

能性と不可能性とが分裂的に並存しているという点だ。したがって、“The Soul of Man under Socialism”における二番目の意味での soul は、実現不可能でありながらも目指されるべき理想であると言えるだろう。このような、実現不可能でありながらも目指されるべき理想としての、内面と外面の一致・調和という主題は、“The Critic as Artist”や *De Profundis* にも見られる。そして注目すべきは、“The Soul of Man under Socialism”において、二番目の意味での soul、すなわち、内面と外面の綜合・調和という到達不可能な理想が、社会主義の彼方に実現されるべき、新たな個人主義 the new Individualism と呼ばれている点である。つまり、ワイルドの場合は、内面と外面が綜合・調和されたとしても、ヘーゲルのように、絶対精神や理念といった一般性の中に個人が解消されてしまうことがなく、個人は個人のままであり続ける、ということだ。したがって、ワイルドが思い描くユートピアとは、諸個人がその個別性 particularity あるいは特異性 singularity を否定し一般性の中で融合する社会ではなく、個人が個人のまま、内面と外面を綜合し、二番目の意味での soul を実現する社会であると解釈できる。それは、言いかえると、諸個人が個々の特異性を解き放ち、soul を手に入れる社会である。確かにこうした社会はユートピアであり、また、ワイルドはこうしたユートピアに近づくための具体的な処方箋を示してもいい。しかし、このような、実現不可能であるけれども目指されるべき理念、カントの言う統整的理念を持たなければ、この理念に近づくための具体策も生み出せないのでないか。21世紀に入って間もない現在、リベラル民主主義型の資本主義が一人勝ちし、社会システム全体を変革することはもはや不可能だというシニシズムが世界中に蔓延しているように思える。また、これと同時に、民族、国家、家族そして「魂」といった伝統的概念が反動的な意味を帯びて復活しつつある。しかし、これまでみてきたように、ワイルドの言う「魂」が、こうした復古的な意味での魂に鋭く対立するものであることは言うまでもない。私たちは、ワイルドのテクストにおける「魂」、「新たな個人主義」という概念を以上のように読み直すことによって、シニシズムの誘惑と復古主義の圧力に抵抗するための足場を築くことができるのではないだろうか。

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