

The Man on the Train

by Alex Haley

アメリカの黒人作家アレックス・ヘイリーは、父が若いころに経験した一つの出会いについて述べている。筆者がそこから学んだものは何であろうか。



Whenever my brothers, sister and I get together, we inevitably talk about Dad. We all owe our success in life to him and to a mysterious man he met one night on a train.

Our father, Simon Alexander Haley, was born in 1892 and grew up in the small farming town of Savannah, Tennessee. He was the eighth child of Alec Haley—a tough-willed former slave and part-time sharecropper—and of a woman named Queen.

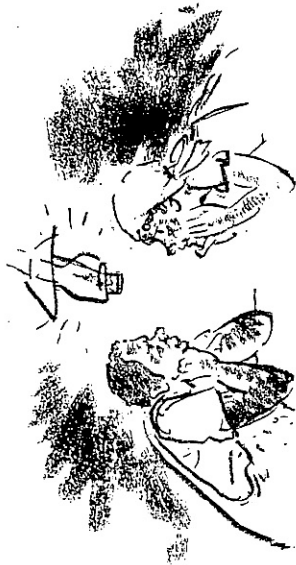
Although sensitive and emotional, my grandmother

Alex Haley [æleks hēli] inevitably [inévatablɪ] owe [əu]
Simon Alexander Haley [sáimən ælɪgzəndər hēli] Savannah [səvə'nə]
Tennessee [tēnəsi:] Alec [ɛlik] tough [tʌf] sharecropper [ʃeə/krɒpər]
emotional [ɪməʊʃəl]

1. get together = meet
2. owe ~ to ... 7. Tennessee (米国南部の州) 9. sharecropper
小作人 > sharecrop 10. Although (she was) sensitive and emotional

① 筆者の祖父はどのような人々たちだったか。
② 祖母は父に教習を受けさせるために自分の父をどのようにに説得したか。
③ 8年生を修了した後、父はどうしたか。

① どのような人物の想像(てみせ)。



could be tough-willed herself, especially when it came to her children. One of her ambitions was that my father be educated.

Back then in Savannah a boy was considered “wasted” if he still remained in school after he was big enough to do farm work. So when my father reached the sixth grade, Queen began massaging Grandfather’s ego.

“Since we have eight children,” she would argue, “wouldn’t it be prestigious if we deliberately wasted one and got him educated?” After many arguments, Grandfather let Dad finish the eighth grade. Still, he had to work in the fields after school.

ambition [æmˈbiʃən] massage [mæsɪdʒ] ego [ɪɡəʊ, ˈeɡəʊ] argue [ɑːɡjuː]
prestigious [prestiːʃəs] deliberately [dɪləbərətli] argument [ɑːɡjʊmənt]
1. ① when it “comes to ~” 2. my father (should) be educated
7. massage (気持ち)をくすぐる

② Simonの父と祖父の想像(てみせ)。