

## **Lady Gracia, *Mulier Fortis* who gave her life to the Lord and her family**

The Lady's original name was Tama. She was born in 1563 to a daughter of Mitsuhide Akechi, a vassal of Nobunaga Oda who was to subjugate regional warlords six years later to end the Age of Civil Wars. At the age of fifteen (1578), Tama married to Tadaoki, the legitimate son of Fujitaka Hosokawa, a fellow warrior of her father, through the good offices of Nobunaga. The young couple's happy life did not last long, as four years later (1582) Tama's father surprisingly attacked Nobunaga when the latter sojourned in Hon-nouji Temple in Kyoto with a few guards, compelling him to suicide in the burning temple. Mitsuhide urged Hosokawa and other warriors to join him but to no avail, and after eleven days he was defeated by Hideyoshi Toyotomi in a suburb of the city. The reason of the treachery by the highly entrusted retainer remains mysterious but one can assume that the country's subsequent history must have been utterly different, had the assassination not happened. In fact, Nobunaga was a dauntless man who, unlike his successors, was not afraid of the Portuguese who arrived with their Catholicism but was planning to make use of their knowledge for his ambition to conquer neighbouring countries.

After the revolt of his father-in-law, Tadaoki sent Tama to a hamlet in his fief in Tango, north to Kyoto, together with some ladies-in-waiting. Four years later (1582) Tama was called back to the Hosokawa Residence in Osaka by the intercession of Hideyoshi who had taken over the rulership, but Tadaoki held her incommunicado in the residence. A theory has it that he worried about exposing Tama, a renowned beauty, to the eyes of other men, especially his new master who was a notorious womanizer. In such a circumstance, Tama became interested in the Catholic teaching and, in the absence of his husband in February 1597, she was secretly christened under the name of Gracia in her house through her maid, Maria (Ito Kiyohara) whom she had sent to a church in the town to be baptised. When Hideyoshi reversed his friendly attitude and issued an edict to expel Jesuit Padres in July of the same year, Tadaoki got rid of Christian members from his household but Gracia and Maria escaped detection.

Hideyoshi died in 1598. Mitsunari Ishida took the position to preserve the Toyotomi Regime, while Iyeyasu Tokugawa aspired to become the supreme ruler, having built up his power in the eastern part of the country. When Tadaoki joined Iyeyasu's campaign to the north-east district, Mitsunari decided to take Gracia and the wives of some other warriors as hostages in an attempt to ensure their husbands' entry to his side. Before Mitsunari's men came to fetch Gracia on the 25th August 1600, she let her children and servants leave the house and gave her last orders to her two faithful retainers. After Gracia offered her last prayer, Shōsai Ogasawara stabbed her to death with his *naginata* (long sword), while Iwami Kawakita witnessed it, because committing suicide was prohibited by her new faith. The both men set fire to the house and committed *harakiri* to immolate themselves to their mistress.

In the Great Battle of Sekigahara on the 21st October 1600 in which Mitsunari's western, and Iyeyasu's eastern armies confronted, the Hosokawa troops participated in the latter and contributed to its victory. Tadaoki held the funeral of Gracia according to the Catholic rites and built a church in his land in Osaka. After the establishment of Tokugawa Shogunate Government in 1603, the Hosokawa Clan was relocated in Higo, Kyūshū, the present-day Kumamoto Prefecture, and continued until the Meiji Restoration (1868), when the master of the family was made Marquis. In his resignation address in April 1994, Premier Morihiro Hosokawa, a 16th descendant of Tadaoki and Gracia, cited the farewell poem of Gracia, "*Flowers are flowers, persons are persons, when they know the proper time, to vanish from the world.*"

Accounts of Gracia's life are found in The Records of the Hosokawa Family and other documents in Japan and Jesuit Reports in Europe. Her life was written in Ayako Miura's "Lady Gracia (English translation, IBC Publ. 2004)" and some other novels. In James Clavell's "Shōgun(1975)", Lady Mariko is said to be modelled after Gracia but myself is not quite agreeable, save that she was portrayed as a smart and sensible woman as Gracia herself would have been. In 1990s, a score of an old opera entitled, "*Mulier fortis, cuius pretium de ultimis finibus, sive Gratia regni Tango regina exantlati pro Christo aerumnis clara* (A capable wife, whose worth is far beyond coral\*, Gracia, The Queen of The Realm of Tango who endured glorious hardship for Christ\*\*)", was discovered in The Austrian National Library. The opera with a German text depicting Gracia as an exemplum of virtue for the women of the Habsburg Dynasty was played on the 26 July 1698 in Vienna to celebrate the Name's Day of Empress Eleanor Magdalena Teresa.

Catholic Tamatsukuri Church, Osaka, was founded in 1894. Only God knew that the land which the diocese acquired was incidentally the site of the former Hosokawa Residence. *Amen!*

\* Translated with reference to the phrases in Proverb 31-10, *The New English Bible* (Oxford 1970).

\*\* This translation may not be exact, as myself has not properly learnt Latin.

## (裏面和譯) レイディ・グラシアー主と家族に命を捧げし賢き女

ヒロインの名は玉と言ひ、彼女は1563年、6年後に諸侯を配下に収めて戦國時代を終焉せしめるに至る織田信長の家臣、明智光秀の娘として生まれました。彼女は15歳のとき(1578)父の同輩の家臣であった細川藤孝の嫡男忠興と信長の媒酌で結婚しました。若い夫婦の幸せな暮らしは長くは続きませんでした。と言ふのは、4年後(1582年)に玉の父が京都本能寺に少数の護衛とともに投宿中の信長を急襲し、燃える寺の中で自害するを餘儀なくせしめたからでありました。光秀は細川ほかの武將に加勢を求めたものの無爲に終り、11日後に市の郊外で豊臣秀吉に敗れました。重用されてゐた家來の此の謀反の理由は未だに謎でとされてゐますが、若し彼の暗殺なかりせば、日本の其の後の歴史は丸で變つてゐたであらうと想像されます。事實、豪膽な男であつた信長は、彼の後を襲つた者たちと異つて、カトリック教を携へて到來したポルトガル人を恐れず、彼らの知識を周辺國を征服したいと謂ふ自分の野望の爲に利用しようと劃してゐました。

義父の反逆の後、忠興は玉を京都の北、丹後の所領の寒村に幾人かの侍女を付けて送りました。4年後に玉は支配者の地位を繼いだ秀吉の執成して大阪の細川屋敷に呼戻されましたが、忠興は彼女に屋敷内に幽閉しました。一説に、彼は美人の譽れ高かつた玉を他の男、就中、女好きで知られた秀吉の目に曝すことを恐れたと謂ひます。左様な状況の中で、玉はカトリックの教義に魅かれ、夫の留守中の1597年2月に、豫め市中の教會に遣つて洗禮を受けさせた侍女のマリア(清原いと)を通じて、自宅で、グラシアの名のもとに入信しました。同年7月、秀吉が従來の親密な態度を一變させて伴天連追放令を發すると、忠興は彼の家からイエズス會メンバーを驅逐しましたが、グラシアとマリアは發覺を免れました。

秀吉は1598年に死亡しました。石田三成は豊臣體制維持の立場を取りましたが、國の東地域に力を蓄へた徳川家康は最高権力者になることを狙つてゐました。家康の東北地方征伐に忠興が参加したとき、三成はグラシアほか幾人かの武將の奥方を、彼女らの夫を自分の側に着かせんと、人質に取つてを決めました。1600年8月25日、三成の手下がグラシアを召捕りに来る直前、グラシアは子供達と家人を家から退避させ、二人の忠実な家來に最後の命を下しました。グラシアが最後の祈りを捧げると、彼女の新しい宗教では自殺が許されない故、河北石見立會のもと、小笠原少齋が長刀で彼女を刺殺しました。二人は家に火を放ち、切腹して女主人に殉じました。

1600年10月21日に三成の西軍と家康の東軍が對決した関ヶ原大合戦で、細川部隊は東軍に参加し、勝利に貢献しました。忠興はグラシア葬送の儀をカトリック方式で執行ひ、大阪の彼の土地に教會を建てました。1603年に徳川幕府成立後、細川藩は九州肥後(現在の熊本縣)に轉封されて、明治維新(1868年)まで續き、同家の當主は侯爵に叙せられました。1994年4月、忠興とグラシアの16代目の子孫の細川護照首相は、辭任の挨拶にグラシアの時世の歌を引きました。「散りぬべき時知りてこそ世の中の花も花なれ人も人なれ。」

グラシアの生涯の仔細は日本では細川家記ほかの文書、歐州ではイエズス會報に見られます。彼女の生涯は三浦綾子の「ガラシャ夫人(英譯, IBC Publ. 2004)」ほかの小説に書かれました。ジェームス・クラベルの「ショーゲン(1975)」の中のレイディ・マリコはグラシアをモデルにしたと謂はれてゐますが、恐らくグラシア自身がさうであつたやうに、彼女が聡明かつ賢明な女性として描かれてゐること以外、私自身は賛同し兼ねます。1990年代、オーストリア國立圖書館で古いオペラの樂譜が発見されました。題名は、「*Mulier fortis, cuius pretium de ultimis finibus, sive Gratia regni Tango regina exantlatris pro Christo aerumnis clara* (珊瑚に優る價の有能な妻\*, グラシア, 基督の爲に光輝ある試験に耐へし丹後國の女王\*\*)」。ハプスブルグ王家の女性の爲にグラシアを美德の鑑として描いた獨逸語テキスト付の此の歌劇は、1698年7月26日、エレオノーレ・マグダレナ・テレサ皇后の聖名祝日を祝つてウィーンで上演されました。

大阪カトリック玉造教會は1894年に創立されました。神のみぞ知らん、教區が得た土地は偶然にも舊細川屋敷の跡地でありました。  
アーメン！

\*) 舊約聖書・箴言31-10 (The New English Bible (Oxford Univ. Press 1970)の文言を参考に翻譯。

「舊新約聖書(日本聖書協會 1950)に因るならば「其の價たるや眞珠より貴き賢き女」か。

\*\*) 此の譯は正鵠を缺くかも知れない(私自身ラテン語を習つてゐない故)。

圖面説明 (上)「今古誠画・浮世絵類考之内・慶長五年之頃」、木版、小林清親畫、明治18。

(下)「最後の日のガラシャ夫人」、堂本印象畫、1663年、大阪聖マリア大聖堂。