

**What can I do for Tohoku?  
Don't Forget and Never Give Up**

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There is a clock at the Nobiru station in Higashimatsushima city where I lived. The clock stopped with its hands pointing at two forty-six. When we look around, there are fallen big trees, broken house , and a heap of rubble. The train that would be sure to come never comes and there is no person.

When I say so, do you understand why that clock stopped, when that clock stopped, why no train comes?

These are due to the East Japan Big Earthquake. The time, two forty-six, was exactly when the earthquake happened.

As everybody knows, the earthquake caused a lot of damages and it is one of the biggest one in history. But what I want to tell everybody today is not the number of broken houses, missing people and dead people. What I really want to tell is how we should catch victim's feelings and how we should be going to live in the future.

When one week or more passed from the earthquake, I met my uncle who lived in Ishinomaki. After the earthquake, I was not able to contact him for six days. He is miraculously alive though I had guessed the worst result. He is a person who spent one night only seeing the sea. I thought he was weakened. But, he said in a loud voice when he found me. "Nana! You're safe! Life is wonderful! We can do anything if we are alive! Fight Ishinomaki! Fight Higashimatsushima! Fight Nana!" And then, he showed the big smile to me. To tell the truth I was astonished. I thought the harder life one lives, the more courageous he can be. These are the people who are more suffered from the earthquake. His smile seemed to tell who will fight for us, if we don't make big efforts?

The victims have a lot stronger minds than the others think. He said again "It's a miracle for our acquaintances not to die even one person. This earthquake took away a lot of things. But on the other hand, it left a lot of things too. What do you know is left? It's a heart, "heart for loving life". We are kept alive by chance. So, all the people who are alive now like us have to keep alive under any condition.

When I complained about the severe life after the earthquake, my best friend said "Do you forget our password? "Don't forget! Never give up!" It's our password

isn't it?" We have been making efforts with this password at any time.

There were so many people who can no longer make effort for anything, although they had been making efforts or would want to make efforts. The study which you find hard and bothering is maybe the one which a victim wanted to do. "Now" that we are living is "Now" that victims wanted to live. Each person has many things to do now. And we can do them now. So, we should do them as hard as we can.

The landscape around the Nobiru station hasn't been changed so much since the earthquake. The clock still stopped and houses and trees are scattered. But there is one change. The paper written "Let's restore the beautiful Nobiru again." is put on the wall with colorful characters. The flowers are in blossom as if there was life only around the paper. The clock will surely begin to work again. If we don't forget and never give up!