

誠	おい。大型の外車買ったんだって。
憲一	買わないよ。どこにそんな金があると思ってるんだよ。国産で十分じゃないか。
Makoto	Hey! I heard you bought a big foreign car.
Ken'ichi	Not me! Where do you think I'd get that kind of money? A Japanese car will do me fine.

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### Lesson 17 'The wrong end of the stick'

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The other day I answered the phone.

'Ah. Hello?' It was a man's voice. Insistent and a bit rough; one I hadn't heard before.

'Yes?'

I'd hardly replied when 'Thank you. Thank you. I love you. I really do love you.' He sounded just as if he was electioneering or something.

'Ah. I'll just put Mother on', I said.

'What?' he asked in a flurry.

Then Mother took over, and I'm not sure what went on after that because someone came to pick up the washing and I missed what she was saying; and then she waved me away and I went to my room. But when she had finished on the phone, she told me about it. Apparently it was some man who had been on the same panel of editorial writers as her since April. Until recently he had been the main reporter assigned to the Metropolitan Police Board, a top journalist who had won various prizes; but he was hopeless at writing anything and had always got others to do it for him. Now of course, being a leader writer, that wouldn't wash. So Mother, who had the desk next to him, got asked to correct his work for him every time, which she did. Gradually he had convinced himself that she was doing it out of affection for him and he had fallen for her hook, line and sinker, she said.

'He was given a right ticking off by Mother and apparently he's really down in the dumps. Of course for her he's just a colleague. Then he said "Apologies to your daughter." It's all a bit bizarre.'

The two young men kept on laughing out loud.

'What a twit.'

'Well, "apologies": it's just convenient to say.'

'I ask you. A reporter who couldn't write!'

'Not unusual. Types like that. Some university teachers like that too.'

They were really amused.

From Maruya Saiichi, *Onnazakari*.

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3

彼は日本語で話す時まるで女の人のような話し方をするんですよ。

Do you know, when he speaks Japanese, he sounds just like a woman!

彼女はまるで幼馴染みのような態度で接してくるんですが、実は一週間前に知り合ったばかりなのです。

She treats me almost as if we were childhood friends, but actually I only made her acquaintance a week ago.

電話で話していると彼女の日本語はまるで日本人の（の）ようですね。

When I talk to her on the phone, her Japanese seems almost native.

彼は歌舞伎のことなど何も知らないのにまるで通のような口を利く。

He's totally ignorant of *kabuki* and yet he goes on as if he's a pro.

5.1

お手数ですが、読み終わったら送り返していただけますか。

I'm sorry to trouble you but could you possibly send it back when you've finished reading it?

「こんなお金は受け取れません」って突っ返すべきですよ。

You should hand it back immediately and say you can't accept this kind of money.

何度追いつてもお隣さんの猫はうちに入ってくるんですよ。

No matter how often I chase it back, the neighbour's cat keeps on coming in.

5.2

弟はなぐられたらなぐり返す気にいる。

My younger brother is ready to hit back if hit.

主人が息子のことを睨むと息子も負けずに睨み返すんですから驚いてしまいました。

When my husband looked angrily at our son, I was surprised to see him glare back in just the same way.

仕返しをすることばかり考えていないで、なぜ騙されるようなことになったのかも反省してみたらどうですか。

You shouldn't just think of taking revenge; how about reflecting on why you ended up being deceived.

5.3

その部分、もう一度繰り返して下さい。

Please repeat that bit once again.

小説は大人になってから読み返すと子供のころとはずいぶん印象が違うことが多いですね。

When you reread a novel as an adult, you often get a very different impression from when you read it as a child.

もう済んでしまったことなだから何度蒸し返されても僕としてはどうしようもないことぐらい分らないのかな。

It's all finished and done with, so can't you understand that no matter how often it's brought up there's nothing I can do about it.

そんな無理をするとせっかく治りかけていた風邪がぶり返しますよ。

Your cold is finally getting better, but it'll come back again if you push yourself like that.

遅れた分は来週末までに取り返します。

The part that has been delayed I will get by the end of next week.

取り返しのつかないことをしてしまった。

What's done is done. [I've gone and done something irretrievable.]

間もなく小田原に到着致します。小田原到着後は折り返し急行東京行きとなりますので、お間違えないようご注意ください。

We will soon be arriving at Odawara. Please note that this train will then become the next express back to Tōkyō.

## 5.4

議論を混ぜ返すようなことばかり言わないで建設的な意見を出して下さい。

Don't just butt in to the discussion – try and come up with a constructive idea.

父の大切な花瓶をひっくり返して割ってしまった。

I tipped over father's favourite vase and smashed it.

君、そのソックス裏返しじゃないか。

Look. Isn't that sock inside out?

大晦日の成田空港は正月を海外で過ごそうという人々でごった返していた。

Narita airport on New Year's Eve was chaotic with everyone wanting to spend the New Year abroad.

## 8

「はっ。自分が命令を出しました。」

'Yes, I gave the order.'

## (b)

「人のことは何とでも言えるけど、御自分はどうなの？」

You can say what you like about other, but how about you?

## (c)

「あなた、自分で自分の気持ちが分からないの？」

Don't you understand your own feelings?

「自分でもなぜあんなことをしたのか分からないんです。」

I don't even know myself why I did such a thing.

これは先生が御自分で書かれたものです。

This is a piece [of calligraphy] from the master's own hand.

9

頭の中で考えているばかりではあなたの考えを人に理解してもらうことは出来ませんよ。

If you just think about things in your head, you'll never be able to get anyone else to understand what you are thinking.

頭の中で考えてばかりしないで、何か実際にやってみたらどうですか。

Don't just think about things; how about actually trying to do something?

12

その若者のとても信じられないようなずうずうしさにあきれ返って、私はものも言えなかった。

I was so shocked at how unbelievably cheeky that young man was, I was struck dumb.

その寺の境内はしんと静まり返っていた。

The temple grounds were as still as the grave.

大臣になった途端にあの男はふんぞり返っているばかりで、選挙の時の公約などすっかり忘れてしまっているようだ。

The instant he became a Minister he went all arrogant and it would seem that he has completely forgotten all the promises he made at the election.

涙にむせ返る母親をその青年は冷たい目で見ていた。

The young man looked quite unmoved at the sight of his mother, who was choked in tears.

名前を呼ばれたような気がしたので振り返ってみたが誰もいなかった。

I thought that someone had called out my name, but when I turned round there was nobody there.

フランス革命は天地のひっくりかえるような出来事だった。

The French Revolution was an event that turned the whole world upside down.

13.1

(私は) 通訳として首相に同行する。

I will accompany the Prime Minister as an interpreter.

(私は) 医者としての考えを述べた。

I gave my opinion as a doctor.

13.2

ジョン君は一年生としてはずいぶん日本語がうまいですね。

For a first year student, John's Japanese is really good, isn't it?

これは日本のアパートとしてはかなり大きい方ですよ。

For a Japanese apartment, this one is fairly large.

## 13.3

私としてはほうっておくことは出来なかったんです。

And I, I simply couldn't leave it as it was.

間違っていると分かっているけど、彼としてはどうしようもなかったんだよ。

Although he knew that it was wrong, he was simply not in a position to do anything about it.

## 13.4

日本としては韓国との関係にはかなりの重きを置いている。

As for Japan, it does place considerable weight on its relations with Korea.

日本にとっては日韓関係は非常に重要だ。

For Japan, Japanese-Korean relations are very important.

## 14

誰にも言えないことだなんて、ずいぶん深刻そうね。

You say you can't tell anyone. Sounds pretty serious to me.

自分で自分のことが信じられないなんてなさない話だ。

To say you can't trust yourself: that's really pathetic.

一年間日本語を勉強をしたのに「私」という漢字が書けないなんておかしいな。

You've studied Japanese for a year and yet can't write 'watakushi'! Ridiculous!

## 15

「きのう、今話題になっているフランス映画を見に行ったんだけど。」

Yesterday I went to see that French film they're all talking about.

「見た見た、私も。その映画。」

I saw it too. I saw that film.

「何だか人生がいやになっちゃったんだ。」

I feel somehow fed up with life.

「分かる分かる、そういう気持ち。」

I know, I know how you feel.

「いやんなっちゃった。昨日同僚と飲んでたら。急に泣き出すんだもの。」

I don't like it at all. Yesterday I went out drink with my colleague, and he suddenly burst into tears!

「やだよ、そういうの。」

Oh it's awful when that happens.

## 16

紀州の山は今ごろ桜の花ざかりでしょう。

The mountains in Kishū should be covered in spring blossom about now.

子供が二人いたずらざかりなもので一時も目を離すことが出来ません。

My two children are both at their most mischievous; I can't let my eyes off them for a minute.

男の人の五十代というとまだまだ働きざかりですから、お父様は引退などということは考えてもいらっ  
しゃらないでしょう。

A man in his fifties still has all his powers, so father can't possibly be thinking of retirement.

## Lesson 18 Manners

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2

あの政治家は聖人ぶったことをいろいろ言うけど、今度の汚職事件にからんでいるらしいわよ。

That politician says things that make him sound like a saint, but it would appear that he's been  
involved in this recent financial scandal.

彼女、良家のおじょうさんぶってるけど一言口をきくとすぐに化けの皮がはがれるのよね。

She pretends to be 'of good family', but she's only got to open her mouth for the truth to be revealed.

そんなにもったいぶってないで早く教えてよ。

Stop giving yourself airs. Out with it!

3

眠りたい時には眠りたいだけ眠るのが私の健康法です。

To sleep when you want for as long as you want: that's my recipe for good health.

遊びたい年には遊びたいだけ遊ばせるのが伸び伸びした子供を育てることになるのではない  
でしょうか。

Let them play as much as they want when they are that age: isn't that the way to bring up a well-  
balanced child?

5

彼のようないき方でこの問題が解決出来るとはちょっと思えないんですが。

Somehow I can't think this problem will be solved the way he's dealing with it.

羽田空港までの行き方を教えて下さい。

Please show me how to get to Haneda Airport.

6.1

試験に落ちたぐらいでそんなに気を落とすことはないよ。

All that's happened is that you've failed a test; there's no need to feel that desperate.

忙しいのなら無理して出席することはないと思いますがね。

If you're busy, I don't think there's any need to really go out of your way to be present.