

ディケンズ・フェロウシップ日本支部 2006 年度秋季総会  
 東北大学  
 2006 年 10 月 7 日

『二都物語』論

カートンの自己犠牲に見る自意識の働き

A Study of *A Tale of Two Cities*:

The Dynamics of Carton's Self-consciousness in his Self-sacrifice

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要 旨

本稿は、『二都物語』における主人公シドニー・カートンの自己犠牲の根源を彼の強い自意識に着目して論じ、カートンが何のために死を選び、そしてなぜ自己犠牲という形で死を迎えたのかを考察する。カートンの自己犠牲とそれともなう死が、ルーシーへの叶わぬ愛と過度な感受性による死というメロドラマの筋書きに則っているとしても、その死にいたるプロットの描写のなかに彼の強い自意識の働きを見過ごすことはできない。カートンの心の内に形成されていく自己犠牲への意識は、ルーシーに対する恋愛感情だけでなく、ダーニーに対する嫉妬や愛憎、さらにはカートン自身に向けられた自己否定や自己嫌悪という否定的な自意識にまで及ぶ。このように考えると、彼の自己犠牲は究極の愛情表現であると同時に、現世の苦しみからの解放を望み、精神的な安堵を求める行為といえるのではないだろうか、本稿では、カートンの言葉と行為に垣間見る彼の自意識を探り、自己犠牲にいたる彼の心理を追究する。

1. カートンの自意識について

1.1 カートン登場の場面から



“The Likeness”

illustrated by H.K. Browne (Phiz)

1.2 ダーニーとの対話から



“Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton”  
 illustrated by A.A. Dixon, 1905

< 引用文 1 >

‘Do you feel, yet, that you belong to this terrestrial scheme again, Mr Darnay?’

‘I am frightfully confused regarding time and place; but I am so far mended as to feel that.’

‘It must be an immense satisfaction!’

He said it bitterly, and filled up his glass again: which was a large one.

‘As to me, the greatest desire I have, is to forget that I belong to it. It has no good in it for me – except wine like this – nor I for it. So we are not much alike in that particular. Indeed, I begin to think we are not much alike in any particular, you and I.’ (83)

### 1.3 ストライパーとの対話から

< 引用文 2 >

'You were always in the front rank, and I was always behind.' (89)

< 引用文 3 >

'you have fallen into your rank, and I have fallen into mine.' (90)

< 引用文 4 >

'... you were always somewhere, and I was always nowhere.'

'And whose fault was that?'

'Upon my soul, I am not sure that it was not yours. You were always driving and riving and shouldering and pressing to that restless degree that I had no chance for my life but in rust and repose.' (90)

## 2. カートンの自己犠牲への意識について

### 2.1 ルーシーへの告白の場面から

< 引用文 5 >

'If it had been possible, Miss Manette, that you could have returned the love of the man you see before you self-flung away, wasted, drunken, poor creature of misuse as you know him to be he would have been conscious this day and hour, in spite of his happiness, that he would bring you to misery, bring you to sorrow and repentance, blight you, disgrace you, pull you down with him.' (151)

< 引用文 6 >

'For you, and for any dear to you, I would do anything. If my career were of that better kind that there was any opportunity or capacity of sacrifice in it, I would embrace any sacrifice for you and for those dear to you.' (154)

### 2.2 橋の上からセーヌ川を見下ろす場面から

## 3. 結びとして： カートンの死の意味

< 引用文 7 >

'It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known.' (377)

## 自意識 (Self-consciousness)

1. The condition of being privy to a thing.
2. *Philos.* Consciousness of one's own identity, one's acts, thoughts, etc.; = consciousness
3. Internal knowledge or conviction of a thing
4. The condition of being self-conscious.

(from *OED*)

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