

# East Africa, the Origin of Mankind

## ネグロイドへの偏見は根拠がない

サルが進化して初めて人類になったのは東アフリカであったと考えられている。その人類がそこから世界各地へ進出し、行きついた地域に順応していった。中東へ、そしてアジアへ行った人類は、太陽光線がアフリカほどは強くないことから頭髪が直毛になり、皮膚は黄色になっていった。欧州へ行った人類は、頭髪が南部では黒い直毛に、中部では褐色に、北部では太陽光線が少ないので金髪になった、と考える説が有力である。

Gently rolling prairies are filled with herds of giraffes, zebras and gnus peacefully grazing. But hidden in the tall grass, lions and hyenas are waiting for the chance to attack their prey. Scenes like this have not changed for the last 100,000 years in East African nations like Tanzania. The only change is that the volcanoes that can be seen from Lake Victoria were emitting smoke in the past. 5

In 1959, Mary D. Leakey discovered a 1,750,000-year-old fossil of a pithecanthropus tooth and upper jaw in the Olduvai Gorge that runs through the savannah. Some 30 years had already passed since her husband started research in that ravine. The pair drew the conclusion that those fossils were early pithecanthropus fossils. Two years later, they discovered a different kind of fossil with a much bigger cerebral capacity. 10 They also discovered stone implements from the same layer. The two announced that this zinjanthropus must have come from the oldest human race that used stone implements.

Many fossils of pithecanthropus and other human ancestors have been found in the East African countries of Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Therefore, we can say that 15 East Africa is the home of the human race. The fossils found there are much older than those found in Beijing, Java and Heidelberg.

Despite the long history of humans living in Africa, there are almost no artifacts. Conversely, abundant artifacts are readily found in the Eurasian Continent. Europeans pointed to this fact and called Africa "The Dark Continent" which inferred 20 that Africa had no civilization or history. Of course, East Africa has history and civilization, but the people living there did not have a written language to record it and pass it on to future generations. In addition, their houses had only thatched roofs and grass walls that did not last long.