

求めの政治学
音楽・舞の島

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岩波書店

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The Scurf... If There Ever Was a Reason

translated by Kyoo E. Lee

That moment, the word dies.
Not that time stops,
nor that meaning expires,
as if that could revive a breath,
as if that could smell a life,
that's not it; no, no trace at all.
S C U R F.

"So this scurf, I just wanted to
rub it off."
The father every neighbour is scared of,
a mystery to me the child—why a-pub-ji!
I asked the mother, one day,
how this happened, them getting together.
Well, just because... of

¹ "father" in Korean

this thing stuck in the scruff of the neck, in

a scruffy short-haired chap in an army-surplus jumper,

this white sticky stuff lodged in the back of this man, then a stranger.

No light in the life of the bush fighter,

no light in the solitary confinement of the long-term prisoner,

turned the whole of his body, day after day, into dead skin,

a map of dandruff, white like a graveyard.

Never to be shown to the others,

Every night since the first, this has been going on,

D a n d r u f f,

Rough,

C o m b i t o f f,

This white sticky stuff, these conglutated flakes,

Falling, flying, down and down;

the father sitting motionless, blank-faced, like an infant,

his entire being given up, (a-da², to the mother,

devoid of the power to control his own body, his back.

Every, endless, night, the mother cannot help crying.

² "just like that" or "as it is" in Japanese

This scurly stuff, stuck in here.

This scurly stuff, standing fast.

Like a cherry blossom on an island, moistened by the sea breeze,

like a magnolia blossom impregnated with water,

these white leaves won't leave.

Here is the place where illusion ceases to exist.

No illusion, none whatsoever, can enter here.

Concreteness, this alone remains:

the material remains, neither moving an inch nor carrying a smell,

the white stuff.

A living thing,

is that a death adhering to the living?

a moment of encounter

falling, suddenly into time, like white snow from the heavens?

訳者の Kyoou E. Lee 氏はロンドン大学で学び、現在米国で英文学を講じているコリアン・アメリカンである。本書の著者李静和氏のロンドン滞在中に知己となり、「それはワケのせいなのよ」の英訳に取り組んだ。日本語を知らない Lee 氏のために李氏がまず韓国語に訳し、それをもとに英訳が作られ、両者の検討に付された。(編集部)

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