

京大過去問 2001年 第1問

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There is no point in philosophy unless it helps dispel mental sufferings. Originally the philosopher's role was like that of today's psychiatrist — to provide answers to how we are to live. In fact, modern psychiatry, whether it knows it or not, is carrying out some of the great philosopher's most fundamental beliefs.

Consider Epicurus. Here was a man prepared to confront the question, what does it take to make a man happy? His answer includes: friendship; freedom; a willingness to analyze and reduce anxieties about such things as death, illness, and money. The capacity of money to deliver happiness, he insisted, is present in small salaries but will not rise with the largest. (1)A recently published book by an eminent sociologist describes a number of studies which have indeed shown that once a person's income is above the poverty level, an increasingly larger one contributes next to nothing to happiness. Quite the reverse happens: as wealth accumulates, family solidarity and community bonding disintegrate.

(2)Seneca* can be referred to for advice on coping with hardships, and actually he has much to say of relevance to such contemporary stupidities as violence observed in some soccer fans. He sees anger as a kind of madness, given that what makes us angry tends to be the frustration of dangerously optimistic ideas about the world and other people. In this modern world of affluence, effective medicine, and a political system devoted to shepherding us safely from the cradle to the grave, we do not anticipate evils before they arrive. The wise man always considers what can happen, and because we are injured most by what we do not expect we must expect everything to happen. Socrates also offered this advice: “If you wish to put off all worry, assume that what you fear may happen is certainly going to happen.”

Men are seduced by the trappings of wealth, power, status, and possessions, but the secret of a fulfilled and satisfied life is the wisdom to know what will truly make us happy. (3)Montaigne** believed in the superiority of wisdom — knowing what helps us live happily and morally — over mere learning. Education that makes us learned but fails to make us wise is, in his scheme of life, quite simply absurd. Would that he were living at this hour.

*Seneca セネカ（古代ローマの思想家）

**Montaigne モンテーニュ（16世紀フランスの思想家）