

「女王が亡くなったね」。妻が九月八日の夕方帰宅するなり言った。不意を突かれた私はしばらく声が出なかった。いつも英国王室家族が集うスコットランドのバルモラル城で最後の時を過ごされていたことを知った。

1976年に会社から英国のケンブリッジ大学に留学し、妻と一年半の間、チャーチルカレッジのフラットで暮らした。女王や王族たちの活動は新聞やテレビでよく伝えられており、日本の皇室よりずっと活動的だと感じていた。女王 Elizabeth の i はイとウの中間音で、私にはうまく発音できない。彼女は五十歳で私の母より五歳若く、王子のチャールズは私より一つ上で同年代家族という親近感があった。

当時の学生たちには、「王室は金持ちということだよ」と冷めたコメントをする人が多かった。77年の Silver Jubilee のパレードを見にロンドンに行った話にしても、「楽しみによかったね」くらいの反応だった。また、第二次大戦の影響で英国民に未だ反日感情が残っていた。英国王室では、特にフィリップ殿下の叔父マウントバテン卿の反日感情は収まっていなかった。しかし、75年の女王訪日を経て、一般の国民レベルでも反日感情をむき出しにすることはなくなっていた。このことには女王の影響が大きかったと思う。

その頃の英国には目立つ女性が三人いた。女王、保守党（当時は野党）のサッチャー党首、BBCキャスターのリットンである。みんな能力・容姿とも恵まれた人たちだったが、女王の自然に溢れだす気品は誰にもまねができなかった。最近の女王は、あの頃よりずっといぶん気さくに振舞われている。職場にいた英国人の若者も絶賛していた。王室が支持されるため、変わろうと決心されたのだろう。

英国には国歌や愛国歌の類が五つあり、BBC Proms（プロムナードコンサート）などに集まった人々が全員で歌うのは羨ましい。十一月十一日の Remembrance Day で戦没者追悼式に女王が参加される場合は彼女も「I Vow to Thee, My Country」を歌われる。ただ、当然だが「God Save the Queen」は当事者である女王は歌われない。

天国ではどんな歌を歌われるのだろうか。

England National Anthems including Patriotic Songs

<p>God Save the Queen Arranged by Thomas Augustine Arne/1745 1. God save our gracious Queen, Long live our noble Queen, God save the Queen: Send her victorious, Happy and glorious, Long to reign over us; God save the Queen. 2. O Lord our God arise, Scatter her enemies, And make them fall: Confound their politics, Frustrate their knavish tricks, On thee our hopes we fix: God save us all. 3. Thy choicest gifts in store, On her be pleased to pour; Long may she reign: May she defend our laws, And ever give us cause To sing with heart and voice God save the Queen. 4. Not in this land alone, But be God's mercies known, From shore to shore! Lord make the nations see, That men should brothers be, And form one family, The wide world over. 5. From every latent foe, From the assassins blow, God save the Queen! O'er her thine arm extend, For Britain's sake defend, Our mother, princess, and friend, God save the Queen! 6. Lord grant that Marshal Wade May by thy mighty aid Victory bring. May he sedition hush, And like a torrent rush, Rebellious Scots to crush. God save the King!</p>	<p>Land of Hope and Glory Composed by Sir Edward William Elgar 1902 Lyrics by Arthur Christopher Benson. Solo Dear Land of Hope, thy hope is crowned, God make thee mightier yet! On Sov'ran brows, beloved, renowned, Once more thy crown is set. Thine equal laws, by Freedom gained, Have ruled thee well and long; By Freedom gained, by Truth maintained, Thine Empire shall be strong. Chorus Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free, How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee? Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set; God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet, God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet. Solo Thy fame is ancient as the days, As Ocean large and wide: A pride that dares, and heeds not praise, A stern and silent pride; Not that false joy that dreams content With what our sires have won; The blood a hero sire hath spent Still nerves a hero son. Jerusalem Composed by Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry/1916 Lyrics by William Blake/1757-1827 1. And did those feet in ancient time. Walk upon England's mountains green: And was the holy Lamb of God, On England's pleasant pastures seen! And did the Countenance Divine, Shine forth upon our clouded hills? And was Jerusalem builded here, Among these dark Satanic Mills?</p>	<p>2. Bring me my Bow of burning gold; Bring me my Arrows of desire: Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold! Bring me my Chariot of fire! I will not cease from Mental Fight, Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand: Till we have built Jerusalem, In England's green & pleasant Land Rule, Britannia! Composed by Thomas Arne in 1740 Lyrics by James Thomson 1. When Britain first, at Heaven's command Arose from out the azure main; This was the charter of the land, And guardian angels sang this strain: <refrain> "Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves: "Britons never never never shall be slaves." 2. The nations, not so blest as thee, Shall in their turns, to tyrants fall; While thou shalt flourish great and free, The dread and envy of them all. <refrain> 3. Still more majestic shalt thou rise, More dreadful from each foreign stroke; As the loud blast that tears the skies, Serves but to root thy native oak. <refrain> 4. Thee haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame: All their attempts to bend thee down, Will but arouse thy generous flame; But work their woe, and thy renown. <refrain> Will but arouse thy generous flame; But work their woe, and thy renown. <refrain> 5. To thee belongs the rural reign; Thy cities shall with commerce shine: All thine shall be the subject main, And every shore it circles thine. <refrain></p>	<p>6. The Muses, still with freedom found, Shall to thy happy coast repair; Blest Isle! With matchless Beauty crown'd, And manly hearts to guard the fair. <refrain> I Vow to Thee, My Country Composed by Gustav Theodore Holst Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering; And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase, And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace. Lyrics by Cecil Spring-Rice 1908 1. I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above, Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love; The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test, That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best; The love that never falters, the love that pays the price, The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice. 3. And there's another country, I've heard of long ago, Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know; We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;</p>
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