

産経新聞社賞

The Sankei Shinbun Award

私の望む未来 人権への考え

The Future I Desire, My Thoughts for Human Rights

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There are things I deeply think over not as human rights but as caring for others. It happened when I was in the shopping mall. There was a man who was carrying udon noodles on a tray. He almost knocked it over on the way to walk back to his table, so I felt relieved when he got there safe. He looked so happy and split his chopsticks with his mouth. Seeing him enjoying his meal, I said to my mother, "Udon looks delicious. I might try it next time." She smiled with joy.

Then, there was a huge laughter from nearby seats. It seemed that the man was insulted by the way he was eating. He was having a hard time not being able to suck in noodles well. He had to suck them again and again. He occasionally sucked them too strong, so they got into his nose and it made him cough. The noodles slipped and fell on the table, and he had to grab them with his hands and eat them. But he never bothered those who laughed at him. I felt so disappointed at them, so I stared into them. Then, my mother said to me gently in a whisper, "Whatever we say will never reach those who insult others. Let's help him secretly." Saying so, she stood between the man and them. She called my name, pretending to read the menu. I knew what she wanted to do, so I moved to the next table. Without saying a single word, she only kept staring at those who insulted the man. They noticed what it meant and started feeling awkward, so they left there. After a while, the man finished eating and left there as well. My mother said nothing to me. It was when I was in the lower classes at elementary school, but I still remember it clearly. I was too small to face them in front, but in my opinion, I am sure I did my best. I think my mother has taught me the best way to handle the matter so that the man who was eating udon noodles could feel less discomfort without worrying about having made trouble for us. Bullying and discrimination have become objects of social concern. I believe that they will be resolved if we all act with sympathy for others. I have been taught how important it is to have caring for others and what makes others uncomfortable since I was a little child. If I have children in the future, I will teach them how important these things are.

It is very difficult to change those who have prejudiced views now, but I want to change the world to make it become a place where we all can be aware of the fact that discrimination and bullying are such shameful behavior. If there is a child being alone, I want to call out to him/her. All I can do is such a small thing, but I want to keep having this strong will and do all my best in order to make the world better for our offspring.