

豆腐泥沼&キルトトラップ、恐怖来襲… 日常の終わりに―…

毎日、普通に帰宅していたのに…

ある日突然、私の家の5階に先生が住んでいることに気づきました。先生は私が気づかないうちに何年も私の家の下に住んでいたのですが、発見した瞬間、すべてがおかしくなったような気がしました。どうしてわかったのか、もしかしたら未来の悪魔が私にメッセージを伝えたのかもしれませんが。

*

もし家に帰ることがあれば、5階にいる彼女を訪ねようと思っていました。そうしたら、エレベーターの中か外にある豆腐の罠に落ちていたかもしれない。

「チェンソーマン」では、人が悪魔を怖がるほど、その悪魔は強くなる。でもここでは、好きだったり、頼ったり、ごく当たり前に思っていることほど、強い魔物なんです。なぜなら、それが人を安心させ、まるで何も問題がないかのように思わせるからです。

その豆腐の魔人、実は先生なんです。豆腐とは全く関係ないんです。むしろ、豆腐の魔人は、どんな四角い場所（豆腐の形）でも豆腐の泥沼、豆腐の沼に変えてしまうのです。例えば、リフト、5*5の土地。そして私は、そういう罠に遭遇したら、必ずその罠に足を踏み入れる。他の人は豆腐じゃなくて、他の素材かもしれないけど。とにかく、自分が落ちるのは小さな四角い地面なんです。それは、あなたが魅了されたり、安心したりする素材です。ここではとりあえず、豆腐の魔人と呼ぶことにする。

だから、長年潜んでいた私のキルトも、悪魔とは気づかなかった。あるいは、掛け布団も四角くて豆腐悪魔の人形と化していたからか。

*

家に帰れないのはわかったけど、どこに逃げればいいのかわからなかった。なぜなら、私の周りには四角い形になるような小さな土地がいろいろあって、そこに一歩足を踏み入れると、豆腐沼になっていたからです。

なるべく遠くへ逃げなければと思い、なぜか環状線になっているバスに乗って帰てきました。

そして、また別のバスに乗り、心の安らぎを感じながら、長い長いドライブになった。終点はある島で、この島が実は私の家のある島から直線距離で5分しか離れていないことに気づいていなかった。

バスの中で、私はその未来のシナリオを想像することを止められず、脳内体験のサイクルを繰り返した。

後日、私が救われた方法は、最後の脳内体験から何事もなく脱出したことだったようです。

家に帰りましたが、四角い地形が全くない道や水道管、屋上などを通して回避することができたので、どうやって脱出したかははっきり忘れてしまいました。

でも重要なのは、それが本当の意味での帰り道ではなかったということです。

それは未来の悪魔が私に与えた選択であり、取引であった。なぜなら、私が常に体験していたのは恐怖の連続だったからです。そして、恐怖から少し解放されることで得られる本当の心の安らぎは、彼が必要とするエネルギーのすべてであり、だから彼は人々に「最後のチャンス」を与えるのです。

このチャンスは、心の安らぎを得る可能性であると同時に、その人がいつまでも拷問を受けている姿を見ることで、最後の一番辛い瞬間よりも長引かせるということでもある。

*

夢のことを話すと、彼女は、すべては未来の悪魔が作り出した幻影である可能性が高いと言った。しかし私は、あの純粋な恐怖、安心感を偽ることはできないと感じていた。それは、未来への真の恐怖を通さなければ、取引はできない、もしかしたら、幻想の悪魔？

豆腐の悪魔

あなたを最も傷つけるものは、最も恐ろしいものではなく、最も信頼できるもの、好感の持てるものになる。

未来の悪魔

この悪魔は人間の無限の想像力と未来への恐怖によってエネルギーを得ているので。安心は武器、一瞬の安心。

Tofu Mire & Blanket Morass, Horror Strikes...
Everyday Life No More—...

I used to go home everyday...

A teacher has been living on the fifth floor of my apartment for quite many years now. I don't know how I knew, but it came to me one day. It all felt so wrong the moment I knew. Perhaps it's a message from the Future Devil.

*

If I return home, I would visit her on the fifth floor. Then, I would fall into an elevator or the tofu morass outside the elevator.

In *Chainsaw Man*, a devil grows stronger as people get more scared of it. Where I live though, the most powerful devil breathes inside the things that we like, trust, become use to. We feel safe and light in them; so much so that they don't even matter at times.

That Tofu Devil is really just a teacher, has nothing to do with tofu. So you see, the name "Tofu" doesn't imply its material, it's rather the shape. The material varies among people. No matter what it is, it's a square field that you will plunge into, something that you're obsessed with or relied on. Let's just call it Tofu Devil. The devil can turn any square-shaped (tofu-shaped) thing into a squared mire or swamp like a 5*5 m² elevator. Well me, would undoubtedly step into it if I encounter such "trap."

So, my blanket, pretending as a blanket for so many years, was actually a devil. I was tricked for so long. Maybe because the blanket was square-shaped, it became Tofu Devil's puppet.

*

I knew I couldn't go home, but I didn't know where else to go. The surroundings were filled with all kinds of small squares. They would turn into pieces of tofu swamps once someone stepped in.

I must run away from home as far as possible. So, I got onto a bus.

I didn't know it was a circular route, so I ended up back where I started.

Then, I took another bus. It kept going for a long time which made me a bit relieved. Unexpectedly, the final stop was an island that was only five minutes away from the island where my home was.

On the bus, I couldn't stop thinking about the future. Looping through my head. Later, it seems that the way I was saved was by experiencing the last successful escape in my mind. I made it back by avoiding all the non-square-shaped landforms, water pipes, rooftops, etc.. I don't remember how I escaped exactly.

But what's really important is not about the actual route to home, is that I never actually went back.

This is a choice given to me by the Future Devil, a deal. The repetitive process was an ongoing experience of fear, followed by moments of relief. That is what the devil needs. So it offers the "last chance" that may bring ease, but also endless torture. Compared to the most painful moment at the end, this was much more perpetual.

*

After I told her about the dream, she said it could all be an illusion created by the Future Devil. Could pure fear or peace be created? It must be traded with the most faithful feeling and committed fear of the future. Is it then an Illusion Devil after all?

Tofu Devil

What hurts you the most is not the most terrifying thing,
only the thing you trusted and liked the most will.

Future Devil

Gain strength through continuous imagination and fear of
the future. Ease is a weapon, a momentary relief.

Chainsaw Man Chapter 84 – 92

A television is shown in the window of a city shop, a news broadcast being displayed on it as the broadcaster begins to read from a script—...

*

Crowd shots are then shown of people out in the streets celebrating Chainsaw Man, chanting his name as the broadcaster tells watchers to go outside and see what was happening themselves, and that everyone should join together to cheer him on.

*

Kishibe leads Denji and Kobeni into an underground safehouse. Kobeni comments on how, having witnessed Makima's attack, she will likely be hunted down, and asks Kishibe if she won't ever be able to contact her family again. He tells her "That's probably so", to which she responds with relief. Denji is surprised.

As the two sit, Kobeni begins to cry, explaining her fears of death and telling Denji that she is jealous of his reincarnation abilities. Denji replies that though he is physically fine, he is an emotional wreck, and is coming to terms with the fact he'd lived his entire life in subservience to others, never making any significant choices of his own. Kobeni responds that such a life - a life full of hardships and unhappiness - is 'normal', stunning him. As he stares at her in shock, he comments on how he wanted to be normal, to which she responds with confusion.

Suddenly, Denji's attention is drawn to a nearby TV, on which news reports discussing the 'Chainsaw Man' are playing. The TV discusses Chainsaw Man's heroic deeds, showing a number of people cheering and celebrating him. Denji watches, in stunned silence, quietly whispering "That's me..." to himself.

Copyist: Theetat Thunkijjanukij
Edition: 100
Format: 15.5 x 25.5 cm
Pages: 120
Year: 2023

The artist does not claim authorship or ownership of the copy. The reprised has been executed for an intensive research purpose.

This project was made possible by the support of Stimuleringsfonds Creative Industries; Experiment Grant Scheme and Stichting Stokroos, the Netherlands.