

第17章

ジム司法試験に合格

ジムはこの年(1971年)9月に司法試験を受け無事合格。11月の首府スプリングフィールドにおける宣誓式には、ジムのお母さん、私、そして亡きお父さんの友人で、やはりシカゴ市で弁護士をやっていたエド温・オコンナー氏を伴って行きました。ジムのことを『永久学生』と綽名してたお姉さんたちは、この時躍り上がつて喜び、親戚友人を集めてジムのために大祝賀パーティをしました(ジムは姉共が余計なことをすると言って、普段は怒りましたが)。アメリカには弁護士が多すぎて、猫も杓子も弁護士になりたがるなどと言われますが、それはいずれの職業も同じこと、弁護士もピンからキリまであるわけで、私は衆に抜きん出たるジムが、お金とはあまり縁の無い、しかしトップ・クラスの少数有能弁護士の一人となるに違いないと、その時すでに確信がありました。

ジムはその後すぐ、一流法律事務所たるリーブマン・ウィリアムズは辞めて、社会の下積みの人々を守る立場の弁護士たちで形成するLegal Aid Bureau の、シカゴ本部に勤め始め、1979年末独立に至るまで、貧しい人々への捨て身の献身をしております。

司法試験の重荷が下りてすぐ、ジムは東京に

Chapter 17

Jim Passes the Bar Exam

Jim took the bar exam in September, 1971. He passed with flying colors. The swearing-in ceremony took place in November that year in Springfield, the capital of the State of Illinois. Jim invited his mother, her friend Mr. Edwin O'Connor, a Chicago lawyer, and me, to the ceremony. Jim's two sisters, Lois and Mary Jo, jumped up and down with joy upon hearing their younger brother's accomplishment, and they planned a big party for him, inviting friends and relatives, even though Jim was not too excited about it. It was said in those days that there were more lawyers than needed in the United States. Every Tom, Dick, and Harry wanted to become a lawyer. "Well, same as any other profession, there is an entire gamut of lawyers, good and bad," I said to myself. I knew then that Jim was destined to become one of the few, good lawyers who were not money hungry.

Soon afterwards, Jim left one of the top-flight law firms in downtown Chicago, Liebman, Williams, *et al.*, where he worked as a law clerk, and joined the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago as a full-fledged attorney-at-law. Legal Aid lawyers represent and defend people with low income. He devoted his time and efforts to the Bureau's poor clients until 1979, when he started his own practice.

Soon after the burden of the Bar Exam was removed, Jim said he wanted to go to

行ってみたいと言いました。

私はあれほどに長文で、語っても語っても、なお語り足りないと感じていたジムの素晴らしさ、その優しさ、その理知、その深さ、その明るさ、その進る(ほとばしる)魅力の全部を、父と母にその眼で見てもらえると知り、この頃から帰国までは夢見ごこちだったと思います。

<1971年10月6日、父より>

[ジムの為に特に用意しない事に決めた、ありの儘(まま)のこの茅屋に泊まって貰ふ、。。。

すっかり秋冷、しかも今年はひどい霖雨で、秋晴れの日殆どなし、中秋無月。。。碁盤まだとは、港湾ストライキとやらのせいもあるのではないか、。。。

(私はこの頃父に頼んで船便で碁盤を送ってもらいました。ジムには父が囲碁評論家という亨な職業だったことは伝えてあった筈ですが、そのジムに、父が愛用していた、小型だがズシリと碁盤を見せたかったのと、なにか父につながるものと所有していたかったのです。)

Tokyo. From the time I met him under the autumn moon over the John Hancock Building, I wanted my dear mother and father to meet Jim, and see, with their own eyes, how wonderful he is, how kind, how smart, how deep, how he cheers me up at all times, and how he totally surrounds my whole world with his exuberant magnetism.

Yes, Jim is going to meet my parents! I felt as if I were in a dream from that time on until it actually happened in the spring of 1972.

My Father's Letter Dated October 6, 1971

< Your mother and I have decided not to fuss and make rushed repairs of the house for Jim. We will have Jim see our humble house as it was when you were with us. Weather has been quite cool. We've been having a lot of rain, as well. No bright autumn skies during the day, and no beautiful mid-autumn moon at night! I understand the Go-board has not arrived yet. It could well be the reported harbor strike that's causing the delay. (I asked my father about this time to send me a Go-board by ship. I believe I told Jim about my father's strange occupation, a Go reviewer/newspaper columnist. I wanted to have one of his small but quite hefty and handsome Go-boards so I could show it to Jim. I also wanted to have something in my little apartment that would make me think about my father.)

We will soon be using our charcoal brazier.... If it doesn't rain today, I'll go to

そろそろ火鉢を出さなくてはならないのだが思ふだけで、。。。

雨でなければ是(これ)を出しながら中央へ出向く積り也、。。。(父は、私宛の手紙は、丸の内の中郵便局まで出向いて、必ず速達便で出してました、と母が言っておりました。)

ジムに木と土の家を見て貰ふ、。。此の頃は一層口数少なく今朝まだ誰とも口をきかない、どうかすると終日殆ど無言、いよいよ厭な爺になるらしい。久し振りの亮子とジムに対しては真逆其様な事(まさかそのようなこと)はあるまい。】

<1972年1月10日、母より>

[12月21日付けお手紙、拝読しています。大変元気な心の様子が窺がわれ、安心し、いつのまにか家事に追いまくられて、十日余が過ぎてしまいました。

昭夫君の件、よく分かりました。彼の母親からの電話で、彼があなたと会ったこと、子供も居ることなど聞いていましたので、別に驚きもしませんでした。明らかに、現代の普遍的な青年の、一つの型なのでしょう。願わくは、異郷の地で、彼が恥ずかしい行為をしないよう、年上のあなたは、見てやって下さい。(註)

the Central Post Office to mail this letter to you. (Note)

Note: My father sent me all his airmail letters by special delivery. He took the train from home to the Central Post Office in downtown, Tokyo, to post them.

We want Jim to see our Japanese house made of wood and clay.... I talk with your mother, sister, and brother less and less these days. I haven't said a word to anyone this morning. Some days, I don't say a word all day. I'm afraid I'm becoming a surly and disagreeable old man. But, I can't be that way when you and Jim are here. I know I won't be. >

My Mother's Letter Dated January 10, 1972:

< I am in receipt of your December 21 letter. It demonstrates your elevated state of mind, which made me so happy. The never-ending daily household chores prevented me from responding to you sooner, though.

Thank you very much for the info about your cousin Akio. His mother called me the other day, and told me that not only did he marry an Italian girl over there and then divorced, but there is also a baby born out of the brief union. The news didn't even surprise me. He must simply belong to today's young Japanese generation.

If he should call you again, just listen to what he has to say, with patience, as if

(註) 上記の昭夫君というのは、私の従弟で、ある日突然私の前に姿を現したのですが、彼との不愉快なやり取りを、本章末尾に簡略記載します。

ベーカー・アンド・マッケンジーの仕事の調子、如何ですか？あなたは有産階級の仕事をする弁護士たちの秘書として働き、ジムは低階級の人たちを助ける弁護士活動をしている様子、なかなかに興味ある生活だと思います。お互いに仕事のことでもよく語り合って、理解を深めて下さい。

....、セントラル・ヒーティングと水洗便所は、お父さんと私の時代までは駄目なのでしょうか。日本とゆう国は、足元から、或いは基本から、物事を究明して行かないで、その場あたりのみでくれから手を着けてゆくために、この二つの大事なことが、うんと後回しになったのです。この二つが完璧であるアメリカと、肩を並べて普及しているのは、テレビや車だけなのだから、情けないものです。ジムの滞日もこれで困っております、。。。

然し、現在の日本は大建築が盛んなので、民家の改造等ちっぽけな仕事は、割合にお金が掛かる上に、やってくれる建築屋が少なく、困っています。又、これらを克服して、この土にへばりついたような、薄ねずみ色の木造建築を、なんとか直してみたところで、知れたものです。

you were a big sister to him, so that he would not further behave foolishly.

(Note at the end of this chapter regarding this cousin of mine who briefly attended the University of Indiana around that time.)

How is the work at Baker & McKenzie? It is quite interesting that you work for lawyers whose clients are predominantly wealthy corporations, while Jim helps society's less fortunate individuals. Talk to Jim about your job. Try to understand his profession, and deepen your mutual understanding.

I wonder if my generation and that of your father's will ever experience central heating and flush toilets before our time runs out. Two of the most important blessings of civilization have been deplorably slow in becoming everyone's modern day tools for Japanese people, because our government's priorities have been to work on projects that would make them look good when completed, rather than tackling all kinds of fundamental work that the whole nation needs. The two things that we have in abundance are TV's and automobiles, when a nation like America has long enjoyed the use of central heating and flush toilets.

I am concerned about Jim's comfort while he stays with us.... All over our country, a great number of large buildings are being built daily, one after another. Japan is in the midst of a construction boom, but no builders are interested in building small residences or repairing dinky, little houses. Even if I could find someone who would take the small job, his charge would be

結局は、このありのままの、日本の大衆の大方の家の有様をジムに見てもらい、日本滞在の半分は、やはりホテルにでも行ってもらった方がいいのではないかと思います。

『武士の娘』と、雑誌の切り抜き『意外なアメリカ』を、飛行便で送ります。】

<1972年1月21日、父より>

[。。。きのふけふ(昨日今日)春先の暖かさなり。こんな薄汚い庭の梅も、蕾がふくらみ初め、そのほかの怪しげな樹木も、どうやら気負って春を待ちつつある様子、小さな草もである。

思へば思ふ程、植物に勝るものなし。黙って四季を送り迎へ、花咲き花散り実を結んで、またの年を、しかも其の間に伐り倒され何になろうと(ひどいのは炭)少しも不満を漏らさず運命に従ふ。。。などと老人の繰り言、取り合うべからず。。。。

ジムを見たら手を取り合って泣きそうな気がしてならぬ。。。】

incredibly high. And tinkering on this drab, wooden house that sits low on the glum dirt could not expect to produce any spectacular results.

I'm afraid I'll have to conclude that Jim should see our house as it is, for this is the average house for average people of Japan, and we may ask him to go to a hotel, at least for the half of his sojourn in Japan. I'll send you, by air, "A Daughter of the Samurai," and the excerpts from a magazine, "America That You Didn't Know." >

My Father's Letter Dated January 21, 1972:

<.... Thanks to the warm spring-like weather yesterday and today, the plum trees of our humble yard are shooting out tiny buds. Other dubious trees all seem to wait for spring, with determination. Even the tiniest flowering grasses are waiting for the spring, without succumbing to the winter cold.

Yes, the more I think about it, the more I am certain that nothing is as admirable as the plants and trees. They welcome and send away each of the four seasons in silence. Flowers come out and die, but their seeds will produce flowers again next year. Some trees may die a premature death by being hewn, to be made into coal. But they never say a word of complaint, and they accept it as destiny.... Don't take what I say seriously, Ryoko.... This is just an old man's grumbling.... When I meet Jim this summer, I might start crying, taking his hands into mine....>

<1972年2月5日、父より>

[...、ジムにはこの青畳と、白い障子に映る日差しとを、どうしても見て貰ふ。そう言へば襖だけは替えたいと、ワシが言ふ(畳が引き立つ)のを、お母さん、

「私達だけなら無論このままだけれど、折角ジムが来るのだから」

と、またもやジムを引き出した。ジムの事ばかり言ったが、これがワシ等の本音なのである。】

～白玉の静かに暮るる秋の夜の
酒は独りし飲むべかりけり～

ここに引用した、若山牧水の名高い和歌は、父の記憶違いで、少々間違っている様子です。

<1972年2月18日、父から私への最後の書簡。全文>

[16日水、一時半(正しくは17日木)、けふ(今日)オネエ出抜けにデパートから帰つてお母さんに報告。ベッドや毛布を見てきたけれどとて、カタログでも持ち帰つての相談。何でも黙つて買って来て仕舞ふのが例なのに、それを差し控えただけでも大出来といふべし。私達は、無論それ以上、種々考えているのだ、亮子そこを静思せよ、そして何より旅行準備の方をこそ。

My Father's Letter Dated February 5, 1972:

.... I want Jim to see the fresh tatami mats and the warm summer sun reflecting on the pure white shoji screens. I suggested that we replace our fusuma screens, as well, for the brand new fusuma screens will make the fresh tatami mats look even better. Your mother said, "Yes, if it were just for us, I wouldn't do any additional touch-ups, but Jim is coming all the way from Chicago, and we should do what we can." I talk about Jim, and your mother talks about Jim. Our thoughts are always about Jim, and with Jim. >

Here, my father recites a well-known 'waka,' written by Bokusui Wakayama, one of Japan's great waka poets of the early 20th Century. My father could have misquoted it, I'm afraid.

My Father's Final Letter To Me Dated February 18, 1972:

It is 1:30 A.M., Wednesday, 16th, (or more accurately Thursday, 17th). Your sister reported to your mother that she stopped at the department store and checked the bed and the blankets for Jim. Usually, your sister makes a purchase of anything on the spot, without telling your mother in advance about it. She's beginning to think, I guess. Good for her.

We are all thinking about Jim, trying to make his stay a comfortable one in every small way.

Ryoko, keep your cool, and complete

今はこれのみ。

ジム元気なりや。

亮子冷静に。】

preparations for your trip home. Is Jim doing all right?

Ryoko, stay cool. This is all for now. >

4ページ註:

母が、父の愚弟と呼んでいた私の叔父がおり、彼の次男坊が、当時インディアナ州立大学に通っていました。

叔父から、私の電話番号を欲しい、と母に連絡があり、母は大いに躊躇したが教えるを得なかつたとのことで、この従弟から、メイと私の住むアパートへ2・3回電話がありました。

なんだか押し付けがましい口調である上、インディアナ州からの長距離電話料金をば、先方払いいでイケ图々しく、掛けてくる。私は少しも好感持てず、恐らくいつもの調子で、父母にワルクチ報告をしたこと確かです。

一度は、「ジムさんの車を使わせて欲しいなあ」と発言、私はそんなミットモナイことできるかと、頭から断りましたが、これは彼が、ジムからも激しく軽蔑される結果となつたのみ。

このボーイは、後には、私の仕事先ベーカー・アンド・マッケンジー法律事務所に、予告なしで現れ、何か仕事をもらえないか、私に口利きしてくれと頼んだ次第で、まさに母のいう、現代の普遍的青年、という描写が当たつていたと思います。

Note from Page 4

One of my father's three brothers had a son studying at the University of Indiana around that time. My mother told me in one of her letters that she gave my Chicago telephone number to his father, reluctantly. After all, I had met this cousin of mine only a few times while we were both very young.

The boy called me a few times at the apartment I was sharing with my roommate May, a collect call from Indiana each time. I was furious about it. Once he requested that I ask Jim to let him use his car. I turned it down, without hesitation.

He even showed up at my workplace of Baker & McKenzie law offices one day, and asked me if I would be good enough to ask my superiors to hire him. My mother and I both thought he was rather pathetic.

< End of Chapter 17 >