

*Tomorrow is another day. From here, new life begins again.
Only those brave are able to pave the way.*

Through visiting the setting of the novel "Gone with the wind".

Preamble

We can count many things in this world that fill our heart with emotion and excitement. One of them, I think, is literature and movie. The novel, "Gone with the wind", most read next to the Bible, celebrated the 70th anniversary of its first edition in June, 2006. I visited Atlanta, Jonesboro and New Orleans in the Southern America, the setting of the novel, to appreciate the actual situation at present.

Text

Atlanta: birth place of M.Mitchell, the author



*The novel has been read by most in the world.
The immortal movie has expanded the fans' circle.*

Mommy emerged from the hall, a huge old woman with the small, shrewd eyes of elephant. She was skinning black, pure African, devoted to her last drop of blood to the O'Haras, Ellen's mainstay, the despair of her three daughters, the terror of the other servants.

It was almost half century ago, at the time when I was a middle school boy. An unusually huge poster, announcing a movie, with a big title in English, was affixed in the square in front of the Inamatsushima Station of the Iida railroad line in Nagano prefecture, Japan. The kissing scene between a beautiful lady and a large-minded man in a vivid and colorful back-ground profoundly impressed me, who had a naïve heart of a child.



It can be said that "Gone with the wind" captured the heart of the fans all over the world through the novel, but more widely and deeply by the movie. It was in 1936 when Margaret Mitchell published this book. The movie was disclosed for the first time in 1939, three years later.

The novel is a big great work and it requires a lot of time and effort to read through. The movie itself is also pretty

long and takes more than 4 hours. It is one of the best works, however, which won eternal fame and received Academy award in ten categories. The story, which was filled with scenes of ups and downs of the people, drew the reader's (viewer's) attention. I think there are many more people who appreciated the movie even though they haven't read the novel.

An event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the first edition of "Gone with the Wind" was held in June 2006 at Atlanta city. On the occasion, I visited the house in Atlanta where Mitchell lived. She was born in 1900. She worked for the ATLANTA JOURNAL as a writer but quit her job after she broke her ankle when she was 26 and began to write the novel "Gone with the wind".

The elaborated arguments based on facts of the history behind the American Civil War gives dignity and weight to this novel and surpasses other simple novels that relate only to a romantic story. The work has become a big best seller of the century, but Ms Mitchell died young, at the age of 48. She was knocked down by a taxi, without writing another novel ever.

The house at Atlanta is chocolate in color and has two levels. We walked around in the house guided by an exclusive volunteer guide Miss Linda. In the rooms, there were pictures of Ms Mitchell's families and furniture that reflected the ancient time. I could see the typewriter utilized by Mitchell on the desk in the working room which, I imagined, had probably produced thousands of pages of manuscripts.



Mitchell's house

Also, we saw many pictures of Dr. Martin Luther King exhibited in another room. The novel became the object of popular acclaim by many from the day the novel was made public. However, it also received lots of criticism, from the African American society. "Mitchell admits and appraises the slavery" "It's said in the story that Mammy, black colored servant who plays a role to superintend Scarlet, is very honest and obedient, but the relation between the master and the servant in the story is a total camouflage. It is an actual relationship, anyway, between a master and a slave". Critics like these and others appeared.

Our tour guide stressed in front of the picture of Dr. King, "Mitchell made great contributions also, for the improvement of the environment of black people in her later years". She prepared scholarship for black students of the Morehouse University, from where Dr. King graduated.

In the afternoon of that same day, I visited the house where Dr. King was born. I could appreciate a statue of Gandhi in front of the museum of the National Historic Site,



The Statue of Dr. King

which is the symbol of nonviolence activities, and a big statue of Dr. King stood in front of the Morehouse University. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 as the youngest recipient who led the human rights activities. He was assassinated by a gun in 1968. His speech which appealed to abolish the discrimination against black people was given in the grand parade of one million people. This speech has been regarded as one of the most noted speeches in history. It went:

“I have a dream. One day, on this red hill of Georgia, sons of slaves and sons of farmers will be able to sit down together on the same table as brotherhood.”

Scarlet, heroin of the novel “Gone with the wind”, tried to rise again after the absolute despair in the last part of the novel. What made her stand up was, also, “this red soil of Tara (State of Georgia).”

One other aspect that impressed me about the novel is in its reality. The novel and its real backdrop were totally in different worlds. But it seemed to me that the indomitable spirit to overcome any kind of hardships and to pave the way was intertwined in many places.

Jonesboro: Fictious land Tara



Related in detail in the history of the American Civil War

Romance created among various people

She could not dessert Tara; she belonged to the red acres far more than they could ever belong to her. Her roots went deep into the blood-colored soil and sucked up life, as did the cotton. She would stay at Tara and keep it, somehow, keep her father and her sisters, Melanie and Ashley's child, and the negroes. To-morrow—Oh, to-morrow! To-morrow she would fit the yoke about her neck. To-morrow there would be so many things to do.

On the following day, I visited Jonesboro by car guided by Mr. K, one of my friends, who lived in Atlanta. First, we went south for 30 minutes on the freeway that has seven lines for vehicles, and then we turned right and drove for about 5 minutes. Finally we arrived at the site that was considered as the setting of the novel “Tara”.

The cottage of Jonesboro station, where trains packed with soldiers going to the Civil War passed, was converted to a museum for “Gone with the wind”. In the small hall of the building, some documents referred to the novel, the book of its first edition published in each country, episodes and pictures on the occasion of making movie, the costumes used in the movies and other things were exhibited.



Jonesboro station

I asked a lady, Mrs. Virginia, director of the museum, an elegant lady, whom I thought was in her 60s. She kindly told me, “Yes, everyday many comes from all over the world. We have visitors from every state of our country, of course. I think, we receive, among foreign countries, more people from Switzerland and Germany. Last month we welcomed many people from Russia and from the countries in Middle East. I also remembered, young people came from Ireland (native land of Tara), too. During the summer season, we receive more than 300 visitors from Japan”.

Going out of the museum, I took the pose for pictures putting my feet on the railway. It seemed that the train would not come soon. At first, I was certain that there wouldn't be any trains coming on the rail for eternity but I was mistaken. According to Mr. K, who was accompanying me, “A long time has passed since the time of the Civil War and many aspects of the things have changed. It is the same as the railroad train. But actually, nowadays, the train runs occasionally to carry luggage”.

In 1830s, during the American Civil War, the South was stronger than the North both in economical and political field, but they were gradually overtaken by the North owing to very rapid development of the North. The seven States of the South proclaimed to quit from the federation. Then four states joined and they established the Southern Federal Country with 11 states. The Civil War continued for five more years and the Southern States were essentially completely destroyed.

President Lincoln proclaimed the liberation of slavery. He also left this famous word, “The politics of the people, by the people and for the people”.

Gerald O'Haras who emigrated from Ireland and became an owner of the farm in Tara managed the farm, together with Ellen, his wife, holy lady, making the slaves work. In the novel, many characters appeared; Scarlet, their daughter, strong in character and selfish; Melanie, holy and a very kind lady; Rhett, strong, wide hearted and a realistic man; Ashley, weak and as philosophical youth. Mitchell succeeded to catch the heart of the readers by comparing these persons in the story.

When the war began, people in the South never had doubted their victory. Only

Rhett and Ashley, however, prophesied the fate of the South. Some of the human beings with contrasting characters survived and others died in the war at this field of Atlanta while yet others pursued in love and hate.

Scarlet fled from Atlanta in a horse-coach led by Rhett, running through the fire in the town. When she finally could reach Tara, her native land, her mother had died, her father had become crazy, and the family's slaves had run away. There were no foods left. From the bottom of her despair, Scarlet stood up.



Plantation

cotton.

There was a plantation near the museum. A big two storied white house stood in the spacious yard. I could see several cottages for slaves at the back of the house. From there, expanded spacious farms with abundant green around. The area of Jonesboro was covered with red colored soil. This gave me a calm impression, totally distant from the noisy life in Atlanta. It reminded me of the time of cultivating

New Orleans: Honeymoon with Rhett

Rise up again after lost everything.
"Tomorrow is another day!"



She did have fun, more fun than she had had since the spring before the war. New Orleans was such a strange, glamorous place and Scarlet enjoyed it with the headlong pleasure of a pardoned life prisoner.

The main setting of the novel "Gone with the wind" are in Atlanta and Jonesboro(Tara), but in the latter part of the story appears also New Orleans, the coast city. Rhett visited this city several times and Scarlet was there together with Rhett on their honeymoon. The marriage with Rhett was her third one.

Louisiana State, to which New Orleans belongs, had been colonized by France from 17th century. Spain took this State in 1762 and a little after this, France began to rule over it and in 1803 it was sold to the United States of America together with some other territory. The city, New Orleans, was converted into the main port for trading in

the southern area and the culture of both countries, France and Spain, mingled and turned New Orleans into a fascinating city. Nowadays, New Orleans attracts tourists from all over the world as the city where Jazz music was born. Many parts and things of



French Quarters

the city, such as the French Quarters, the Plantation, and Creole dishes have kept the styles almost identical to what appears in the novel, the time of the Civil War.

Last August, 2005, New Orleans was attacked by Hurricane Katrina. It is said to be the worst disaster in the history of the United States. In this city, where many moist areas

locate below sea level, 80 percent of the land was covered with seawater. Just after the calamity, more than 1000 citizens were reported to be killed by this hurricane. The local newspapers reported that if we include the ones who died from the after affects of the hurricane, the total number of the death in the State surpassed 1500.

Almost one year has passed since then. Certain percent of the citizens who took refuge returned but there are also so many people who lost their houses and cannot go back. I have not encountered many citizens from the areas where the hurricane hit most severely, but I can appreciate so many outstanding recoveries from my observation.

For example, in the French Quarter, in central town, which located at a higher ground than sea level, many tourists from the world have already returned and are enjoying their visits. Bourbon Street is again packed with tourists and we can hear the street musicians who are back from refugee life. The spots for tourists and the website of the hotel are calling. "We are already ready to welcome you. What are missing are you!"

Now, this made me recall again how Scarlet lived her life. The troops of the South lost and the aristocratic society of the South has gone with the wind. (A Civilization gone with the wind) What supported her death defying final situation was the red colored soil at Tara. Scarlet, an unyielding lady paved her life. In turn, thanks to her strong spirit, she revived her families and people around her. When the society and the time are in chaos, only those who are brave and have strong decision can survive.

The story concluded with the following passage.

"After all, to-morrow is another day".

This passage is translated in many ways in the books in Japanese edition.

"The sun rises again tomorrow"

“Tomorrow blows the wind of tomorrow”

“Anyway, tomorrow is different and will be a new day”

Scarlet lost everything but she stood up again to pave her way towards the future with strong determination. Keeping this in mind, I would like to translate this passage,

“Tomorrow is the day when the new life begins again”. (I think this corresponds to the Buddhist theory “Hon-nin-myō” which means “Everything begins from now”). In this sense, I dare to think that this passage will surely give limitless courage and hope, not only to the people in New



Mississippi river cruise, Steamboat Natchez

Orleans who are fighting to stand up from the damage, but also to those in the world who are struggling and advancing to overcome the hardships and sufferings.