

LESSON NOTES

Yojijukugo #14

Don't Be Like This!

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
前途多難	ぜんとたなん	zento tanan	to be in for a lot of trouble up ahead
他力本願	たりきほんがん	tariki hongan	to rely on others

GRAMMAR

Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(1)	前途多難
Kana	ぜんとたなん
Romaji	zentotanan
Meaning	to be in for a lot of trouble up ahead

	1st Kanji	2nd Kanji	3rd Kanji	4th Kanji
四字熟語	前	途	多	難
Kana	ぜん	と	た	なん
Rōmaji	Zen	To	Ta	Nan
Meaning	In front	Way	Many	Trouble

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「前途」: It means "in one's (own) way."

「多難」: It means "a lot of trouble."

The opposite expression is *zento yōyō* (前途洋洋), which means "have a great future ahead" or "promise well." *Yō* (洋) means "ocean" and *yōyō* (洋洋) means a "wide stretch of water."

Usage

It is used as a *na*-adjective, like *zento tanan na* (前途多難な) or *--wa zento tanan da* (~は前途多難だ). When it's used as a prenominal modifier like [*zento tanan na*] + [noun], it is usually followed by a noun meaning "to start" like *shuppatsu* (出発) or *sutāto* (スタート) as in *zento tanan na shuppatsu* (前途多難な出発) or *zento tanan na sutāto* (前途多難なスタート).

Sample Sentences

飛行機の出発が5時間も遅れ、前途多難な出発になった。

Hikōki no shuppatsu ga 5-jikan mo okure, zento tanan na shuppatsu ni natta.

The plane's departure delayed for five hours. It was a rocky start.

ガソリンの値段がさらに上がった。自動車業界は前途多難だ。

Gasorin no nedan ga sara ni agatta. Jidōsha gyōkai wa zento tanan da.

The price of gasoline was raised again. The car industry has a lot of trouble ahead.

やっと問題がひとつ解決した。でも、まだまだ前途多難だ。

Yatto mondai ga hitotsu kaiketsu shita. Demo mada mada zento tanan da.

I finally took care of a problem. But there are still a lot of troubles ahead.

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Today's Yojjukugo(四字熟語)(2)

他力本願

Kana

たりきほんがん

Romaji

tarikihongan

Meaning

to rely, depend on others

1st Kanji

2nd Kanji

3rd Kanji

4th Kanji

四字熟語

他

力

本

願

Kana

た

りき

ほん

がん

Rōmaji

Ta

Riki

Hon

Gan

History, Definition, Similar Expressions, etc.

「他力」: It means "powers by others," but it originally meant "the Buddha's power," related to Buddhism.

「本願」: It literally means "real wish," and it originally meant "the Buddha's wish for people get into paradise."

This expression originated from a Buddhist word meaning "people can go to paradise by the power of Buddha." It came to mean "to rely on others without making any effort."

Usage

This is used as a noun indicating that a person relies on others instead of making an effort for him or herself. It can also be used as a *na*-adjective to modify a noun, as in *tarikihongan na hito*; a person who is relying on others."

Sample Sentences

毎朝、友達に電話で起こしてもらっているのか。そんな他力本願はだめだぞ。

Maiasa, tomodachi ni denwa de okoshite moratte iru no ka. Sonna tarikihongan wa dame da zo.

You receive a wakeup call from your friend every morning? You should not rely on others like that.

あなたは、旅行の計画を全部私に任せて、他力本願よね。

Anata wa, ryokō no keikaku o zenbu watashi ni makasete, tarikihongan yo ne.

You are always relying on others. You left the travel planning up to me and you didn't do anything.

彼は、人に頼ってばかりの他力本願な男だ。

Kare wa, hito ni tayotte bakari no tarikihongan na otoko da.

He is always relying on others.