福島大　2012年

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次の英文を読み，下の設問に答えなさい。(4)以外は日本語で答えること。

One important thing that makes us human, one thing we have that separates us from all other species on our planet, has been noted by psychologists and biologists. It’s not the fact that we have a language to communicate with ―― other animals, such as birds, whales, dolphins, even bees, have sophisticated signaling systems. (a)What distinguishes us most is one thing no other animals do: *art*. And it’s not just the existence of art, but the centrality of it. Humans have demonstrated a powerful drive toward making art of all different kinds ―― representational and abstract, static and dynamic, creations that employ space, time, sight, sound, and movement.

Our urge toward artistic expression shows up in cave paintings, and decorations on otherwise solely practical items, such as thirty-thousand-year-old water pitchers. Some of the earliest cave paintings show human dancing. The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, in its 1911 edition, stated that poetry had “as much an effect upon human destiny as... the discovery of the use of fire.” Equating poetry with fire is both metaphorically satisfying and dramatic. But are we meant to believe that poetry actually had such a profound effect on the course of human events? *Britannica* argues just this ―― that poetry has changed history, started and stopped wars, recorded the history of humankind, and changed people’s minds about the course of their lives.

Apart from signaling creativity and the ability to engage in abstract thinking, the development of the artistic (poetic, musical, dancing, and painting) brain allowed for the metaphorical communication of passion and emotion. Metaphor allows us to explain things to people in indirect ways, sometimes avoiding confrontation, sometimes helping another to see that which she has difficulty understanding. Art allows us to focus another’s attention on aspects of a feeling or a perception (b)that he might not otherwise see, literally framing the point of interest in a way that it becomes separated from a background of competing ideas or perceptions.

The auditory arts of music and poetry hold a privileged position in human history, and we see this reflected in our own time in neurological case studies. Individuals suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, may lose the ability to recognize faces, even of people they’ve known their entire lives. They may lose the ability to recognize simple objects such as hairbrushes or forks. But many of these same patients can still recite poetry by heart, and sing songs that they knew as children. Verse ―― whether spoken or sung ―― appears to be deeply encoded in the human brain. Many artists throughout history have felt an overwhelming drive to write music and poetry, on battlefields, in prisons, on their deathbeds. We write and recite music and poetry not because it feels good, but because those ancestors of ours for whom it felt good are the ones who survived. We are a musical, poetic, and artistic species today just as our ancestors were, going back tens of thousands of years.

【Adapted from Daniel J. Levitin, “The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature,” Plume (2009), pp. 20-22】

[注]

centrality：重要性 representational：具象主義の

neurological：神経系の Alzheimer’s disease：アルツハイマー病

be encoded：刻み込まれている

[設問]

(1) 下線部(a)を訳しなさい。

(2) 100年前のブリタニカ百科事典は，詩が「火の使用の発見」に匹敵するほどの影響を人類に与えたと述べています。影響の例を挙げなさい。

(3) 比喩表現(metaphor)は①我々が何をすることを可能にしていますか。②その結果，どのようなことが期待できますか。

(4) 次の英語が下線部(b)と同じ意味になるように，( )に単語一語を入れなさい。

… that he might not see ( ) art.

(5) 音楽や詩のような聴覚に訴える芸術が人類の歴史において特権的地位にあると考えられるのは，どのような事例が観察されるからですか。

(6) 我々が音楽や詩を書いたり歌ったりするのはなぜだと著者は述べていますか。