

【Suggestion of reading again】

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

I have received good reviews for my last introduction of favorite books and I would like to show you some impressive books I read this year.

This autumn I visited Hachijojima Island to which Hideie Ukita, who built Okayama Castle, was exiled after the Battle of Sekigahara. Nanae Shimada's 『宇喜多秀家の松』 (Ukita Hideie no Matsu: A pine of Hideie Ukita) is the book I read again before the visiting.

Also, I happened to find 『漂流』 (Hyoryu: Drifting) by Akira Yoshimura. This is a nonfiction story about Chohei, who was a sailor. He suffered shipwreck and drifted to Torishima Island of the Izu Islands. After that he moved to Aogashima Island and Hachijojima Island by himself and finally returned to his hometown, Tosa. I was impressed by this book and I also read 『高熱隧道』 (Konetsu Suido: Tunnel of high heat) and it is also the best book ever.

『平城京』 (Heijo-kyo) by Ryutaro Abe is my hit in the books I found from advertisement in the newspaper. I was moved and continued to read 『風の如く 水の如く』 (Kaze-no-gotoku, Mizu-no-gotoku: Like a wind, like a water) and 『関ヶ原連判状』 (Sekigahara Renpanjo: A covenant under joint signature of Sekigahara).

These made me reconsider what generals are and their thoughts I have known. The story made sense to me. By the way, I have 『レオン氏郷』 (Leon Ujihira) now.

Kenichi Kawakami, who received the Joji Tsubota Prize, came to Okayama City Hall the other day. Before that, I read 『翼はいつまでも』 (Tsubasa-ha-itsumademo: A wing forever) received the Prize in the bullet train and it was so interesting that three hours and a half flew by.

I'm also interested in 『トッピング』 (Topping), the new book which is set in Hokan-cho Shopping Arcade in Okayama City.

In the same type of field, 『神去なあなあ日常』(Kamusari naanaa nichijo: The easy life in Kamusari) by Shiwon Miura depicts the truth of forestry and it is very fun to read. One of the unforgettable books is 『下町ロケット ガウディ計画』 (Shitamachi Rocket Gaudi Keikaku: Downtown Rocket Gaudi Plan) and 『下町ロケット ゴースト』 (Shitamachi Rocket Ghost: Downtown Rocket Ghost) by Jun Itoda which was aired on TV at the year end.

I also read 『流転の海』 (Ruten-no-Umi: Wandering Sea) by Teru Miyamoto recommended by various people by media. I have finished reading the 4<sup>th</sup> volume now but he brilliantly depicts the historical background and unique people. I felt nostalgic when I read again 『深夜特急 (1～6)』 (Shinya Tokkyu 1 - 6: Midnight Express 1 - 6) by Kotaro Sawaki which has the same historical background in “Ruten no Umi”.

As for history book that I'm interested in, I thought it was interesting to read 『仕事に効く教養としての「世界史」』 (Shigotoni-kiku-kyoyo-toshiteno-“Sekaishi”: “World History” as education that works in business) by Haruaki Deguchi to see Japanese history from the perspective of the world. I continued to read 『世界史のなかの昭和史』 (Sekaishi-no-nakano-Showashi: History of the Showa period in the World History) by Kazutoshi Hando. I started to feel a little tired but I read 『昭和の怪物 七つの謎』 (Showa-no-kaibutsu Nanatsu-no-nazo: Monsters of the Showa period, 7 mysteries) by Masayasu Hosaka which is about history of Showa period. This book depicts Ms. Kazuko Watanabe, a daughter of Jotaro Watanabe who was killed at February 26 Incident, and the former president of Notre Dame Seishin University.

I like the unique world of Naoki Momota who wrote 『日本国紀』 (Nihonkokuki: History of Japan). I never get tired of reading books and columns by Michifumi Isoda, Kozo Kaku, and Kazuto Hongo.

These are the books that I think they are interesting and I hope you will pick up some books to read from my list.

Lastly, I sincerely wish you all a wonderful new year and good health.