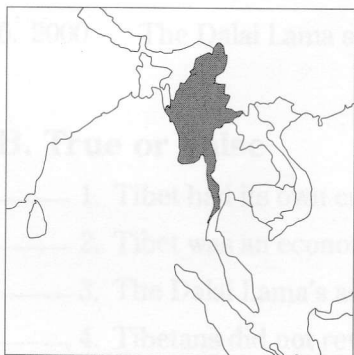


Aung San Suu Kyi and “Burma”

姓がないのは不思議ではない

ノーベル平和賞のミャンマーの女性の正式な名前はスーチーである。これは彼女自身の名、つまりギブン・ネームであって、姓はない。名前のつけ方にも洋の東西で違い、宗教で異なり、地域の習慣によってまたいろいろなのである。名前のつけ方が違うということから文化的に劣るとはいえない。スーチーはいま一般的になっているミャンマーという国名を拒否している。その国情を考える。



ミャンマー

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi's real name is just Suu Kyi. Following the tradition of Southeast Asian countries, the people of Myanmar have only a given name and no family name. But, since there are so many people named Suu Kyi, she is called Aung San Suu Kyi, “Suu Kyi, the daughter of Aung San.” Her father, Aung San, was a national hero and one of the founders of the nation.

Suu Kyi refuses to accept the name of her country, Myanmar, because she does not recognize the present military government. The military took control of the nation and changed the name from Burma to Myanmar. The conditions in this country are complicated. Suu Kyi, the chief secretary of the largest opposition party in this country, has been fighting an uncompromising battle against the government for years. The military leaders put her under house arrest, totally ignoring her human rights.

When her British husband had cancer and did not have long to live, he applied for an entry visa to see his wife for the last time, but the military government refused to issue his visa. Her husband passed away toward the end of 1999 in Oxford, with their two sons at his bedside. He was never able to see his wife again before his death. The military regime told Suu Kyi that she could go to the U.K. to visit her husband, but she knew that once she left the country, she would not be allowed to return and be politically active. Therefore, she chose to stay under house arrest despite her difficult family circumstances.

One of the major minority groups in Myanmar is the Karen tribe. Suu Kyi sup-