2025 年度 早稲田大学文化構想学部 転部試験問題

※解答は別紙 (横書)

【 文芸・ジャーナリズム 論系】 【科目名: 一般外国語 英語 】

> 【設問】以下は、Teju Cole, Known and Strange Things (2016)からの抜粋です。 全文を日本語に翻訳してください。

> > In November 1975, when I was five months old, my mother took me home from America to Nigeria. My father completed his MBA and joined us a few months later. Growing up in Lagos, I began to invent memories of my place of birth, the small college town of Kalamazoo, Michigan. There was evidence in the form of photographs from those first months, and I had my American passport (pine green in color), a squeaky rubber puppy I'd played with in the cradle, and stories from my parents. I convinced myself that I could remember our one-bedroom apartment, on Howard Street. I even had a memory of the room at Borgess Hospital: it was just after five in the afternoon, and some Nigerian friends of my parents were there. I was born by cesarean section. The nurse pronounced me a "gorgeous Borgess baby."

In Lagos, I was a regular middle-class Nigerian kid. My first language was Yoruba, and I had Nigerian citizenship from birth. Yet I was also an American, the only one in the family—a fact and a privilege that my parents often alluded to. I didn't dwell on it. I tried to wear it as easily as I could, like someone who is third in line to the throne: aware of extravagant possibilities but not counting on any particular outcome. From the age of ten or eleven, when political arguments with other boys at school became a part of life, I took the side of America. When classmates insisted that the Russians had a superior nuclear arsenal, I pitied them their nonsense. During the Olympics, I rooted for the USA, Nigeria being unlikely to win anything anyway. And at home my father spoke of NASA and Silicon Valley as though they were natural future steps in my progress.

In the 1980s, Nigeria went from being the hope of Africa to being a poor and perpetually tense place. Inflation dragged most Nigerians into poverty. In 1990, in Liberia, the dictator Samuel Doe was tortured and killed, and a horrifying civil war began in that country. Who was to say that Nigeria wouldn't go the way of its West African neighbor? "If that happens," my parents said, almost in unison, "we'll just drop you off at the American Embassy. You will be airlifted from there. Americans never abandon their own."

※WEB 掲載に際し、以下のとおり出典を追記しております。 Cole, Teju. Known and Strange Things. Faber & Faber UK, 2016, pp. 236–237.

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