

14.3

駅の喫茶店で時間をつぶしている間、父はコーヒーを飲んで母は紅茶を飲んだ。

While filling in time at the station coffee shop, Father drank coffee while Mother drank tea.

子供のころはいつも一緒に遊ぶ仲のよい兄弟だったが、兄が医学の道に進んで、私が小説を書き出しからは会って話をする事もほとんどなくなってしまった。

When we were young we always played together and got on well, but then my elder brother took up medicine and I started writing novels, and since then we've hardly ever managed to get together and talk.

15

政府の高官であるだけにそういう行動は慎んで当然なんじゃありませんか。

He is a high government official so isn't it only to be expected that such activities should be circumscribed?

その批判が的をついているだけに受ける側としては痛いんですよ。

It really hurts to be on the receiving end of such criticism, precisely because it hits the mark.

能力もあるし一生懸命勉強もしていただけに、試験に落ちた時のショックは並大抵のものではなかったんだと思う。

Precisely because he was clever and worked really hard, failing in the exam must have come as a real shock, I shouldn't wonder.

Lesson 20 Who's who?

I

It happened rarely, but one evening I was at home drinking beer upstairs together with Kamei Yūjirō the musician and Sonoda Shūkichi the artist, with the wife serving, when we heard a child's voice downstairs calling for someone. The wife went down and then called me from the stairs. 'It's that woman. She's asking for you.' Apparently she had come as far as the front of the grocer's on the corner and had sent the child over with a message to summon me, she said looking hard and unyielding, her face white with heavy make-up. But, I thought to myself, hadn't it been she herself who, at some stage or other, had seen the woman's photograph and had knowingly suggested I might amuse myself with a little fling. But I couldn't be bothered to say anything, so just shouted down: 'Who the hell cares? I don't care who she's waiting for; if she wants to wait, let her wait!' 'But she's totally shameless. First she sends letter upon letter and now she comes to call you out!' 'Anything wrong?' asked the musician with a serious look on his face, at which my wife plonked herself down and in a bitter tone told them all about the woman

From Uno Chiyo, *Irozange*.

3

田中を議長に推薦することにした。

We've decided to recommend Tanaka as chairman.

初は十七歳で島津家に女中に行った。

Hatsu went to the Shimazu's as a servant girl at the age of seventeen.

4

誰とどこへ行こうと私の勝手でしょ。

Isn't it up to me where I go and who I go with?

結果がよかろうとが悪かろうと私には関係ない。

Whether the results are good or bad has nothing to do with me.

お金があろうとなかろと彼には絶対に頼りたくない。

I don't care whether I've got money or not; I refuse to be reliant on him.

雨が降ろうと風が吹こうとストは決行する。

Whether it rains or blows up a storm, the strike will go ahead.

暑かろうと寒かろうと実験を休むつもりはない。

Whether it's hot or cold, I don't intend to stop the experiment.

5

駅は川の向こう側です。

The station is the other side of the river.

川向こうの村

The village over the river

向こうから来るのはジョン君のお父さんだ。

The man coming this way is John's father.

向こうに着いたらすぐに連絡をします。

I'll be in touch as soon as I get there.

向こうの言っていることも少しは聞いた方がいいと思うが。

Well, I think perhaps we should listen a bit to what they are saying.

向こう六ヶ月はアルコールを控えて下さい。

Please refrain from alcohol for the next six months.

プロを向こうに回して試合を挑んだんだって？

You mean to say he challenged a pro to a match?

はるか向こうに富士山が見える。

You can see Mt Fuji there far in the distance.

向こう向きにすわってテレビを見ているのが弟です。

The one facing the other way and watching TV is my younger brother.

6

自分が一番頭がいいと思っていて人をばかにするったらないのよ、彼は。

He's impossible! Thinking he's the cleverest one around and looks down on me.

彼女、意地が悪かったらないの、人の嫌がるようなことばかり言うんだから。

She's really nasty; she's always saying things to upset me.

山田さんとこの子猫、かわいいたらないのよ。

The kitten at Yamada's place is really cute.

7

約束をしておいて忘れてしまうなんてひどいなあ。

You promised faithfully and then completely forgot – you're terrible.

明日までにどうかお願いしますなんて頼んでおいて出来上がったものを取りにもこないんですからね。

Well, I don't know. He asks me to do all I could to get it by tomorrow and then he doesn't come to pick it up when it's ready.

人からお金を借りておいて期日までに返せないとなるとまるで貸した方が悪いというような顔をしている。

When it came to the point and he realized he could not pay back what he had borrowed on the day we had fixed, he acted as if it was my fault for having lent it to him.

8

来るって言うておいて来ないなんて。

He said he'd come and then didn't. That's really too much!

えっ、コーヒー一杯が千円だなんて。

What? ¥1000 for a cup of coffee? Ridiculous!

彼に全部払わせたなんて。

You mean you got him to pay for the whole lot? Amazing!

10

悲しげな表情

A sadish expression

あの子はまったくかわいげがない。

That child has no winning ways.

問題がありげな話し方でしたね。

The way he talked suggested there were problems.

これには曰くあげですね。

It would seem that there is more than meets the eye here.

そんなおとなげのないことを言うもんじゃない。

Don't say such childish things.

II

'So you didn't sleep with him even once?'

'Sleep with him? We never even held hands', said O-sode. 'I felt it wouldn't be fair to his bride to be and he, being the man he is, felt it wouldn't be fair to either my husband or her. Since we both felt that way, when we were together we felt nothing but pain and frustration'

'Well, I can't make you out. It's beyond me', said O-mitsu, pouring her a drink.

From Yamamoto Shūgorō, *Kokinshū: maki no go*.

12

私の車で事故を起こしておいて弁償を申し出るところかあやまりさえしないんですよ。

She had an accident driving my car; far from offering compensation, she doesn't even say sorry.

簡単な漢字が書けないどころかひらがなさえまともに書けないんですからどうしようもありません。

He's quite hopeless. Not only can't he write the simplest *kanji*; he can't even write *hiragana* properly.

スポーツは一切だめですね。スキーやテニスどころか医者に勧められた散歩さえ億劫なんですから。

I'm hopeless at sport. Never mind skiing or tennis; I even see the walking that my doctor has prescribed as nothing but a bother.

13

どうだい、そっちは。元気？

How are you doing? OK?

人数が多くなると面倒だからあっちはあっちでやってもらおうよ。

When there are too many people around it's a bother, so let's get them to organise themselves.

こちらの感想を言わせてもらおうと君の見方はずいぶん片寄ってると思うな。

If you would allow me to express my own impression, I think you're being very biased.

そちらさまにもおっしゃりたいことはおありかと思いますが今日のところはこれでお引き取りいただけませんか。

I am sure that you have something you wish to say on the subject, but could you perhaps leave alone today.

14

兄の死を知った母は泣くばかりでなぐさめようがありませんでした。

When Mother heard of my elder brother's death, she did nothing but cry and seemed inconsolable.

きのうの晩はあのことが気になっていくら眠ろうとしても目が冴えるばかりだった。

Last night I was so worried about it that I stayed wide awake, no matter how much I tried to get to sleep.

少しばかりですが、どうぞお納め下さい。

It's not much, but please do accept it.

あの子はマンガばかり読んでいる。

That child does nothing but read *manga*.

あの選手はへまばかりしている。

That player keeps on making mistakes.

III

'I heard Masako came yesterday.'

'Did Mother say anything?'

'She commented on how lovely she looked.'

'Is that all?'

'She also said she seemed rather nice.'

'Really?'

'Did I hear you'd promised today to go to the Miyazu's country house?'

'Yes.'

'Mother was worried you might be getting more and more involved.'

'Is she saying I shouldn't?'

'Well it's just that Mother said she didn't think she was the kind of girl who would agree to marry you.'

'Why's that?'

'Well. Are you confident that she would?'

'Let's leave aside the question of confidence; I just find it odd that she's so certain she won't agree.'

'You could equally say it's odd to be so certain that she will.'

'Maybe.'

'Don't you agree?'

'Well no, I don't actually.'

'Well, you're still a student. And they tell me that she's already of marriageable age. She must have had proposals already. Pretty good ones, too.'

'What's that supposed to mean?'

'That's what Mother's worried about. If the worst happened, she's worried you might take it really hard.'

'No need to fret.'

'I told her there was no need either, but you know what a worrier she is.'

From Mushanokōji Saneatsu, *Wakaki hi no omoide*.

15

田舎から出てきた母が地下鉄で迷いはしないかと心配したが、親切な駅員さんに助けられて無事やってきた。

I was worried that my mother, up from the country, would get lost in the underground system, but thanks to the kindness of the station attendants, she arrived safely.

姉の支度がちっとも終わらないので、約束の時間に遅れはしないかと気をもんだ。

My elder sister took so long to get ready that I was really anxious that we might be late for our appointment.

娘は初めてはさみを手にして嬉しそうだったが、私は彼女が今にも指を切るのではないかと気が気でなかった。

My daughter seemed delighted to get her hands on some scissors for the first time, but I was beside myself worrying that she might cut her fingers at any moment.

16

彼は大ジョッキのビールを一気に飲み切った。

He drank a large glass of beer off in one swig.

あの厚い本を二日で読み切るとはたいしたエネルギーですね。

You must have a lot of stamina to read the whole of that thick book in two days.

理屈では納得しても、気持ちの上ではやはり割り切れませんね。

Even though I find it logically convincing, emotionally I still can't accept it.
