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Desire and Pride Do Not Fade

As people age, physical strength and intellectual ability inevitably decline. Yet pride and desire—especially the desire for money—rarely fade. In fact, these may become more visible with age.

Say it's a bargain, it's profitable, or it's fun, and people quickly gather. But say it's for the children's future, or You can take on new challenges, and the response is lukewarm. When something does not serve their own interest, many adults are indifferent or even fail to keep promises. If this is the reality of today's adults, it is deeply disappointing.

Hollowed-Out Community Revitalization

I am personally concerned that most of the community revitalization measures promoted by local governments are destined to fail.

Near our school stands a stone monument engraved with Takudo Toyosato (Open the path, enrich the homeland). Surely this embodies the determination of our predecessors: that developing transportation networks to support the flow of goods and people is essential for regional prosperity.

But what is the reality today? Roads are poorly maintained, bus services are limited, and even if you return by the last train, you cannot find a taxi. If our predecessors could see the current state, they would surely be disheartened.

Society Is Changing

I have lived for more than sixty years, but I have never seen society change as rapidly as it is now. We truly live in turbulent times.

- I won't get married because it's not cost-effective.
- I won't have children.
- I'm worried about the future because AI will take away jobs.

These are things I could never have imagined in my youth. And yet, even amid such change, education remains outdated, and adults seem strangely carefree. They still cling to obsolete values while trying to talk about the next generation.

For example, if AI and robots become even more advanced, the current path—cram schools, exams, prestigious universities, jobs in big corporations or government—may no longer be the right career path.

Of Course the Population Doesn't Grow

No obstetrics clinics.
No schools.
Poor transportation.
No jobs.

In regions like these, how can the population possibly grow? Before lamenting that “people don’t come” or “young people don’t stay,” adults should seriously reflect on what is fundamentally missing.

The Wrong Approach to Problem-Solving

There are two major approaches to problem-solving:

1. **Restoration** (returning to the original state)
2. **Changing the paradigm**

The restoration approach means thinking about how things were before the problem arose. Changing the paradigm means abandoning the very way of thinking that led to the problem in the first place. Problems arise because we have thought in ways that create them, and we must accept that.

Since it is difficult to turn back time, restoration may be impractical. But paradigm change is easier because it only requires changing the people involved. All it takes is to stop saying, “let’s have the same group decide as usual.” It also requires admitting, “we were wrong.” That can be hard, but if we can simply say, “Sorry, I was wrong,” the way forward opens.

In Conclusion

Adults are not thinking about children nearly as much as you might believe.

It is today’s children who will build the future.

The role of adults should be to create a society where children can dream, feel safe, and take on challenges.

If we fail in that responsibility, and instead allow adult self-satisfaction and desire to come first, then true **hope** will never grow in our society.

I strongly feel that we must start by committing ourselves, as adults, to seriously pursuing what is truly **meaningful**.

We want to nurture as many people as possible who can learn, think, decide, and act for themselves in this turbulent era. For that, we must be willing to embrace bold change and endure trials.

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