

The Belly and the Other Members

In days **long gone**, / all the parts of a man did not work together / as happily as they do now.// Each had a will and a way of its own.// The **members** of the Body / began to **find fault with** the Belly.// It had a lazy, rich, and useless life.// The Belly only waited for food.// They were very busy at work for it.// They served its **beck and call**.// So they made a plan to work together / to cut off its food.//

The Hands would not carry any food to the Mouth.// The Mouth would not take the food.// The Teeth would not **chew** it.// They had not long starved the **Belly** / before they all began, one by one, to grow weak.// The whole Body thinned away.// Then the other members learned / that the Belly also / - heavy and useless as it seemed - / had an important role of its own.//

They could do no more without it, / than it could do without them.// If they would have the Body in a healthy **state**, / they must work together, each in his own way, for the good of all.//

遠い昔、 / 人間のすべての部位が、協力して働いていなかった / 現在ほど喜んで// それぞれ(の部位)に意志があり、それぞれのやり方があった// その体のメンバーは、 / 「腹」に対して**欠点を見出す**(あらを探す)ようになった// 「腹」は怠惰で、豊かで、役立たずの生活をしていた// 「腹」は食べ物を待つだけだった// 彼らは「腹」のために忙しく働いた// 彼らは**その言いなり**になっていた。// そこで、彼らは計画を立て、協力して / その食料を断った//

「手」は食べ物を「口」に運ばない// 「口」は食べ物を受けない// 「歯」は食べ物を**噛まない**// 「腹」を長い間飢えさせることもなく / 全員が一人また一人と弱っていった// 「体」全体がやせ細っていった//
そして、他の所属者は学んだ / 腹にも / - 一見重たくて役立たずと思われていても - / 重要なそれなりの役割があるのだと//

彼らには「腹」がなければやっていけない / 「腹」にも彼らがいなければならぬように// もし「体」を健康な**状態**に保ちたいのであれば、 / 皆のために、それぞれがそれぞれのやり方で、協力し合わなければならない。//

Vocabulary

belly	おなか
long gone	遠い昔
members	メンバー、構成員
fault	欠点
find fault with～	欠点(あら)を～に見出す
at one's beck and call	oneの言いなりである

chew	咀嚼する
state	状態

TIPS ベリーとメンバーズ

イソップ寓話の一説。栄養を受け取るだけのおなか(胃)に対して不満を抱いた体の各部がおなかへ食事を運ぶのをやめてしまうが、結果として他の各部も飢えてしまう。

現代では、協調性やチームとして一人一人の重要な役割について示しています。しかし、以前の権威主義的な(政治的独占)時代においては、中央への権力の方向性を示唆する例でもありました。

In days long _____, all the parts of a man did not _____ as happily as they do now. Each had a _____ and a way of its own. The parts of the Body began to find _____ with the Belly. It had a lazy, rich, and _____ life. The Belly only waited for food. They were _____ at work for it. They served its beck and call. So they made a plan to work together to cut off its food.

The Hands would not _____ any food to the Mouth. The Mouth would not take the food. The Teeth would not chew it. They had not long starved the Belly before they all began, _____, to grow weak. The whole Body thinned away. Then the other parts learned that the Belly also - heavy and useless as it seemed - had an _____ role of its own.

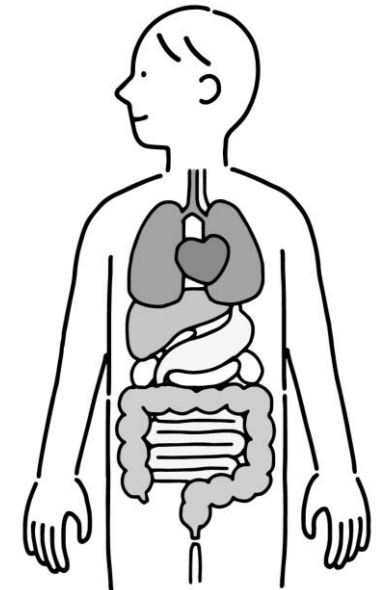
They could do _____ without it, _____ it could do without them. If they would have the Body in a healthy _____, they must work _____, each in his own way, for the good of all.

Question 1: Why did the members dislike the belly?

Question 2: What happens when the members refuse to feed the belly?

Question 3: How must the members work to keep the body alive?

Summarize: (Summarize the story, mentioning the actions of the members, and the results)



***Background knowledge:**

Aesop was an ancient Greek slave. He is famous for compiling or composing a great many fables. Legend has it that Aesop was incredibly ugly, but was gifted the ability to tell stories by a goddess because he was kind to her priestess. He used his ability to embarrass philosophers and kings and peoples. The people of Delphi forced him to jump off a cliff for his imprudent impudence.

***Q&A Sample Answer**

Q1: They think the belly is useless and simply sits around being served all day long.

Q2: Without feeding the belly, the whole body dies.

Q3: All the members must work for the greater good, and help each other out.

***Summary Sample Answer:**

All the parts of the body began to complain that the belly does nothing but be taken care of. So they stopped feeding it, but soon all began to grow weak. They learned that the belly had been an important part which kept them alive all along.