No Pains, No Gains

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Are you working hard every day?　Are you leading your daily life positively?　There is a trend that young people dislike hard work and seek an easier life.　What do you think about that?　Most of my friends don't like having hardship and avoid working hard.　Actually I was no exception.　How about you?　Last year I had the most painful but most important experience in my life.　Through this experience I learned the most important lesson of my life.　So I want you to share in my experience and to think about young people's lifestyles.

I'm a member of the mechanical and electronic club researching robotics and making robots.　Last year two teams of our club took part in the All Kyushu Robot Contest sponsored by NHK.　Last May all the members started considering what kind of robot they should make. We exchanged ideas according to the assignment, which was to make a robot clear four obstacles.　When our captain explained it to us, I couldn't believe my ears.　The fourth obstacle was to make a robot jump rope.　I thought it was absolutely impossible!

We were divided into four groups by each obstacle.　I was responsible for the fourth one, the most difficult one. I went to the library to read books on robotics and considered what kind of robot could clear the obstacle easily and quickly.　I considered from morning till night, all day long.　Every day we exchanged our ideas and had long discussions.　After the best idea for each obstacle was adopted, we started making robots.　We worked together every day.　During the summer vacation we stayed in school and worked long hours.　I was sleepy and exhausted. Finally I ruined my health because of the lack of sleep and overwork.　I had never had such a difficult experience. I tried to quit the club once but reconsidered thinking of my teammates and decided to work hard again.　The last obstacle, a robot's jumping rope, was very difficult, so we had to remake the robot and make minor adjustments again and again.

After countless failures we completed a robot which can jump rope perfectly.　I had never felt so happy in my life.　When the robot jumped rope perfectly in front of us, we were overjoyed.　Tears ran down my face.　This time I could drive all my pains away.

The day of the contest came.　We were very nervous but very confident.　Both teams advanced to the finals. Can you believe it?　Both teams from the same club reached the finals.　It was the most exciting match I had ever seen.　My team beat the other team by a slight difference.　We won the championship.　It was the greatest day in my life.

Why could we win the championship?　It was because all the members cooperated, worked hard together and overcame all the difficulties on the way.　I noticed I could have the most satisfying feeling after overcoming obstacles.　Before I entered college, I had never had such an experience.　So I wanted you to share in my experience today.　I learned that after hard work, hardship, and much effort, come attainment and joy.　What a happy feeling after so much work and difficult problems!　After I graduate from my college, I'll start working in society.　A lot of problems and hardship will await me, but I'll never give up and I'll do my best.　Do you know why?　It's because I know after overcoming hardship comes happiness.

My friends, what do you think of my experience?　I was lucky.　If I hadn't had such an experiecne, I would have continued leading an easier life, would never have had the satisfying feeling of attainment, and wouldn't have learned how to cope with difficulties in my life. If you are still one of the people who avoids hardship and seeks an easier life, why not face difficulty once?　After that a happy feeling of attainment will await you.　If you want to try, I'll give you a well-known saying, "No pains, no gains" as valuable advice for your happy life!

Thank you.