

Poetry in Violence

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Based on a true story

Dedicated to Tina Hauser

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1.On a pavement to Yumenoshima. Dusk. EXT.

The sky is opaque with a veil of smog that a city has breathed out during the day. The opalescence of day gradually blurs into a silhouette of a townscape under summer clouds. The noise from a motorway is disorderly, high-pitched speed of vehicles comes and goes on the asphalt and the low-tone of vibrato echoes back from a concrete made flyover.

T and R stand in the front of a zebra crossing. T is carrying a travel cart with photo-equipments inside.

The consciousness that has merged into sweltering heat during the day begins to form mosaics as the city sobers up in the arrival of dusk.

R follows T as a signal changes.

2.Yumenoshima. Time of wolf. EXT.

A promenade leading from the verge of a pavement to the extent of a park grows in a vacuum as T and R step into Yumenoshima.

It is only the seething summer leaves that are vigorous, emitting its colour vivid, in the deserted artificial island.

Twigs and branches spread like spider webs under the foliage, casting a maze in umber on R's sight as R looks at the sky. Ground is naked with a little falling leaves, moss withered and grass sparse.

R makes a grimace in the vastness and feels uneasy.

T

There it is.

T rests the travel cart with photo-equipments inside besides and looks at a tree. Rainbow-coloured ribbons have been put on the twigs can be seen. Bouquets, some remain fresh and some faded its colour, scatter about under the tree. The trunk and some boughs of the young tree are sustained by props.

T

Do you see the card that is hanging on the tree?
Will you translate what is written there for me?

R

I'll have a look.

R bends forward as T points at the card which is hanging on the tree. R nods over as R reads the card. R turns around and looks at T.

R

This sanctuary was set up to pray for those who died under misfortunate circumstances in Yumenoshima, it says.

R glances back trees which have overgrown alongside the promenade. A dried pond can be seen in the middle distance and the rest of the way fades away into a complete darkness as R gazes upon the vanishing point where the promenade leads to.

R

Well, I guess someone committed suicide here. You see those trees providing blind spots and the location, creating an artificial island with reclaimed land of waste in the outskirts of Tokyo...

A silhouette of a man gradually appears from the vanishing point of the promenade. T and R do not notice his presence from the distance.

T

Is this alter something religious?

R

Well, in our mentality it is often believed that the spirits of the dead who died under misfortunate circumstances, such as suicide or accident, can not rest in peace and keep wondering around the world of dimension we live. We pray for the spirits so that the dead may rest in peace.

A fluff begins to float in a breeze and it wavers in the dim light.

T

So, is it something religious then?

R

I'm not sure about those ribbons
'cause it has to be in black,
the colour for mourning but
those ribbons are in rainbow-coloured.

The silhouette of the man can be defined with his frowsy appearance as he moves forward, a man aged around his 60, walking his bicycle, wearing a pair of dark glasses and a whitish vest. T and R still do not notice his presence.

T

I found the alter when I came to Yumenoshima for my previous photo-shoot. I wasn't sure if it's a kind of religious alter or not 'cause it's written in Japanese, you see...so I wanted you to have a look what it could be.

R

It is not a ritual but such respect towards dead I've explained is related to the notion of Buddhism, I would suggest.

T

I see...

The sky is getting overcast and the leaves on the trees begin to rustle in the wind.
The agitated crows caw obnoxiously.
R zips up a jacket in the rising wind.

R

Shall we make a move?
It's getting dark.

T releases the catch of the travel cart with photo-equipments inside.
R puts hands together in prayer with a slight bow towards

the sanctuary.

The leaves on the trees rustle and the fluff curves gracefully as R and T follow its trajectory with their eyes.

A hoarse voice in a sough of trees.

A Blind Man

Can you read me what is written there?

A man wearing a pair of dark glasses rests his hands on the handle of his bicycle, standing on the promenade and talks to T and R who are about to make a move.

T and R turn around as they notice the voice.

R observes the man but tries not to give a suspicious stare at his frowsy look.

A Blind Man

Can you read me what is written there?

'cause I can't see, you see...

A Blind Man awkwardly points at his dark glasses with his finger.

A Blind Man

I know people set up something there
but I can't see. What does it say?

R hesitates for an instance and looks at T who shows a slight discomfort.

A Blind Man

I want to know.

R reluctantly takes a step forward.

A Blind Man rests his bicycle and faces towards R and T but he remains to be in a certain distance from them.

R

Well, this sanctuary was set up to pray for those who died under unfortunate circumstances in Yumenoshima, that's what it says on the card.

A Blind Man nods.

A Blind Man

Does it have any date on it?

R casts a side glance at the card which is hanging on the tree.

R

No, it has no date on it.

A Blind Man

It has no date.

(As if he talks to himself.)

A Blind Man nods and begins to look around restlessly.

A Blind Man

Does it have any name on it?

R

No, it has no name on it.

(Casting a side glance at the card)

A Blind Man

No name, no name.

(He mumbles)

A Blind Man is lost in thought for a while but he suddenly turns around, points his finger to a direction and says,

A Blind Man

Do you see the stone jutting out in the pond?

The big one, it's biiig.

A stone jutting out in the dried pond can be seen in the distance and there is also a bridge across the pond at the back of the stone.

A Blind Man

They tried to build a pond yah,

but they never completed it, terrible...

They should never left the pond with no water.

A Blind Man looks back and forth.

A Blind Man

You see the bridge also?

You can't see what's under the bridge

at the back of the stone.

R looks at T who stands in a few steps behind R.

T stands in still, keeping a certain distance from A Blind Man.

A Blind Man falls silent.

The thunder begins to rumble in the distance.

A Blind Man

When a man sits on the stone, that means he is waiting for homosexuals who come here to look for... (He leaves it ambiguous.)

R catches a breath and begins to observe the surroundings.

A man in his middle 30, quietly sitting alone on a bench in

a corner of a square can be seen. He is wearing a cap, hanging his head and sits stiff. There is also a man casting a glance at the square while roaming on a pavement on his own.

A Blind Man steps forward towards where T and R stand

and then he says.

A Blind Man
Does it say what happened?

R
No, it doesn't say it on the card.

A Blind Man begins to nod nervously.

A Blind Man
Do you know what happened?

R
No, actually we don't.
Anything happened?

A Blind Man falls silent.

A larva crawling in the silence of a spinney.

A Blind Man
I tell you.

A Blind Man wipes the sweat off his forehead.

R
He seems to know what happened in Yumenoshima. Do you mind if I hear him first and then I'll translate it for you.

R signals T with eyes.

T frowns and casts observant eyes on A Blind Man.

A Blind Man
It was three years ago, wait...yah, it was three years ago, I remember. The boy was about his middle 30, a homosexual. He knew or probably heard about what

it means when the man sits on that stone in the night, so he brought himself to Yumenoshima that night.

A Blind man looks around restlessly and he leans forward as he continues.

A Blind Man

The man on the stone was just a decoy. His mate was hiding under the bridge at the back of the stone. Poor boy... how the hell he knew someone was hiding under the bridge.

As A Blind Man continues, he begins to talk in a slightly fervent tone and he keeps looking around restlessly.

A hornet begins to buzz around the larva and the larva writhes under the buzz.

A Blind Man

Well, they both agreed... and when they started having...you know...the accomplice jumped out from under the bridge and locked the boy's arm in a full nelson to rob him of his money.

The hornet stings the larva and fluid oozes from the flesh of the larva.

A Blind Man

The boy didn't have much money in his wallet, anyway.

Blind Man casts a gnomonic stare at R behind his dark glasses as if he examines how much R may carries in a wallet.

Ants begin to swarm around the paralyzed larva as the hornet flies away.

A Blind Man

Poor boy...he was left out in the pond in dark and started to cry for help. Help!

Help! (He imitates) He shouldn't have raised his voice. The robbers were about to leave but they got afraid of the voice to be heard, so they returned to the pond.

As the cluster of ants surrounds and creeps around the paralyzed larva, the larva flounders in the very last moment.

A Blind Man

Wait...where was it he died? in the pond... no, let me try to remember... Yah, they beat up the boy in the pond but he was still alive at that time, so they dragged him down there, yah, just there under the tree.

The cluster of ants gradually drags down the paralyzed larva.

A Blind Man looks around and asks.

A Blind Man

Do you see any props?
Is the tree still sustained by props?

R

Yes, I see the props.

A Blind Man nods.

A Blind Man

Well, there must be piles of unused props left out somewhere over there. There must be some. The robbers knew there were props.

R looks at the direction as A Blind Man suggests with his chin.

A Blind Man

The robbers dragged the boy down alive up to there and beat him with the props to death. Oh, poor boy... It was dreadful when the dead was found under the tree in the morning.

T

What does it mean by Yumenoshima?

T whispers.

In his affected behaviour, A Blind Man becomes impatient to speak.

A Blind Man

A couple of weeks ago, there was another case.

R

That's quite recent.

A Blind Man nods. He turns around towards the opposite direction and points his finger at a grove.

The grove in a haze, darkly flares a veil of melancholy,
the leaves undulate in the silhouette as a wind blowing like notes on a blade of grass, the amber in the eyes of an owl glitters in a blink.

A Blind Man

The man killed himself.

Did you see the site where he hung himself?

A Blind Man points to the direction.

A Blind Man

The rope is still hanging down from the branch on the tree, horrible...

The wind is humid. R's face clouds over as R stares the eyes to see in the dusk.
The silhouette of the trees hangs over on R's sight, vague as ghosts.

A Blind Man

He was in his early 40.

I heard he was running a restaurant
but he was over his head in debt.

He came here the night and hung himself.

A ripened gumi glitters in garnet behind the emerald of summer leaves.

As A Blind Man continues, he begins to talk in a slightly fervent tone with gestures.

A Blind Man

It wasn't raining that night but he brought a raincoat with a hood and somehow he had a black trousers on that night.

Behind his dark glasses, A Blind Man casts a gnomic stare at T's trousers as if he observes the colour of T's trousers when he mentions the one the suicide wore.

A tiger beetle folding jewel like alae on the surface of a tree in jet-black.

A Blind Man

I don't know why but he had a pair of black trousers on that night.

Behind his dark glasses, A Blind Man intently looks at the colour of R's trousers this time.

A black swallowtail rises high up in the air.

A Blind Man

He put his raincoat on but back in front. It's dreadful when one hung himself... the face... but his face was completely veiled with the hood, hanging down from the branch of the tree like a giant teru-teru-bozu!

T

What's Teru-Teru-Bozu?

R

It's a Japanese paper doll hung outside in the hope of bringing fine weather.

A Blind Man looks at the sky and he feels a wind on his cheek. He begins to talk

in a fidgety manner.

A Blind Man

The police brought the body down early in the morning but the dead was heavy, so it took them quite a time to bring the dead down from the tree. The police somehow left the rope as it was. It's still dangling from the branch, horrible. They shouldn't have left it there.

A rustling of feathers at the top of a tree and a bird rises up in the air. T and R turn around.

Magnolia sways its petals in a current of air and scatter around the dim-lit promenade. The petals lay obscure in the growing darkness, guideposts like.

T

What does it mean by Yumenoshima?

R turns around in T's whisper.

The sun is getting low in the sky and there is a lull in a wind.

A moment of tranquility in the air.

R

The island of dreams.

The wind begins to let up in and the rainbow-coloured ribbons on the branches are swaying in the wind as T and R turn around in the absence of A Blind Man.

The atmosphere is opaque with a veil of smog from a motorway alongside Yumenoshima. A silhouette of a landscape blurs into opalescence under the low-hanging clouds.

The noise from a motorway becomes dissonant in the rising wind.

Through a rift between the clouds, a lay of light casts upon the landscape.

