

- Honoré de Balzac -



The artist's life is full of **woe**.// One of the fathers of the novel / as we know it now,/ Honoré de Balzac,/ is most famous for *Père Goriot*.// He produced his **masterpiece** "The Human Comedy,"/ a series nearly 90 novels long,/ and yet he died / before his vision was complete.//

One bookseller in Paris heard of him,/ a young and **promising** new novelist.// He then prepared an offer of 3,000 francs/ (about 63 million yen)/ for his next work.// When he discovered/ Balzac lived in a poor neighborhood,/ and therefore was no **fashionable** gentleman,/ he reduced his offer to 2,000 francs.// Upon arriving at the **residence**,/ he noticed that Balzac lived on the top floor,/ the cheapest room/ in the days before elevators.// The price became 500 francs/ until the bookseller saw/ Balzac dipping his bread in water in his room.// He bought Balzac's next **manuscript** for 300 francs (6 million yen).//

A **thief** once broke into his apartment.// Seeing nothing of value other than a writing desk,/ the thief began to pick the lock thereon.// He heard a laugh from the shadowy **gloom**.// Balzac, awake in his bed,/ had **fixed** him in his **gaze**.// The thief would know why he could laugh,/ and Balzac told him/ he could **naught** but laugh/ at how much **risk** the thief had taken,/ **scrounging** for some money/ in that desk by night,/ when the owner himself/ could find no cash in it by day.//

Balzac —famous, **successful**, and poor—/ married his love,/ whom he had first come to know by letter/ 18 years before.// He died within the year.//

芸術家の人生は苦難に満ちている// 小説の父の一人 / 今日の / オノレ・ド・バルザックは/ 代表作『ゴリオ爺さん』で知られる// 彼は傑作『人間喜劇』を生み出した/ 90編近くの小説から成る / だが彼は世を去った / その構想が完成する前に//

パリのある本屋が彼の噂を耳にした / 若くして有望な作家として// 彼は3,000 フランの契約を準備していた / (約 6,300 万円) / 次の作品に対し// 彼が発見したとき / バルザックが貧しい街に住んでいて / 彼はお洒落な紳士ではないと/ 彼は契約を 2,000 フランに減額した// 住居に到着した途端 / 彼はバルザックが最上階に住んでいることに気付いた / 最も安い部屋だ / エレベーターのない時代では// 契約料は 500 フランになった / 本屋が見るまでは / バルザックが部屋の中でパンを水に浸して食べているのを// 彼はバルザックの次の原稿を 300 フランで買い取った/ (約 600 万円) //

ある時、泥棒が彼のアパートに押し入った// 価値のあるものは書き物机しかないとい見ると/ 泥棒は机の錠をこじ開けようとした// 彼は薄暗がりから笑い声を聞いた// バルザックはベッドで目を覚ましており / 泥棒をじっと見ていた// 泥棒は彼がなぜ笑えたのかをしろろうとし / バルザックは彼に言った / 「笑うしかないね/ 泥棒くんはリスクを冒して/ 金を探している/ 夜中その机に/ 持ち主自身が/ 昼間、金を見つけられんのに//

バルザック —名声も成功も手にしたが貧しかった— は / 恋人と結婚した / 彼は手紙で知り合った / (結婚の) 18年前に// 彼はその一年以内に息を引き取った//

Vocabulary and Phrases

woe	悲惨	gloom	薄暗がり
masterpiece	傑作	fix a gaze	見つめる
promising	有望な	gaze	視線
fashionable	流行の	naught	何もない
residence	住居	risk	危険
manuscript	原稿	scrounging	探し回る
thief	泥棒	successful	成功した

Total Number of words used

: 262 words

Time for 120 wpm

: 131 sec.

Time for 150 wpm

: 105 sec.

Your BEST TIME

: sec.

TIPS

could not but laugh
笑わずにはいられなかった
was naught but a man
結局、ただの人間だった
could (do) naught but laugh
笑うしかなかった

Summary① Fill Blank:

It is hard to be an _____. Balzac was _____ and _____ and poor. A _____ once lowered an offer of 3,000 francs to an offer of _____ when he discovered how desperate Balzac was for _____. A thief once _____, only to be laughed at by Balzac, who thought it funny a man would search at _____ for money that could not be found by _____. He died within a year of his _____.

Summary② Summary(50 -80 words):

Summary③ Sample Answer:

It is hard to be an artist. Balzac was famous and successful and poor. A bookseller once lowered an offer of 3,000 francs to an offer of 300 francs when he discovered how desperate Balzac was for money. A thief once broke into his house, only to be laughed at by Balzac, who thought it funny a man would search at night for money that could not be found by day. He died within a year of his marriage.