

# The Ties of Mother and Daughter

Mrs. Hatsuyo Matsugami

I was born on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1903. I experienced the bombing when I was 42 years old.

I had been living in Inadamachi for 37 years, but due to the construction of a national road, we had to move by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1945 so we moved to Maruyamamachi.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, I was feeling sick and had been in bed for 2 or 3 days but because I was on vegetable ration duty, I had gotten up and was taking care of my responsibilities. Suddenly with a bright flash, a strong wind blew and then everyone and everything were strewn about on the ground. I ran to a shelter quickly but then, because I was worried about my daughter who had said "I'll go get some of your favorite pears.", I didn't listen to my neighbor who tried to stop me from leaving, and left the shelter to wait for her return at my house. At that time, she had gone to Mogimachi to try to get some pears.

She saw a parachute coming down from up in the sky, and she heard a boom, the sound of an explosion, then tongues of fire flared up. She heard people around her say "Nagasaki is completely destroyed!" and she thought I may not have survived and hurried home. When she got to Tagamimachi, she was surprised to see the people who were evacuating were all covered in blood. She asked "Is Maruyamamachi all right?" they said it was all right but she was still racked with anxiety. When she got to Maruyamamachi, I saw my daughter was safe and she saw her mother was too. "You're alive!" We cried and hugged each other in celebration.

Three days later, I got my friend, who had some broken piece of glass in her face, admitted to hospital and I picked up her things and stored them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of my house. She survived but her husband, who had looked just fine and was seemingly without injury, soon died with radiation sickness.

After the war ended, I didn't feel like living in Maruyamamachi, so I went to look for my old house in Inadamachi, but it had been crushed and destroyed by the bomb blast. All the men were away soldiering and there was no way to repair anything, so I went back to Maruyamamachi and lived there until recently. Maybe because it was far from the center of the explosion, fortunately I didn't get injured, but after a while, I felt sick and by people's recommendation, I went to get a medical check for radiation sickness. My friend's husband, who could be my guarantor, was dead and my friend couldn't be one for some reason, so my registration as an atomic bomb victim was delayed. But a kind doctor understood my situation and he took care of all the bothersome procedures, so I was able to get an official victim's record book.

[Location at Bombing: Maruyamamachi]