

# The Original Manuscript of Takashi Nagai's Funeral Address at a Mass for the victims of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb

Tetsuro KONISHI

永井隆の「原子爆弾死者合同葬弔辞」手稿

小西哲郎

## 概要

「原爆は神の摂理」という物議をかもした永井隆の思想は、被爆死者合同慰霊祭（1945年11月23日、浦上天主堂）での彼の弔辞ではじめて公にされた。この弔辞の手稿は長崎市上野町の長崎市永井隆記念館に保存・展示されている。この弔辞は修正の後、彼の主著『長崎の鐘』（1949年）に再録されたが、手稿と『長崎の鐘』に再録されたものとは、弔辞の内容にちがいがあつた。本論ではこの手稿の全文を英語訳をそえて公開し、その『長崎の鐘』版とのちがいをあきらかにする。

## Keywords:

Takashi Nagai, Funeral Address, The Bells of Nagasaki

Three months after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in August 1945 a memorial mass for the victims of the bombing was held at the ruined Urakami Cathedral. It took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, and was celebrated by Bishop Wasaburo Urakawa in the presence of about 600 local Catholics who had survived the bombing and who were holding about 8,000 small white crosses that represented the victims. At the end of the mass Takashi Nagai, whose head was bandaged and who was dressed in rags, delivered a funeral address as a representative for the congregation in a tearful voice. The touching speech so moved the congregation that all of them cried bitterly.<sup>1</sup>

The funeral address was modified and included in *Nagasaki no Kane (The Bells of Nagasaki)*, hereafter *The Bells*) published in 1949, forming a significant chapter entitled *Gosha no Kyaku (Visitors to My Hut)*, where Nagai expresses his unique and controversial view that the atomic bombing of Urakami was an act of divine providence. After the publication of the book, Nagai's views on the atomic bombing of Nagasaki went on to have a considerable influence on the anti-nuclear movement in Nagasaki. They have also been the subject of vigorous discussion over several decades.

The funeral address as it appears in *The Bells* differs from Nagai's original manuscript in various ways. Shinji Takahashi, Nagai's sharpest critic, makes reference to this fact in his 1994 work *Death and Life in the Nuclear Age: Philosophizing in Nagasaki*:

I could check the manuscript of the funeral address ... handwritten with a pencil by Takashi Nagai himself. Though I found a considerable amount of difference between the original and the printed work,

I cannot describe it in detail now because there is no room for discussion here.<sup>2</sup>

These differences remain undiscussed, however, and little attention has been given to them until now. There has been no study on them until today. As a result, discussions of Nagai's ideas have taken as their starting point Nagai's remarks in his published work, not those in his original manuscript.

It is important to go back to the original and to be aware of the differences so that this information may inform future research. The original manuscript of this address, which is housed at the Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum<sup>3</sup> in Nagasaki, has never appeared either in print or online before now. This article reproduces the original manuscript in full and provides an accompanying English translation. It then examines the differences between the original manuscript and the version which appeared in Nagai's famous work *The Bells*. Through this comparison, the following conclusions were drawn:

- 1) About half of the original funeral address was included in *The Bells*.
- 2) The part derived from the original funeral address accounts for about three fifths of the funeral address in *The Bells*.
- 3) Though Nagai changed the original funeral address to make it appropriate for the book, his main ideas on the atomic bombing of Nagasaki have been preserved.

## **1. Photocopies of Nagai's original manuscript together with transcripts**

In the following eight figures, Nagai's original manuscript is shown in photocopies which have subsequently been transcribed by the author as accurately as possible. The manuscript is handwritten in pen on four sheets, and has been preserved in its entirety.

原子爆彈死者合同葬弔辞

昭和二十年八月九日午前十時三十分カラ大本營ニ於テ戦争最高指導  
會議ガ開カレ抗戰力終戦力ヲ決定スルコトニナリマシタ。コノ會議ノ結  
果ニ日本ノ運命ヲミナラズ世界ノ運命ガ力カツテキマシタ。世界ニ  
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運命ノ岐路ニ世界ガ立ツテキタ時。即チ午前十一時二分一發ノ  
原子爆彈ハ吾ガ浦上ノ中心ニ爆裂シ信者八千ノ靈魂ハ  
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ソノ日ノ眞夜半浦上天主堂ハ突然火ヲ發シテ炎上シマシ  
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天皇陛下ガ軍部ノ強硬ナル抗戰論ヲ押ヘ世界平和ノ  
為ニ終戦ノ聖斷ヲ下シ給ウタノデゴザイマス。

八月十五日終戦ノ大詔ガ發セラレ世界遍ク平和ノ朝ヲ  
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吾浦上ノ天主堂モ亦特ニ聖母ニ獻ゲラレタモノデアアルコトヲ想イ出シマス。  
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附近ヲ狙ツタ原子爆彈ガ天候ノタメ北方ニ偏リ浦上ノ  
シカモ天主堂ノ眞正面ニ流レ落ちタト云フ事實ヤ、此原子  
爆彈を最后トシテ地上何處ニモ戦闘ノ起ラナカツタト云フ事實  
ナドヲ併セ考ヘマスルナラバ浦上潰滅ト終戦トノ間ニ深イ關係

Figure 1.1. The first sheet of Nagai's manuscript

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Figure 1.2. The first sheet of Nagai's manuscript in type

在ルコトニ氣附クデアリマセウ。即チ、世界戦争ト云フ人類ノ罪  
ノ償ヒトシテ浦上教会ガ犠牲ノ祭壇ニ供ヘラレタノデアル、イト潔キ  
羔トシテ選バレ屠ラレ燃ヤサレタノデアルト私共ハ信ジタイノデ  
アリマス。

アダム・エワガ智恵ノ木ノ実ヲ盗シテ罪ト、弟ヲ打殺シタカイン  
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タメニハ世界人類ガ深ク其罪ヲ悔イ改メルバカリデナク、適當ナ  
犠牲ヲ天主ニ獻ゲテオ詫ビヲセネバナリマセンデシタ。コレマデ  
ウチニ幾度カ終戦ノ機会ハアリ、爆撃ニヨリ全滅シタ都市モマタ  
幾ラモアリマシタガシカシソレハ犠牲トシテフサハシクナカツタカラ  
天主ハ未ダコレヲ容レ給ハナカツタノデアリマセウ。然ルニ浦上  
教会ヲ挙ゲテ獻ゲタ時始メテ天主ハコレヲ善シトシテ容レ給ヒ、  
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コノ天主堂ノ大前ニ立テラレタル大イナル燔祭ヨ

Figure 1.3. The second sheet of Nagai's manuscript

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コノ天主堂ノ大前ニ立テラレタル大イナル燔祭ヨ

Figure 1.4. The second sheet of Nagai's manuscript in type

悲シノ極ミノウチニモ私共ハソレヲ美シキモノ、潔キモノ、善  
キモノヨト仰ギ見タノデゴザイマス。  
西田神父様、玉屋神父様、純心や常清ノ童貞様、宿老様、教方  
様、十字会ノ姉様、親戚、友達、ウチノ者……誰ヲ思ヒ出シ  
テモ善イ人バカリ……シカモフクレ饅頭ノ祝日ノタメニ  
告解ヲ済マシ或ハ礼明ヲ終エテキタアナタ方デアリマシタカラ  
八千人オ揃ヒデ天国行キノ雲ニ乗セラレタコト思ツテキマス。  
敗戦ヲ知ラズニ此世ヲ去ツタアナタ方コソ幸福デアルト云ハ  
ネバナリマセン。潔キ羔トシテ天主ノ御手ニ抱カレテキルアナタ方  
ニ比ベテ、生残ツタ私共ハ何トイフ哀レナ惨メナ者デセウカ  
日本ハ負ケマシタ。浦上ハ全クノ廢墟デス。見ユル限りハヒロビロト  
唯灰ト瓦。住ムニ家無ク、着ル衣ナク、薯烟モ荒レ果テ  
耕ス人モナシ。大事ナ働キ手ダツタアナタ方ヲ失ツタ私共僅  
カバカリノ遺族ハ唯ボンヤリ焼跡ニ立チ迫リ来ル雪空ヲ  
仰イデ祈リヲササゲテキルノデス。アノ日、アノ時アナタ方ト  
ナゼ一緒ニ死ネナカツタノデセウカ。ナゼコンナ惨メナ敗残者ト  
シテ生残ラネバナライノデセウカ。  
今コソシミジミ私ノ罪ノ深サヲ知ラサレマシタ。私共ハマダ償ヒ  
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キイタメニ祭壇ニ供エラレナカツタノデアリマセウ。  
私共ガコレカラ歩マネバナラヌ敗戦国民トシテノ道ハ眞ニ悲惨デアリ  
苦難ニ満チタモノデアアルニ違ヒアリマセン。又ポツダム宣言ニ基キ  
私共ニ課セラル賠償ハ実ニ大キナ重荷デアリマス。コノ重荷  
ヲ負ウテ行クコノ苦難ノ道コソ然シナガラ私共ノ罪ノ償ヲ  
果タスコトデキル希望ノ道デアリマスマイカ？福ナルカナ

Figure 1.5. The third sheet of Nagai's manuscript

Figure 1.6. The third sheet of Nagai's manuscript in type

泣く人、彼等ハ慰メラルベケレバナリ。コノ御言葉ヲ信ジ天国  
ニ容レラレル喜ビヲ予期シツツコノ苦難ノ道ヲ私共ハ正直  
ニ、ゴマカサズニ進ンデユカウト思ヒマス。嘲ケラレ、罵ラレ、  
鞭打タレ、汗ヲ流シ、血ニマミレ、飢エ渴キツツ私共ガ賠償ノ重荷  
ヲ擔ヒ行ク時、カノカルバリオノ丘ニ十字架ヲ擔ヒ登リ給ヒシ  
吾主イエズス・キリストハ必ズ私共ヲ勇氣ヅケテ下サルデセウ。  
ドウカ特別ノ勇氣ヲ弱キ私共ニ賜ハリマスル様、聖母ノ御取次  
ニヨリ天主ニ御願ヒ下サイマセ。

本日ハ長崎教区主催ニテアナタ方ノタメニ、此浦上天主堂ノ  
廢墟ニ於テ合同葬ガ営マレ仙台浦川司教様ノ歌ミサト赦  
祷式トガアゲラレマシタ。浦上出身ノ司教様、神父様、童貞様  
ガ日本中カラ歸リ来ラレ八千本ノ十字架ヲカカゲル二千名  
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ミニヨリコノ御ミサノ功德ニヨリ、煉獄ノ火ニ淨メラレテ早く  
天国ヘ昇ツテ下サイ。

アア、全智全能ノ天主ノ御業ハ常ニ讚美セラルベキカナ！  
浦上教会ガ世界中ヨリ選バレ燔祭ニ供ヘラレタコトヲ感謝  
致シマセウ。浦上教会ノ犠牲ニヨリテ世界ニ平和ガ恢  
復セラレ、日本ニ信仰ノ自由ガ與ヘラレタコトヲ感謝致シマ  
セウ。

希ハクハ死セル人々ノ靈魂天主ノ御哀憐ニヨリテ  
安ラカニ憩ハンコトヲ アーメン

天主公教浦上信者代表  
パウロ 永井隆  
謹白

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安ラカニ憩ハンコトヲ アーメン

天主公教浦上信者代表  
パウロ 永井隆  
謹白

Figure 1.8. The fourth sheet of Nagai's manuscript in type

## 2. English translation of Nagai's original manuscript

The following is the English translation of Nagai's original manuscript. The vocabularies of the translation are taken from the English translation of *The Bells of Nagasaki* by William Johnston as far as possible.

### Funeral Address for the Victims of the Atomic Bomb

On August 9, 1945, from 10:30 A.M. a meeting of the Supreme Council of War was held at the Imperial Headquarters to decide whether Japan should continue to wage war or put an end to war. The destiny not only of Japan but of the world depended upon this meeting. At that moment the world was at a crossroads. A decision was being made that would either bring about a new and lasting peace or throw the human family into further cruel bloodshed and carnage.

And just at that same time, at two minutes past eleven in the morning, an atomic bomb exploded over the centre of our district of Urakami in Nagasaki. In an instant, eight thousand Christians were called into the hands of God, while in a moment the fierce flames reduced to ashes this sacred territory of the East.

At midnight of that same night the Urakami cathedral suddenly burst into flames and was burned to the ground. And exactly at that time in the Imperial Palace, His Majesty the Emperor, resisting the strong opposition of the military authorities who insisted upon waging war, made known his sacred decision to bring the war to an end in the cause of world peace.

On August 15, the Imperial Rescript which put an end to the fighting was formally promulgated, and the whole world welcomed a day of peace. This day was indeed the great feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary also. It is significant to reflect that Japan is a country dedicated to the Virgin Mary and our Urakami Cathedral was especially dedicated to her also. And we must ask if this convergence of events --- the ending of the war and the celebration of her feast ---- was merely coincidental or if there was here some mysterious providence of God.

You can realize that there was a profound relationship between the destruction of Urakami and the end of the war if you take account of the following things: the atomic bomb was originally destined for the prefectural offices at the centre of Nagasaki. But because of weather conditions, wind carried the plane north to Urakami and the bomb exploded above the cathedral there. Moreover, after the bombing of Nagasaki no more battles took place anywhere in the world. In other words, we want to believe that Urakami church was chosen not as a victim but as a pure lamb, to be slaughtered and burned on the altar of sacrifice to expiate the sins committed by humanity in the Second World War.

The human family has inherited the sin of Adam and Eve who ate the fruit of the forbidden tree; we have inherited the sin of Cain who struck his younger brother to death; we have forgotten that we are children of God during this Second World War; we have disobeyed the law of love. We have hated one another; we have killed one another. And now at last we have brought this war to an end, which has lasted fifteen years since the Mukden Incident in 1931. But in order to restore peace to the world it was not sufficient to repent deeply for the actions of humanity. We had to obtain God's pardon through the offering of

a great sacrifice.

Before this moment there were many opportunities to end the war. Many cities had been totally destroyed by bombings. But these were not suitable sacrifices; nor did God accept them. Only when the whole church of Urakami was destroyed did God accept the sacrifice gladly. Hearing the cry of the human family, He must have inspired the Emperor to issue the sacred decree by which the war was brought to an end. To put the matter in a different way, we want to believe that only the sacrificial victim of Urakami could bring the war to an end; by this sacrifice billions who would otherwise have fallen victim to the ravages of war have been saved.

The church of Urakami kept the true faith during four hundred years of persecution when religion was proscribed in our country and the blood of many martyrs flowed freely. The church survived persecutions under both Toyotomi and the Tokugawa shogunate. It has also endured oppression by the military and the government as well as by ordinary citizens since the Meiji era. Were the Christians in Urakami not, then, chosen from all over the world, unblemished lambs that had to be offered on the altar of God?

How noble, how splendid was that holocaust of August 9<sup>th</sup>, when flames soared up from the cathedral, dispelling the darkness of war and bringing the light of peace! In the very depth of our grief we reverently saw here something beautiful, something pure, something good.

I remember all of you, the dead: Father Nishida, Father Tamaya, the Sisters of Junshin convent and Josei convent, elders, teachers, the Sisters of Jujikai convent, our relatives, our friends and our family... All without exception were good people whom we deeply mourn. Furthermore, because all eight thousand of you had finished your confession and examination of conscience already in preparation for the Assumption of Mary, you should have gone up to heaven on board the clouds all together.

We may say that you who left this world without knowing the defeat of your country are happier than we. Compared with you, the pure lambs who rest in the bosom of God, what a pitiful and miserable people we who have survived are! Japan is conquered. Urakami is totally destroyed. A waste of ash and rubble alone lies everywhere before our eyes. We have no houses to live in, no clothes to wear. Our potato fields are devastated without anyone to plough them. Only we, remnants who lost you, our breadwinners, have survived. We offer our prayers standing in the midst of the ruins, looking blankly at the snowy sky changing its appearance.

Why could we not die with you on that day, at that time? Why must we alone continue this miserable existence?

Now indeed I have been forced to see the enormity of my sins. It is because we have not made expiation for our sins that we are left behind. We were so deeply rooted in sin that we were likely not offered to God.

We, a vanquished people, must now walk along a path that will be full of suffering and pain. The reparations imposed by the Potsdam Declaration are a heavy burden. But this painful path along which we walk carrying our burden --- is it not also the path of hope which gives to us sinners an opportunity to expiate our sins?

"Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted." We believe these words. We hope that we will go joyfully to heaven someday. Until that day we would like to walk this painful way of expiation

faithfully and sincerely. And as we walk carrying the burden of our reparations in hunger and thirst, ridiculed, penalized, scourged, pouring with sweat and covered with blood, let us remember how our Lord Jesus Christ carried His cross to the hill of Calvary. He will give us courage. Please ask God to give us great courage in our weakness through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

Today we have attended the funeral mass for you the victims under the sponsorship of Nagasaki Archdiocese here at the ruined Urakami Cathedral. The mass cantata and the absolutio ad tumbam were celebrated by Bishop Wasaburo Urakawa of the Diocese of Sendai. Bishops, Parish Priests and Sisters who are from Nagasaki have come back here from all over Japan and have been praying with us to God for mercy. Together with these two thousand members of the victims' families, who hold eight thousand small white crosses, we pray that through God's mercy and by the merits obtained through this mass, you will be purified by purgatorial fire and quickly go to heaven.

Praise God Almighty for every work He has done! Let us give thanks that Urakami church was chosen from throughout the world to be a sacrifice burned whole on the altar. Let us give thanks that through this sacrifice of Urakami peace was restored in the world and freedom of religion was given to Japan.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

### 3. Nagai's funeral address in *The Bells* compared to the original manuscript

The following is Nagai's funeral address as it appears in the first edition of *The Bells* published in 1949. Shaded sections indicate the part in common with the original manuscript. Although a different Japanese writing system is being used by Nagai, this is not counted as a difference. I have added small roman numerals at the start of each sentence.

#### 原子爆弾合同葬弔辞

<sup>i</sup> 昭和二十年八月九日午前十時三十分 ころ 大本營に於て戦争最高指導会議が開かれ 降伏か 抗戦かを決定することになりました。<sup>ii</sup> 世界に新しい平和をもたらすか、それとも人類を更に悲惨な 血の 戦亂におとし入れるか、運命の岐路に世界が立っていた時刻、即ち午前十一時二分、一発の原子爆弾は吾が浦上に爆裂し、カトリック 信者八千の靈魂は一瞬に天主の御手に召され、猛火は 数時間にして 東洋の聖地を灰の廢墟と化し去つたのであります。

<sup>iii</sup> その日の眞夜半天主堂は突然火を発して炎上しましたが、これと 全く時刻を同じうして大本營に於ては天皇陛下が終戦の聖断を下し給うたのでございます。<sup>iv</sup> 八月十五日終戦の大詔が発せられ、世界あまねく平和の 日を 迎えたのでありますが、この日は聖母の被昇天の大祝日に当つておりました。<sup>v</sup> 浦上天主堂 が 聖母に献げられたものであることを 思い出します。<sup>vi</sup> これらの事件の 奇しき一致は果して單なる偶然でありましょうか？ <sup>vii</sup> それとも天主の妙なる攝理でありましょうか？

<sup>viii</sup> 日本の戦力に止めを刺すべき最後の 原子爆弾 は元來他の某都市に予定されてあつたのが、その都市の上空は雲にとざされてあつたため直接照準爆撃が出来ず、突然予定を変更して予備目標たりし長崎に落すこととなつたのであり、しかも投下時に雲と風とのため軍需工場を 狙つた のが少

し北方に偏つて天主堂の正面に流れ落ちたのだという話をききました。<sup>ix</sup> もしもこれが事実であれば、米軍の飛行士は浦上を狙つたのではなく、神の攝理によつて爆弾がこの地点にもち來らされたものと解釈されないこともありますまい。

<sup>x</sup> 終戦と浦上潰滅との間に深い関係がありはしないか。<sup>xi</sup> 世界大戦争という人類の罪惡の償いとして日本唯一の聖地浦上が犠牲の祭壇に屠られ燃やさるべき潔き羔として選ばれたのではないのでしょうか？

<sup>xii</sup> 智恵の木の実を盗んだアダム の罪と、弟を殺したカインの血とを承け傳えた人類が同じ神の子でありながら偶像を信じ愛の掟にそむき、互に憎み互に殺しあつて喜んでいた此の大罪惡を終結し、平和を迎える爲にはただ單に後悔するのみでなく、適当な犠牲を献げて神にお詫びをせねばならないでしょう。<sup>xiii</sup> これまで幾度も終戦の機会はあつたし、全滅した都市も少くありませんでしたが、それは犠牲としてふさわしくなかつたから、神は未だこれを善しと容れ給わなかつたのでありましょう。<sup>xiv</sup> 然るに浦上 が屠られた瞬間始めて神はこれを受け納め給ひ、人類の詫びをきき、忽ち天皇陛下に天啓を垂れ終戦の聖断を下させ給うたのであります。

<sup>xv</sup> 信仰の自由なき日本に於て迫害の下四百年殉教の血にまみれつつ信仰を守り通し、戦争中も永遠の平和に対する祈りを朝夕絶やさなかつたわが浦上教会こそ神の祭壇に献げらるべき唯一の潔き羔ではなかつたでしょうか。<sup>xvi</sup> この羔の犠牲によつて、今後更に戦禍を蒙る筈であつた幾千万の人々が救われたのであります。<sup>xvii</sup> 戦乱の闇まさに終り平和の光さし出づる八月九日、此の天主堂の大前に焰をあげたる嗚呼大いなる燔祭よ！<sup>xviii</sup> 悲しみの極みのうちにも私らはそれをあな美し、あな潔し、あな尊しと仰ぎみたのでございます。<sup>xix</sup> 汚れなき煙と燃えて天国に昇りゆき給ひし主任司祭をはじめ八千の靈魂！<sup>xx</sup> 誰を想い出しても善い人ばかり。

<sup>xxi</sup> 敗戦を知らず世を去り給ひし人の幸よ。<sup>xxii</sup> 潔き羔として神の御胸にやすらう靈魂の幸よ。<sup>xxiii</sup> それにくらべて生残つた私らのみじめさ。<sup>xxiv</sup> 日本は負けました。<sup>xxv</sup> 浦上は全くの廢墟です。<sup>xxvi</sup> みゆる限りは灰と瓦。<sup>xxvii</sup> 家なく衣なく食なく、畑は荒れ人は尠なし。<sup>xxviii</sup> ほんやり焼跡に立つて空を眺めている二人或は三人の群。

<sup>xxix</sup> あの日あの時この家で、なぜ一緒に死ななかつたのでしょうか。<sup>xxx</sup> なぜ私らのみ、斯様な悲惨な生活をせねばならぬのでしょうか。<sup>xxxi</sup> 私らは罪人だからでした。<sup>xxxii</sup> 今こそしみじみ己が罪の深さを知らされます。<sup>xxxiii</sup> 私は償いを果たしていなかつたから残されたのです。<sup>xxxiv</sup> 余りにも罪の汚れの多き者のみが、神の祭壇に供えらる資格なしとして選り遺されたのであります。

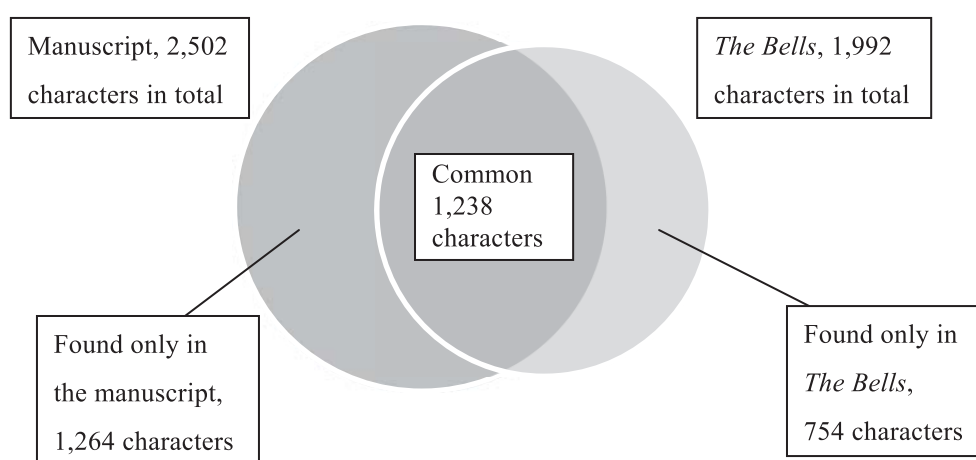
<sup>xxxv</sup> 日本人がこれから歩まねばならぬ敗戦国民の道は苦難と悲惨にみちたものであり、ポツダム宣言によつて課せられる賠償は誠に大きな重荷であります。<sup>xxxvi</sup> この重荷を負い行くこの苦難の道こそ罪人吾等に償いも果たす機会を与える希望への道ではありますまいか。

<sup>xxxvii</sup> 福なるかな泣く人、彼等は慰めらるべければなり。<sup>xxxviii</sup> 私らはこの賠償の道を正直に、ごまかさずに歩みゆかねばなりません。<sup>xxxix</sup> 嘲けられ、罵られ、鞭打たれ、汗を流し、血にまみれ、飢え渴きつつこの道をゆくとき、カルワリオの丘に十字架を担ぎ登り給ひしキリストは私共に勇氣をつけて下さいましょう。

<sup>xi</sup> 主與え給い、主取り給う。<sup>xii</sup> 主の御名は 讃美せられ よかし。<sup>xiii</sup> 浦上が選ばれて燔祭に供えられたる事を感謝致します。<sup>xiiii</sup> この貴い 犠牲によりて世界に平和が 再來し、日本に信仰の自由が 許可されたことを 感謝致します。

<sup>xliv</sup> 希わくば死せる人々の靈魂天主の御哀憐によりて安らかに憩わんことを アーメン

While the original manuscript of the address consists of 2,502 characters, the address in *The Bells* consists of 1,992 not including punctuation marks. The characters common to both amount to 1,238. Thus, roughly speaking, half of the original manuscript was included in *The Bells*. The common part consists three fifths of the address as it appears in *The Bells*. Therefore we can say that the address in *The Bells* differs significantly from the address in the original manuscript. This is shown via the following diagram:



### 3. Changes in *The Bells*

As you can see from part two of this essay, there are many variations in the funeral address of *The Bells* excluding the prayer for the victims at the end of the address. In this final section I take a closer look at the changes in the text.

The reasons for the changes may be categorized as follows:

- 1) Political reasons
- 2) Theological reasons
- 3) Modifications
- 4) Corrections

Now let us take a look at each category individually.

#### 3.1 Political reasons

*The Bells* was published in January 1949 while Japan was still under American occupation. Between September 1945 and October 1949, published material was subject to strict censorship. Publications which contained information concerning military matters were especially tightly controlled.

In this category something like emphasis on the victory of allied forces or removal of the active role of Japanese emperor in the decision of ending war are included. For example, “whether Japan should continue to wage war or put an end to war” in the sentence i was replaced by “whether Japan should capitulate or continue to wage war.” It is notable that the word “capitulation”, which might give a sense of superiority of the winner, that is the occupation army, was used instead of “putting an end to war”, which have little sense of being conquered.

The deletion of the following sentence that had been after the sentence i is also one of the case: “The destiny not only of Japan but of the world depended upon this meeting.” One of the reason of this deletion seems to modify the rather exaggerated way of speaking. However by this deletion the description of the positive role of the Japanese military leaders in the decision of ending war was likely to be removed.

The deletion “in the cause of world peace, resisting the strong opposition of the military authorities who insisted to wage war” from the sentence iii seems to be made by the same reason.

### 3.2 Theological reasons

Some changes have been introduced for theological reasons. For example, the insertion “have believed in idols” to sentence xii. This addition gives the address a more explicitly religious tone by putting stress on the sin of human beings. The insertion of sentence xxxi, “It is because we are sinners” also has the same effect.

The sentence xl, “The Lord has given: the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord!” is another case which can be categorized here. By including these lines from Job 1.21, Nagai strengthens his argument that the atomic bombing was an act of divine providence. It was God, not human beings, who dropped the bomb, according to Nagai. This is therefore a significant addition, because it lends theological weight to Nagai's argument.

### 3.3 Modifications

There are some changes in the funeral address in *The Bells* that seem like modifications. Because the original funeral address was delivered before a particular audience, i.e. the victims' families, priests and nuns, as well as the wider Catholic community of Nagasaki, it contains some details that were meant especially for this audience. Such details are not important when published to be read by general readers, many of whom were non-Christians assumed to be, so Nagai seems to delete these details. For example, the deletion of sentences xix, xx, and after xxxix, where he refers to local people or things specific to Catholics in Nagasaki, can be categorized here.

In passing, let us point out that “kashikokumo”, a supreme honorific generally used before the names of the Emperor and his family, was deleted from the sentence iii. In other words, it was deleted from before “Tenno-heika” (His Majesty the Emperor). This change might reflect the situation after “Ningen-sengen” (Humanity Declaration) on 1 January 1946 issued by Emperor Hirohito, where he denied the idea that he was a living god.

### 3.4 Corrections

We can say that some corrections were made because of simple mistakes. For example, the sentences viii-x, where Nagai explained how the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, were changed greatly. Nagai might later have heard the details of how the bomb was dropped and got other information about how the war ended. It is well known today that there was a limited battle in Okinawa and on some southern islands sporadically after 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945, when Emperor Hirohito made a declaration of defeat via radio across the Empire of Japan. Nagai seems to have corrected the original manuscript in an effort to ensure historical accuracy. What is more, it is notable that he made sure that these corrections still fitted with his idea that the bomb was an act of divine providence.

The deletion of “Japan was a country dedicated to the Virgin Mary” from the beginning of sentence v could also be categorized here.

From what has been discussed above, we can draw the following conclusions:

- 1) The funeral address in the original manuscript has slightly different emphases to the address in *The Bells*.
- 2) Though Nagai modified the original funeral address when preparing it for publication, his main ideas on the atomic bombing on Nagasaki have been preserved. In *The Bells*, we can witness the development and refinement of these ideas.

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Catholic Urakami Church, 1983. Although Nagai claims in his funeral address that the number of attendants was two thousand, this website states that it was only 600.
- <sup>2</sup> Takahashi 1994, 198. This book was the first critique of Nagai's work to receive serious scholarly attention.
- <sup>3</sup> Acknowledgement: By the courtesy of Tokusaburo Nagai, the director of Nagai Takashi's Memorial Museum, the author is permitted to use the photocopies of the manuscript. The author also thanks him for helping him decipher the handwriting of the manuscript.

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