

LIFE IS JUST LIKE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING
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Friends! Can you imagine that I am a person who wanted to commit suicide? As a matter of fact, I wanted to kill myself. Because I couldn't find a reason for living in this world. In order to find out the value of life or meaning of life, I got to some serious thinking about human life.

At that time, I started to learn that we must move towards our dream or the fixed object that we aim at step-by-step.

Today I am going to talk about my idea of life centering on the relation between life and mountain climbing.

At first, I'd like to tell you why I picked up this topic. I have a lot of hobbies, and mountain climbing is one of them. This summer, I went up Mt. Turugi with my family. Mt. Turugi, 1955 meters high above sea level, is located in Tokushima prefecture. It is famous as a summer resort. And it has a long distance lift. The view from the lift was very exciting. If you are an acrophobic, or "Kosho kyofu sho" in Japanese, you will have to close your eyes and grasp the pole of the lift.

The land was green. Everything was growing rapidly. But in autumn, you can see the beautiful leaves which have turned yellow and red. There were a lot of beautiful flowers, butterflies and wonderful birds singing.

The sky was clear blue with white clouds. Cool air was very fresh and clean. We were in the midst of such great nature.

When we were climbing the mountain, I came across a notice board which said, "Life is just like mountain climbing." When I read this, the message was really impressive enough to memorize. And this is the main reason why I chose this topic.

In fact, It was very hard for us to climb up the slope of the mountain. But when we reached the ridge or the top of the mountain, we could touch great nature and we could see wonderful landscape. I can't express how happy I was. The view from the mountaintop was really wonderful.

I was moved by the spectacle. If you climb the mountain, you will be filled with such great joy. To climb the mountain is not only to take pains but also to have a pleasure.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my speech today, we must move towards

our dream or the fixed object that we aim at step-by-step. So I really want to say, "You must not give up easily."

When you climb the mountain, you must climb toward the mountaintop step-by-step. And we can find one thing in common between life and mountain climbing. It is that we can get a real joy through pains. Life is just like mountain climbing.

All I've said only mean one thing, "You must not give up so easily." Because we can't get real joy without pain. And things won't always go so badly. Fortune has its seasons. I like this phrase, "Behind the clouds the sun is shining!"

When I tried to get over various difficulties, this phrase really encouraged me.

I want to feel sunlight on my face. I want to break down the wall that holds me inside. I want to cultivate my mind. I want to go higher and higher. I want to overcome myself.

And I'm not afraid of making mistakes. I want to live step-by-step with this spirit, just like mountain climbing.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, today is the first day of the rest of your life. Let's climb toward the summit. And let's try to climb the mountain, slowly and steadily!