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Exh. # \_\_\_\_\_

Just Sacrifice Ourselves (Excerpt)

-- by ARAKI, Sad



It goes without saying that war is not the normal course of life. To do without it is the best. We are of course in favor of peace. If anyone should neither violate nor be violated but could associate with others forever in peace and harmony, how happy we must be. Army men as we are, we yield to no one in wishing for peace.

We are proud of being superior to any nation in the world in point of loving peace and of respecting justice and fairness. Not only is it really the great spirit of founding our state but also a genuine manifestation of the racial consciousness.

What I think is the masterpiece in the history of the MEIJI Restoration is the negotiations between SAIGO, Nanshu and KATSU, Kaishu on the surrender of the Castle of YEDO.

I find something quite full of interest in the fact that, after the SATSUMA and CHOSHU clans and the SHOGUNATE Government devoted themselves to repeated political manoeuvres, resorting to arms and continuing with ceaseless strife, the Loyal Forces finally decided on the plan of invading the Castle of YEDO on March 15 of the 4th year of KEIO (1868), when all of a sudden peace



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with all its gleams was brought about. Both parties suddenly sheathed their swords at the very moment when they were about to exchange fire -- to appreciate its knack makes me indescribably happy.

Indeed this negotiations was what was settled by sincerity. Neither wisdom, courage, faith nor courtesy, but pure and unalloyed and gem-like sincerity could only lead that crisis to a settlement in a conversation and smiles. In other words, Nangshu, without a bit of secret, Kaishu, with a broad vision on the general situation, became exactly accorded with each other.

Thus both SAIGO and KATSU suspended hostilities at the moment when the time was most ripe for a war. It seems to me that there are found the spirit of our Imperial Army and the first principle of founding our Army.



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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I hereby certify that the book hereto attached, written in Japanese by ARAKI, Sadao, consisting of 225 pages and entitled "Just Sacrifice Ourselves" manuscript of the above and published by our firm.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 6th day of Sept., 1947

IKUSHIMA, Yasushi (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,  
on the same date.

Witness: HOSHINO, Eizo (seal)



身を捨ててこそ（拔萃） 荒木貞夫

勿論戦争は常道ではない、無くてすむならこれに越したことはないのである。私共も平和もとより賛成、誰もが侵さず侵されず和氣霽々といつまで

でも交際つて行けるならこんな結構なことにはあるまい、軍人といへども平和を望むことに於ては敢て人後に落ちるものではない。

我々は平和を愛し正義と公明とを尊重する點に於ては世界のいづれの國民よりも勝つてゐることを誇りとする、これはまことに我が建國の大精神で

また民族意識の純乎たる發露である

明治維新史上私がつとも傑作と思ふのは西郷南洲と勝海舟との江戸城明

渡しの談判である

薩長と幕府とが幾度か政治的策動に心血を傾け或は干戈に訴へ絶えざる抗争をつゞけた擧旬つひに慶應四年三月十五日官軍が江戸城攻め入りの方策を決定した直後突如として明々たる平和がもたらされたところに全く妙味しんくたるものがある。あれまで兩者が尖鋭化してまさに鐵火相撃たんとした一刹那サツト剣を引いた呼吸には何とも言はれぬ爽快さが感じられるのである

此の談判こそまさしく誠心の解決であつた、知でもなく勇でもなく信義で



もなくまた禮でもなくたゞ純一無雜の境に達した珠玉の如き誠心がよくあ  
の大事を談笑の裡に解決に導いたのである  
即ち一點の秘を三洲と大局に達識せる海舟との呼聲がびつたり融合一致  
したものである  
かくて西郷も海舟も戦機もつとも動いた瞬間に於て戦争を中止した  
そこに我が皇軍の精神建軍の本義が閃いてゐるやうに思ふ



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右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタルモノナルコトヲ證明ス

同日於同所

立會人 星 野 英 三