google books — 大英図書館

中村政直が翻訳したのは、1867 年版とのことである（渡辺昇一「中村政直とサミュエル・スマイルズ」〔サミュエル・スマイルズ、中村政直訳『西国立志編』講談社、1981 年、545 頁〕が、中村訳の序と 1866 年版の preface の内容に大きな相違は無いようである。なおスマイルズの初版は 1859 年、中村訳の刊行は 1871 年である。

「自助論」の古典において他者への／からの支援と国民的活力が重視されていることに注目しておきたい。

Preface

In one respect the title of the book, which is now too late to alter, has proved unfortunate, as it has led some, who have judged it merely by the title, to suppose that it consists of a eulogy of selfishness: the very opposite of what really is, - or at least of what the author intended it to be. Although its chief object unquestionably is to stimulate youth to apply themselves diligently to right pursuits, - sparing neither labour, pains nor self-denial in prosecuting them - and to rely upon their efforts in life, rather than depend upon the help or patronage of others, it will also be found, from the examples given of literary and scientific men, artists, inventors, educators, philanthropist, missionaries, and martyrs, that *the duty of helping one's self in highest sense involves the helping of one's neighbors.*

CHAPTER I—SELF-HELP—NATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL

Spirit of Self-Help

“Heaven helps those who help themselves” is a well-tried maxim, embodying in a small compass the results of vast human experience. The spirit of self-help is the root of all genuine growth in the individual; and, exhibited in the lives of many, *it constitutes the true source of national vigour and strength.* Help from without is often enfeebling in its effects, but help from within invariably invigorates.

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Wordsworth on self-reliance

Although much may be accomplished by means of individual industry and energy, as these and other instances set forth in the following pages serve to illustrate, it must at the same time be acknowledged that *the help which we derive from others in the journey of life is of very great importance.* The poet Wordsworth has well said that “these two things, contradictory though they may seem, must go together—manly dependence and manly independence, manly reliance and manly self-reliance.” From infancy to old age, all are more or less indebted to others for nurture and culture; and the best and strongest are usually found the readiest to acknowledge such help.

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