

The Lady with the Lamp

Florence Nightingale, a British woman, was born in Italy in 1820 and grew up in Britain. Her family was rich and had several large houses in different parts of Britain. Florence didn't go to school, but instead, her father was her teacher at home.

Florence's parents hoped that she would marry and become a good wife and mother. But, at the age of 17, she had a dream about helping other people. Some years later, she decided to become a nurse. Her parents were angry because they thought it was too hard for their daughter. But Florence finally began working as a nurse in 1853 in a small London hospital. She was 33.

Florence enjoyed her job and worked hard. At that time, Britain was in a war. So, in 1854, she traveled to Turkey* with 38 other nurses to take care of sick and injured soldiers*. She was very kind and friendly to the soldiers, so she soon became very popular. Every night she worked very late. She walked around the hospital with a lamp.

So the men called her "The Lady with the Lamp."

Her story later became famous all over Britain and changed many people's ideas about nurses. Before Florence began working as a nurse, hospitals were dirty, crowded places. She bought beds and clothes for the sick people, and started training* nurses. With Florence's help, hospitals became better places for everyone. After hearing about Florence Nightingale, many young women wanted to become nurses, too.



*Turkey: トルコ

*injured soldier: 負傷した兵士

*train: 養生する