

<Japanese Proverbs> *Shitashiki naka ni mo reigi ari* “Even intimates should be polite with each other”

This proverb means that even people who have a very close relationship should be polite to each other.

When we have just met someone and we are beginning to get to know them, we are somewhat reserved with that person.

At first, we might feel some resistance towards telling the person about ourselves, or towards asking them for something. In some cases it may be difficult to speak to the person, because we think about their feelings and choose our words carefully.

However, as we become closer to the person, we become able to speak openly about our own feelings. The other person also opens up and talks about themselves, and our understanding of the person deepens. A sense of ease develops between us; each of us knows that the other will forgive us over little things.

It is a wonderful thing to develop this kind of comfortable relationship with another person. However, in some cases we may become too comfortable, and unintentionally forget to consider the other person’s feelings or their perspective on things. As a consequence, our behavior may cause problems in our relationship with that person.

This proverb tells us that to prevent this, no matter how close we become with someone, we should never forget to be polite and reasonable with that

にほんのことにわざと一親しき中にも礼儀あり

「仲の良い間柄でも礼儀は守らなければならぬ」という意味のことわざです。

誰かと知り合いになっても、交際が始まってすぐは相手に対して遠慮する気持ちが働くものではないかと思えます。

最初は自分の個人的なことを相手に話したり、相手に何かを頼んだりすることも抵抗があるでしょう。相手の立場を考へて言葉遣いに気をつけるあまり喋りにくいという場合もあります。

しかしだんだんその相手と親密になり打ち解けると、自分の気持ちを率直に話したりできるようになります。また相手も自分に心を開いて自身のことを話してくれるようになると、その人への理解も深まります。そしてお互いに少々のことなら相手は自分を許してくれるだろうという安心感も生まれることでしょう。

person.

Having said that, if you are always nothing but polite, your relationship will become overly formal. It is difficult to find a balance, but just remember that what you should do is try to always think about things from the other person's perspective.

そのような居心地の良い関係を他人と築けることはとても幸せなことです。一方、安心感の度が過ぎ、うっかり相手の気持ちや立場に対する気づきに欠けるふるまいをしてしまって、それが原因で相手との関係が悪くなってしまうことがあります。

このことわざは「そうならないように、どれほど親しい相手であっても礼儀を忘れず、節度を守りましょう」と諭しています。

とはいえ礼儀ばかり気にすると堅苦しくなってしまうし、そのバランスは難しいものですが、いつも相手の立場に立って物事を考えられるように心がけたいものです。