

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

Friendship is often tested not in times of comfort but in moments of failure. In ancient China, two men—one ambitious yet often unsuccessful, the other patient and perceptive—showed what true loyalty means. While many dismissed the man who stumbled in his political career, his companion recognized a hidden talent and refused to abandon him. Later, when circumstances placed the failed man in danger, his friend pleaded for his life and even urged a ruler to entrust him with great responsibility. That trust was rewarded: the once-failed man guided the state to prosperity, and his success was inseparable from the steadfast faith of his friend. This very story is remembered in Chinese tradition as the origin of the idiom describing unbreakable friendship between Guan and Bao.

The story strikes us as familiar with the eternal truth that genuine friendship rests not on profit or convenience but on deep trust and long-term vision. <sup>(1)</sup>It also reminds us that happiness more lasting than wealth and power steady friendship brings when, hidden beneath failure and misunderstanding, a true heart is at last revealed, not least because loyalty, when most doubted, shines brightest, and with this reminder—that faith is proven by endurance rather than by ease—we recognize its timeless force.

<sup>(2)</sup>It further impresses upon us the truth that in our modern lives appear fragile and transactional the kind of relationships which seem to thrive only on convenience and self-interest, and nowhere is the value of loyalty tested, more severely betrayed by false companions who disappear in adversity. Yet there are rare friendships which, though shaken by hardship, still endure with a strength that no circumstance can break. And with this lesson—that authentic friendship can shape not only personal lives but also the destiny of nations—we see how relevant the story remains today.

語注

注

Guan Zhong(管仲)「グァンヂョン」

- 春秋時代の齊の宰相(?～紀元前 645 年)。

- 鮑叔牙の推挙によって宰相となり、齊を強国へと導いた。

Bao Shuya(鮑叔牙)「バオシューヤ」

- 春秋時代の齊の政治家。管仲の親友。
- 人々が管仲を非難しても、彼だけはその能力を信じ、宰相に推挙した。

Q1.

Translate the underlined part (1) into Japanese.

Q2.

Translate the underlined part (2) into Japanese.

Q3.

In the passage above, the importance of friendship that does not waver even in adversity is discussed. What do you think about such friendship? Write your own opinion in English in about 80-100 words.