



Gage in Lunatic Runagate.

# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Aphorism

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考える葦が考えることを止めたのならば、地上は確かに穢れの少ない草原になるだろう。	If thinking reeds stopped thinking, the Earth would surely become a less impure grassland, I guess.
月の民はそれを願うのか。	Do the Lunarians desire that?

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# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/First Chapter

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第一話 賢者の追憶	Chapter 1: The Sage's Recollection
<p>夏を迎えたばかりの幻想郷の夜が、青白く冷たい月の光で包み込まれていた。妖怪にとって月の光は日の光の何倍も眩しく、普段見えない筈の物も照らし出す。</p>	<p>The moon shone down on Gensokyo in early summer, bathing the land in a cool, white light. As moonlight is much brighter than sunlight to youkai, it illuminated things that they were normally unable to see.</p>
<p>こんな夜の妖怪は、月明かりが照らし出す妖怪の道を使って先回りをし、人間を襲うのである。月明かりがあれば妖怪の目にはよく見えるのだが、人間には暗すぎて何も見えない。夜は道も見えず、目の前の物が人間なのか妖怪なのか岩なのか判らないのだ。</p>	<p>On nights like this, the youkai stalk the night paths illuminated by the moon, lying in wait for humans to attack. Youkai can see perfectly by the light of the moon, but humans' eyes are blinded by the darkness. People can't see the path well in the dark, and they can't easily tell if what's standing before them is human, youkai or just a stone.</p>
<p>そんな状態だから通常人間は夜は出歩かない。今夜も幻想郷の殆どの人間は家で大人しくしていた為、空から何かが舞い落ちてきた事に誰も気が付かなかった。</p>	<p>As a result, most humans don't travel at night. And the same as always, most humans were shut tight in their homes, so nobody noticed the mysterious object that fell from the sky at night.</p>



空から舞い落ちてきた物は何だったのだろうか？ 十尋（およそ18メートル）以上はあったと思われる布の様なひらひらの物体は、まるで何処かで見た児童向け創作妖怪の様に空を自由に飛び、やがて神社の方に消えた。

Just what was this thing that fell from the sky? At a distance of ten fathoms (about 20 yards) or more, it would appear to be something fluttering like a piece of cloth, almost like a certain youkai from a story for children, flying freely through the night sky and eventually disappearing over the shrine.



今日は例月祭の日である。例月祭とは、月と地上の距離が最も近くなる満月の日に行う祭りである。この祭りでは団子など丸い物を偽の満月と見立てて、相対的に満月を遠ざける。少しでも満月を遠ざけて、月の使者がやってくる事を防ぐのである。勿論この祭り自体、私が考えて始めた物だ。

Today is the day of the Monthly Lunar Festival. This festival is held on the night when the Earth and the Moon are closest during the full moon at the time. The festival uses round objects, such as dumplings, as fake full moons in a symbolic attempt to keep the full moon far away. If the moon is far away, then the moon's emissaries will stay away, as well. Of course, I was the one who first thought up this festival.



今、庭では兎達が団子を搗いている筈である。その団子には私の指示により様々な薬が混ぜられている。その薬には二つの意味がある。月の兎が搗いている物は、今ではお餅と言われているが本来は薬であるという事と、もう一つは兎達が団子を摘み食いする事を想定したという事である。団子に兎を興奮させる薬が入っている為、予定通り兎が摘み食いをすれば祭は弥が上にも盛り上がるのである。

Now, the rabbits should be in the garden, pounding rice for the dumplings. The dumplings they make have various sorts of medicine mixed into them, according to my directions. This medicine is significant for two reasons. One is that, while we say that the rabbit on the moon pounds rice cakes, they're really making medicine, and the other is it's likely that the rabbits will sneak some of the dumplings into their mouth as they make them. Since the dumplings have medicine in them to make the rabbits more excited, the festival will be all the more lively if they sneak some to eat, as I expect they will.

東の空に光の布が舞い降りてくるのを見たのは、兎達の歌を聴きながら空を眺めていた時だった。その布は青白く光っていた。月の賢者である八意永琳には判っていた。布の光が月の光と同じ波長だった事が。それが月の羽衣である事が。

I first saw the glimmering cloth in the eastern sky while listening to the rabbits' song and gazing at the sky. The cloth shone with a pale light. As the sage of the moon, Eirin Yagokoro, I knew. I knew that the light shone on the same wavelength as the moonlight. That it was, in fact, a lunar veil.



「——失礼します。お師匠様、例月祭は無事終わりました」

"...Excuse me. Master, the festival has ended with no problems."

一匹の兎が私の部屋に入ってきた。鈴仙れいせん・優曇華院・イナバという私の事を師匠と呼ぶ月の兎である。本当の名前はレイセンであるのだが、地上に住むに当たって私が地上人らしく名字を付けてあげたのだ。

One of the rabbits entered my room. Named Reisen Udongein Inaba, she's the moon rabbit who calls me her master. Her real name is just Reisen, but since she lives on Earth now, I gave her a name written in the fashion used by those born on Earth.



彼女は月面戦争から逃げ出してきた兎だったのだが、たまたまこの家に迷い込んできた所を私が匿う事になった。彼女を含む月の兎には、遠く離れた場所でも会話ができる特殊な能力が備わっている。彼女を匿う事で私も月の都の情報を仕入れる事が出来ると考えたのだ。

She originally fled the Lunar War, but I hid the fact that she stumbled upon this house by accident. All of the moon rabbits, including her, have the ability to communicate with each other across long distances. I believed that by hiding her existence here, I could obtain information about the lunar capital.



実際、実に役に立ってくれている。こうして安心して地上で暮らせるのも、彼女の働きが大きい。

She has been, indeed, a great help to me. She's done a great deal to help ensure that we can continue to live safely on Earth like this.

<p>「随分と早かったわね、鈴仙。最近何も起きないからって、手を抜いたりしてない？」</p>	<p>"That was awfully quick, Reisen. I hope you're not cutting corners because it's been so calm lately."</p>
<p>「いいえいいえ、とんでも御座いませ<sup>つつがな</sup>ん。いつも通り恙無く祭は終わりましたよ。地上の兎達は団子を喜んで食べていました」</p>	<p>"Of course not. We've taken great care, as usual, to make sure the festival ended smoothly. The earth rabbits were happy to eat their fill of dumplings."</p>
<p>「そう、ご苦労さんでした。それであの娘は何処に？」</p>	<p>"Well, good work. Oh, where is that other girl?"</p>
<p>そう訊くと、鈴仙は少し顔を曇らせた。</p>	<p>Reisen's expression darkened a bit on hearing my question.</p>
<p>「てゐる事ですか？ てゐるは、いつも通りどっかに遊びに行ってしまったみたいですよ。祭の日は特に姿を消しやすいのですよ」</p>	<p>"You mean Tewi? Tewi's... off playing somewhere, same as ever. It's easier for her to disappear on festival days."</p>
<p>幻想郷には月の姫、<sup>かぐや</sup>輝夜姫が住んでいました。千年以上もの長い間、人間に見つかる事なく隠れ住んでいました。</p>	<p>The princess of the moon, Kaguya, lived in Gensokyo, hiding for over a thousand years so that others wouldn't find her.</p>
<p>何故、姿を隠さなければいけなかったのか。それは許されざる大罪を犯し、月の使者から逃げなければならなかったからである。人間に知られると、月の使者にも見つかりやすい。そう考えたのだ。</p>	<p>Why did she have to spend those years in hiding? It's because of the grave sin she committed that condemned her to a life of fleeing the emissaries of the moon. If humans knew about her, it would be easy for the moon to find her. That's what we believed.</p>

<p>私はその輝夜の数少ない味方としてずっと智慧を貸してきた。幸い幻想郷には迷いの竹林と呼ばれる妖精ですら道に迷うという竹林があった。その竹林の中なら、誰にも見つかる事はないと、姫の為に特別なお屋敷を用意した。それがここ、永遠亭である。</p>	<p>As one of Princess Kaguya's few allies, I've always been by her side to support her with my knowledge. Fortunately, in Gensokyo there is a place called the Bamboo Forest of the Lost, where even youkai find it easy to become lost. Deep within that forest I prepared a special mansion for the princess where no one could easily come across it. That is this place, Eientei.</p>
<p>永遠亭は特殊な建物であった。人間に見つからない限り、歴史が進まない仕掛けがしてあった。姫の永遠を操る能力と私の智慧の結晶である。歴史が進まないというのは、歴史になるような事件が何も起きないという事である。</p>	<p>Eientei is an unusual structure. As long as humans don't find it, its history does not move forward. It's the product of the princess' control over eternity and my own knowledge. That the mansion's history never moves forward means that nothing that occurs here will become recorded history.</p>
<p>私は長い間、姫と二人でこの歴史の止まった永遠亭に住んでいた。初めの数百年は隠れ住んでいる事もあり、時の流れを感じたりする余裕はなかったのだが.....そんなある日、一匹の白い服を着た妖怪兔が迷い込んできて事態は一変する。</p>	<p>For a long time I lived together with the princess in a mansion where history had been stopped for all eternity. For the first few hundred years, we led our lives in secrecy and paid little heed to the passage of time, but... one day, a lone youkai rabbit in white appeared, and everything changed.</p>
<p>その妖怪兔が何故この永遠亭に入る事が出来たのか未だに判らないが、それが永遠亭に住み始めてから初めての歴史だった。</p>	<p>I still don't know how that rabbit found us out, but it was the first event in Eientei's history since its establishment.</p>

<p>妖怪兔は自分はこの迷いの竹林の持ち主であると言いき、私達が隠れ住んでいる事をずっと前から知っていたらしい。私が警戒していると、別に敵になるつもりはない、兔達に智慧を授けてくれるのなら人間を寄せ付けないようにしてあげましょう、と言ったのだ。</p>	<p>The rabbit told us that she was in charge of the Bamboo Forest of the Lost, and it seemed she'd always known we had been living there. Sensing my alarm, she said she had no intention of becoming our enemies, but would help ensure that no humans would ever approach if we would bestow our knowledge on the rabbits.</p>
<p>その妖怪兔は<small>いなば</small>因幡てると名乗り、今では永遠亭に住み着いている。</p>	<p>That youkai rabbit was named Tewi Inaba, and now lives in Eientei.</p>
<p>「そうねえ。あの娘は昔から自由奔放だったわ」</p>	<p>"Yes, that girl's always been something of a free spirit."</p>
<p>「困ったもんですよ。祭の後片付けも中途半端な状態のままどっか行っちゃうんですから。それにつられて他の兔もみんなちりぢりに消えちゃうから、結局私一人で片付けしてるんです。片付けも出来ないなんてどういう教育を受けてきたんでしょう？」</p>	<p>"It's such a pain. She just left, even though the cleanup from the festival is nowhere near finished. And, of course, all the other earth rabbits slipped away with her, so now I have to do all the cleaning up. What has she learned from you, anyway, if she can't even stay around to clean up?"</p>
<p>そこまで悪態吐いて、てゐは鈴仙より前から永遠亭にいた事を思い出し、ばつが悪そうに「お師匠様の教育の事を言っている訳じゃ無いですよ」と付け加えた。</p>	<p>With Reisen being so abusive, I decided it would be best to remind her that Tewi had been at Eientei for much longer than she had, but added that I'd "make sure to have a word with her later" to make it sound as if a horrible punishment were in store for Tewi.</p>
<p>「まあまあそう言わずに、あの娘を後で探しておいてね」</p>	<p>"Well, in any case, please go look for her afterward."</p>

<p>「判りました。でも……いつも思うんですけど、お師匠様はてゐには甘過ぎじゃ無いでしょうか？ 少しぐらい厳しく言ってあげてください。私の言う事は聞かないけど、お師匠様の言う事なら聞いてくれると思いますので」</p>	<p>"Okay, but... this has been on my mind for a while but aren't you a little too easy on her, Master? It would probably do her good for you to scold her once in a while. She won't listen to me, but I think she'd listen to you."</p>
<p>「うふふ。残念ながら、私の言う事も聞いてくれないわ」</p>	<p>"Oh ho. Unfortunately, she won't listen to me, either."</p>
<p>「え、そうなんですか？ じゃあ、何で飼っているんでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"What, really? Why do we keep taking care of her, then?"</p>
<p>てゐは只の妖怪兎ではない事は明らかであった。地上の兎はてゐの言う事なら何でも聞いた。本人を見ていると何の威厳も感じられないが、大量の兎を自由に操る姿はどことなく仙人を思わせる。</p>	<p>It was clear that Tewi wasn't just a normal youkai rabbit. All the earth rabbits listened to everything she said. Though there was nothing at all dignified in her appearance, the idea of her being able to control a great number of rabbits at will brings to mind the image of a hermit who has achieved enlightenment.</p>
<p>「地上の兎達はてゐの命令しか聞かないの。それがどういう意味か判る？」</p>	<p>"The earth rabbits only listen to Tewi. Do you know what that means?"</p>
<p>「てゐが地上の兎の中で、一番偉いって事でしょうか？」</p>	<p>"That Tewi is the most powerful of the earth rabbits?"</p>
<p>「あの娘が居ないと作業兎が使えなくて私が困るって事よ」</p>	<p>"Without Tewi, we wouldn't be able to use them at all, which would be a problem."</p>

<p>そう話しながら、私には気がかりな事があった。先ほど見た光の筋は紛れもなく月の羽衣である。使者なら地上に一人で来る筈は無いのだが.....正体が判らない&lt;&gt;。てゐもそれを見つけて消えたのではないだろうか？</p>	<p>Something troubling occurred to me as we had this conversation. That ray of light was without a doubt a lunar veil. The moon wouldn't send someone all by themselves, but... I don't understand the entire situation. I'm sure Tewi saw her, too, and that's why she disappeared.</p>
<p>「ところで、祭なんだけど本当に変わった事は無かったの？ 神社付近でとか」</p>	<p>"Anyway, nothing strange happened during the festival, did it? Say, around the shrine, for example."</p>
<p>「神社付近？ いえ.....特には、何かあったのですか？」</p>	<p>"Around the shrine? No... Is something wrong?"</p>
<p>「そう、何もなかったなら別に良いわ」</p>	<p>"Maybe. Hopefully it's nothing."</p>
<p>月の羽衣とは、満月と地上を繋ぐ一種の乗り物である。しばしば天女の羽衣と混同される事もあるが、天女の羽衣は反質量の布であるのに対し、月の羽衣は月の光を編み込んだ波でできているゼロ質量の布である。この二つは全くの別物である。</p>	<p>The lunar veil is one of several vehicles that allow one to travel between the Earth and the full moon. It's often confused with the divine robes of an angel, but the latter refers to articles of clothing constructed from cloth with anti-mass, while the lunar veil is a zero-mass garment with moonlight woven into the material. They are, of course, completely different things.</p>
<p>月の羽衣は質量が無い為、下降気流でも無い限りひとりで落ちてくる事はあり得ない。それが舞い落ちてきたという事は、必ずそれに乗っている者が居る筈である。今はその者が何者なのか、敵なのか味方なのかも判らない。だが、月の使者に居場所を知られて、また逃げ隠れる生活に戻るのには嫌だった。</p>	<p>Since the lunar veil has no mass, it's implausible that it would fall to Earth by itself even in the absence of a downward air current. The fact that it was falling therefore indicates that somebody was using it. I still didn't know who that person was, or whether they be friend or foe. What was certain is that I had no desire to be discovered by the moon's emissaries and forced into a fugitive's lifestyle again.</p>

<p>止まっていた永遠亭の歴史は三～四年前のあの事件をきっかけに動き始めたばかりである。しかし、一度動き始めてしまうともう後戻りは出来なかった。</p>	<p>Eientei's frozen history had only begun moving again since <i>that incident</i> three or four years ago. But once it started, there was no going back.</p>
<p>歴史が動き始めてしまうと、後は人間のように昔の事を懐かしく思うだけの生活となってしまう。判っていても、もう歴史が止まっていた頃の生活には戻りたくなかった。</p>	<p>Once our history began to move again, we began to live our lives yearning for the way things had been, just like humans. Yet, we had no wish to return to the way things had been when our history had stopped.</p>
<p>「お師匠様？ 何か考え事でしょうか？ 取りあえず私は祭の片付けが残っていますので一旦戻ります。てゐか数刻経っても戻ってこないようでしたら、探しに行きますので」</p>	<p>"Master? What's on your mind? I still have to clean up from the festival, so I should go back for now. If Tewi doesn't come back in a while, I'll go out to look for her."</p>
<p>「ああそうね。よろしくね」</p>	<p>"Ah, yes. Please do."</p>
<p>そう言うと鈴仙は部屋から出て行った。</p>	<p>And so Reisen left the room.</p>
<p>月の羽衣を見た所為だろうか、遙か昔、私が月の賢者として月の都にいた頃を思い出していた。私は月と地上を行き来する使者のリーダーとして働き、今一緒に暮らしている輝夜姫以外にも、二人の御姫様姉妹を小さい頃から教育していた。</p>	<p>Perhaps it was because I'd seen the lunar veil earlier, but I was reminded of a time long, long ago when I lived in the lunar capital as the sage of the moon. Then, I acted as the leader of a group of emissaries that traveled between the earth and the moon. I also had been the teacher of two princess sisters since they were very young - princesses other than Princess Kaguya, with whom I now live.</p>

<p>二人の姫は私の遠い親族である。人間風に言えば私から見て又甥の嫁、及び又甥夫婦の息子の嫁、という何とも遠い縁だったが、私は二人の教育係として様々な事を教えた。姉は天性の幸運で富に恵まれ何不自由なく暮らし、妹のお姫様は非常に頭が切れ、私の言う事を何でも吸収していった。私はいずれこの二人に月の使者を任せる事になるであろうと考えていた。</p>	<p>The two princesses were my distant relatives. To put it in human terms, one was the wife of a grandnephew of mine, while the other was the wife of their son<sup>[1]</sup>. They were quite distant relations, but I served as a tutor of sorts to both of them. The older sister was blessed with natural good fortune and never had to deal with any hardship, while the younger sister was exceedingly sharp and seemed to absorb everything I said. It was commonly understood that one day I'd leave the emissaries of the moon in their hands.</p>
<p>しかし輝夜姫が大罪を犯し、地上に落とされてから月の都の事態は一変する。</p>	<p>But after Princess Kaguya's great crime and subsequent exile to Earth, the moon changed enormously.</p>
<p>いやその言い方は正確ではない。私が大罪を犯したのである。私は自分の知識に自信を持っていた。持ちすぎていた為に些細なミスを犯したのだ。</p>	<p>Well, that's not quite accurate. I was the perpetrator of that crime. I was confident in my knowledge. And, because I was too confident, I committed a minor error.</p>
<p>簡単に言うと蓬莱の薬、つまり不老不死の薬を輝夜に渡してしまったのだ。蓬莱の薬は作ってはいけない禁忌の薬だった。輝夜は蓬莱の薬を飲み不老不死となった。それと同時に月の都から追放された。</p>	<p>That minor error was to give the Hourai Elixir, that is, the elixir of immortality and eternal youth, to Princess Kaguya. I made the forbidden concoction, and Princess Kaguya drank it to become immortal. And so, she was expelled from the lunar capital.</p>
<p>私は悔いた。悔いた結果、輝夜を月の都に連れ戻す際に月の使者を欺いて輝夜を救い出し、そのまま地上に隠れ住む事にした。</p>	<p>I regretted my actions, and as a result, when it came time to bring Kaguya back to the moon, I deceived the moon's emissaries and rescued Kaguya, and together we hid on Earth.</p>

<p>蓬萊の薬を使うと人間と同じ穢れが生じてしまう。私は輝夜が月の都に戻ったとしても、まともな生活が出来ない事を知っていた。輝夜が暮らしやすいように地上で人間として暮らせる場を設け、それで私も罪を償おうと思ったのだ。</p>	<p>Those who use the Hourai Elixir take on the same taint as humans. I knew that even if Kaguya could return to the lunar capital, she couldn't live a normal life. I decided I would atone for my sin by helping find a place on Earth where she could live an easy life as a human.</p>
<p>そう言えば月の使者として輝夜をお迎えに行く前日、二人の姫に月の使者の後任をお願いしていた。あれから、千年以上は優に過ぎているが、姫達は何も言わずに置いてきた事を怒っているのだろうか。</p>	<p>Incidentally, the day before I left for the Earth in my capacity as an emissary of the moon to retrieve Kaguya, I left the service of the lunar emissaries in the hands of the two sisters I'd been tutoring. A thousand years have passed since then, but it wouldn't surprise me to learn that they're still angry over my sudden departure so long ago.</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p>「お師匠様！ 失礼します」</p>	<p>"Excuse me, Master!"</p>
<p>鈴仙が大慌てで部屋に入ってきた。</p>	<p>Reisen burst into the room.</p>
<p>「どうしたの？ そんなに慌てて」</p>	<p>"What's wrong? You're awfully flustered."</p>
<p>「いや、慌てるつもりは無かったです。来客です。来客が慌てていたのにつられてしまいました」</p>	<p>"No, it's nothing that important. We have a visitor. She's flustered, too, so I guess it rubbed off on me."</p>
<p>「こんな夜中に来客？ 急患かしら」</p>	<p>"A visitor, at this hour? Is it an emergency patient?"</p>
<p>「いやあ、またあの困った巫女ですよ。いつぞやもこんな事がありましたね。夜中に突然現われて……」</p>	<p>"No, it's that troublesome shrine maiden again. It was like that last time, wasn't it? She suddenly appeared in the middle of the night... "</p>

<p>「まあいいわ」と言っ て部屋を出た。月の羽衣が舞い落ちたのは東の空、東と言えば神社のある方向である。何か胸騒ぎがする。</p>	<p>"Ah, well," I said as we left the room. The lunar veil had appeared in the eastern sky, and the shrine is in the same direction. I felt ill at ease.</p>
<p>玄関には両腕を腰に当て、堂々と仁王立ちしている人間の少女の姿があった。 <small>はくれいせいむ</small> 博麗霊夢、幻想郷の東の外れにある博麗神社の巫女である。</p>	<p>The imposing figure of a human girl with her arms akimbo awaited us in the entryway. She was the shrine maiden of the Hakurei Shrine that lay on the eastern edge of Gensokyo.</p>
<p>「あ、やっと出てきたわね、宇宙人。あんたらの仲間が怪我してるって神社を占拠して困っているの！ 何とかしてよ」</p>	<p>"Finally. There you are, alien. One of your crew is hurt and holed up in my shrine! Do something about it."</p>
<p>この巫女は何処に行っても、まずは怒りから出た言葉で会話を始めようとするのである。感情的な言葉だけでは会話は成り立たない物だが、人間にはそれが判らないらしい。</p>	<p>No matter where she goes, this shrine maiden seems to start conversations with angry words. Emotional outbursts are no way to start meaningful conversation, but humans don't seem to understand this.</p>
<p>「私達の仲間？ 怪我？」</p>	<p>"One of our crew, hurt?"</p>
<p>「そう、傷ついた妖怪兔がうちで寝ているの。引き取るなり何なりしてよ」</p>	<p>"That's right, I've got an injured youkai rabbit at my place. Go take her back, or something."</p>
<p>「ちょっと待って、鈴仙、例月祭は無事に終わったんじゃないか？」</p>	<p>"Wait a moment, Reisen, I thought you said the festival ended without incident?"</p>
<p>「え、ええ、誰一人怪我人は出ませんでした」鈴仙は即答した。</p>	<p>"Uh, yes, that's right, not a single person was hurt," Reisen answered.</p>

<p>「じゃあ、もしかして、あの娘かしら？」</p>	<p>"Hmm, perhaps she's talking about <b>her</b>, then?"</p>
<p>私がそう言うと、その質問に答えるように霊夢の背中から大きな声が聞こえてきた。</p>	<p>As soon as I'd said that, a loud voice rang out from behind Reimu as if in reply.</p>
<p>「怪我人なんて知らないよ。こうやって話を聞いていたけど、私の知る限り妖怪兎は一匹も減っていない」霊夢の背中からてゐが上半身だけ横に出してそう言った。霊夢も後ろにてゐが居る事に気が付いていなかったようだ。</p>	<p>"I don't know about anyone getting hurt. I've been listening to your conversation, but as far as I know none of the rabbits are missing." Only the top half of Tewi's body could be seen poking out of the greenery behind Reimu. It looked like even Reimu hadn't realized she'd been there.</p>
<p>てゐの神出鬼没さは今に始まった事ではない。気が付いたら居て、気が付いたら居なくなっている。それでも、重要な時には必ず居るのだ。</p>	<p>This wasn't the first time Tewi had pulled this stunt. She'd be beside you before you know it, and she'd disappear just as quickly. Still, she'd always be around when you really needed her.</p>
<p>「あ、てゐ！ 何処をほっつき歩いていたのよ！ まだ探してなかったけど」鈴仙がそう叱っても、聞く耳を持つとうしなかった。</p>	<p>"Oh, Tewi! Where have you been wandering around? Well, I guess I haven't started looking for you yet." Reisen began complaining again, but Tewi was in no mind to pay any attention to her.</p>
<p>「ふあああ。祭が終わると何故か兎達が陽気になるからね。少し散歩して酔いを覚ましてただけ」</p>	<p>"*Yawn* Well, the rabbits are always so excited <i>for some reason</i> when the festival is over, but I thought I'd try to walk it off."</p>
<p>てゐは、手を頭の上で振りながら「何故か」を強調して言った。私が団子に兎が陽気になる薬を混ぜている事に気付いているのだろう。</p>	<p>Tewi put her hand on the back of her head as she emphasised "for some reason". She probably knew about the medicine I put in the dumplings to make the rabbits more excitable.</p>

<p>「そんな訳でわたしは疲れたよ。奥で休む」そう言って、玄関を上がり家の奥に行こうとしたので、私は気になっていた事を質問した。</p>	<p>"Well, I'm pretty tired. I'm going to go rest inside." With that, she stepped into the entryway and made as if to head into the house. I took the opportunity to ask about what had been bothering me before.</p>
<p>「あ、ちょっと待って。てゐ、祭の最中、神社の方で気になる事は無かったかしら？」</p>	<p>"Just a moment. Tewi, did you see anything interesting during the festival tonight, in the east near the shrine?"</p>
<p>てゐは少し考えて <small>あめのいわとわけのみこと</small> 「..... 天石門別命。懐かしい神様が見えた」と言って廊下を走って行ってしまった。</p>	<p>Tewi stopped to consider that for a moment. "...Ama-no-Iwato Wake-no-Mikoto. I saw a god I haven't seen in a really long time," she said, and made her way into the mansion proper.</p>
<p>話が中断したので、霊夢を客間に案内し、鈴仙にはお茶の用意をお願いした。</p>	<p>Since she'd been interrupted, I lead Reimu into the parlor and asked Reisen to put on some tea.</p>
<p>「そっちが知らないって言っても、うちに傷ついた妖怪兔が眠っているのは事実なの！」</p>	<p>"She may say she doesn't know anything about it, but it's a fact that there's an injured youkai rabbit sleeping in my shrine!"</p>
<p>「うーん。妖怪兔って言ったって、てゐが知らない妖怪兔なんて居ないし、そのてゐが怪我人は居ないって言っているんだから間違いはないと思うけど.....」</p>	<p>"Well. There aren't any youkai rabbits that Tewi doesn't know, so if she says nobody got hurt, I think she's probably right..."</p>
<p>「一匹くらい知らない妖怪兔が湧いて出てきたって不思議じゃないでしょ？妖怪なんてボウフラみたいなもんだし」</p>	<p>"Would it be so strange to think that <i>one</i> youkai rabbit nobody knows could show up? Youkai always turn up like maggots, y'know."</p>
<p>妖怪がボウフラみたいなものの訳がない。人間より新しい妖怪は生まれにくいものだ。</p>	<p>That's cannot possibly be true. It's much harder for a new youkai to be born than it is for a human.</p>

<p>「その妖怪兎は何か言ってなかった？」</p>	<p>"Did this youkai rabbit say anything?"</p>
<p>「今のところ唸っているだけよ。何故か誰にやられたのか喋ろうとしないの。そう言えば、長い布を持っていたけど……」</p>	<p>"She's just been moaning so far. Hmm, she did have some sort of long robe..."</p>
<p>霊夢が言っている妖怪兎は、十中八九、月から落ちてきた月の兎だろう。先ほどの月の羽衣は、その兎の物である可能性が高い。</p>	<p>The youkai rabbit Reimu spoke of had almost certainly come down from the moon. It was very likely that she was the one I'd seen using the lunar veil earlier.</p>
<p>今はまだ月の兎に私達の居場所を教えるのは不味い。何故なら、鈴仙の話では「月の都はまた大きな騒乱が起き始めているらしい」からである。今、私の存在が明るみに出せば、どちらかの勢力に利用されてしまうだろう。私は争い事はもう面倒だと思っていた。</p>	<p>I had misgivings about showing a rabbit from the moon where we were living now. It was largely due to Reisen's remarks earlier, how "There seems to be a really big disturbance beginning among the lunarians in the capital." If I were flushed out into the open now, I'd probably be used by one side or another to increase their influence. I had no intention of becoming wrapped up in any sort of conflict.</p>
<p>「うーんとね。その妖怪兎は気を付けた方が良いわ。私の想像では、大方狐か狸に誑かされているんだと思う」</p>	<p>"Hmm, I'd advise you to be careful around that youkai rabbit. I think you're being tricked by a fox spirit or a tanuki."</p>
<p>「何だって？」</p>	<p>"What's that?"</p>
<p>「てゐが知らない妖怪兎が居ないってのは本当よ。てゐが全員無事だって言うのなら、神社にいる妖怪兎は偽者の筈」</p>	<p>"It's true that Tewi knows all the youkai rabbits. If Tewi says none of them were hurt, the youkai rabbit at the shrine must be a fake."</p>

<p>「な、なるほど、それもそうかもね。妖怪兎が全員無事だって言うならそうかもしれない。それに見慣れない顔だったし……」</p>	<p>"I-I see, that might be true. If all the youkai rabbits are fine, then that might be true. She didn't look familiar at all..."</p>
<p>「化けているんなら、怪我をしているってのも嘘よ。今頃、神社の食べ物を食べられてるわよ？早く帰らないとなくなっちゃうわ」</p>	<p>"If she's a fake, then her wounds are probably fake, too. She might be eating you out of house and home as we speak. If you don't hurry, she'll be gone before you make it back."</p>
<p>「!! そ、そうね。急いで帰らないと！」</p>	<p>"!! Y-You're right. I have to hurry back!"</p>
<p>霊夢はそう言って、慌てた様子で帰って行った。</p>	<p>Reimu got up and left with an agitated look on her face.</p>
<p>「お茶の用意が出来ました、って、あれ？」</p>	<p>"The tea's ready- huh?"</p>
<p>鈴仙がお茶の用意をして戻ってきた時には、もうすでに巫女の姿はなかった。</p>	<p>By the time Reisen had returned from preparing the tea, the shrine maiden had already vanished into the night.</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p>「お師匠様。巫女の話はもう終わったのですか？」</p>	<p>"Master, had you already finished talking to the shrine maiden?"</p>
<p>「ええ。恐らく狐か狸の仕業だと伝えたら、慌てて帰って行ったわ」</p>	<p>"Yes. When I told her it was probably a fox spirit or a tanuki, she left for home in a hurry."</p>
<p>鈴仙は怪訝な顔をした。</p>	<p>A dubious expression appeared on Reisen's face.</p>

<p>「狐か狸……。どうしてそんな嘘を吐くのですか？ 狐や狸が人間を騙すのなら、人間の姿に化ける筈です。妖怪兎に化けたって何にも得は無いじゃないですか」</p>	<p>"A fox or a tanuki... Why did you lie to her like that? If that's what happened, they probably would have taken the form of a human. What would they accomplish by pretending to be a youkai rabbit?"</p>
<p>「いい？ 鈴仙。驚かないで聞いて」</p>	<p>"Reisen. Don't be too shocked, but listen to what I have to say."</p>
<p>「はい」</p>	<p>"Okay."</p>
<p>「神社に居る妖怪兎は、恐らく貴方と同じ月の兎よ」</p>	<p>"The youkai rabbit at the shrine is probably a moon rabbit, like you."</p>
<p>「何ですって？ どうしてそんな事が判るのですか？」</p>	<p>"What!? How do you know?"</p>
<p>「貴方には話していませんでしたが、例月祭の時、神社の方に月の羽衣が降りていくのを見たの」</p>	<p>"I didn't tell you before, but during the festival, I saw someone come down to Earth using a lunar veil close to the shrine."</p>
<p>「!？」</p>	<p>"!?"</p>
<p>鈴仙もその昔、地上に逃げてきた時は月の羽衣を使用したらしい。その羽衣は今でも永遠亭に仕舞ってあるが、もう月に行く事は無いと決めて封印してある。</p>	<p>Reisen had used a lunar veil when she fled the moon those years ago. Her lunar veil is still at Eientei, but as she has no intention to return, it's kept sealed away.</p>
<p>月と地上を行き来する手段は沢山あるが、月の羽衣はその手段の中では非常に原始的で時間もかかる。主に月の兎達が利用する手段である。</p>	<p>There are many ways to travel between Earth and the moon, but as the lunar veil is the most primitive, it's fairly time-consuming. It's a method that's primarily used by the moon rabbits.</p>

<p>「その月の兎がどう いう目的で地上に降 りてきたのか判らな いから、まだ永遠亭 の場所を知られては 不味い。だから巫女 には嘘を言って追い 返したのよ」</p>	<p>"I don't know why she's decided to come here, so I don't want to let her know about Eientei. That's why I chased away that shrine maiden with those lies."</p>
<p>「そんな、月の兎 が.....今、神社 に？」</p>	<p>"You mean, a moon rabbit is... at the shrine, now?"</p>
<p>もしかしたら鈴仙の 知り合いかも知れな い。だとしても、す ぐに連絡を取るのは 危険である。何が起 こるのか判らない。 私は月の使者から逃 げ隠れている逃亡者 であり、鈴仙も月面 戦争から逃げ出した 兎である。基本的に 居場所は知られたく ない。</p>	<p>Maybe it was one of Reisen's acquaintances. Even so, bringing her into the fold so quickly would be dangerous. Nobody can say what might happen. I was a fugitive on the run from the emissaries of the moon, and Reisen had fled the moon during the Lunar War. Basically, neither of us wanted to be found.</p>
<p>「な、何があったの かしら.....。どうす れば良いのかしら。 私も何か罰を受ける のでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"I-I wonder what happened. What we should do. I wonder if I'd be punished, too...?"</p>
<p>鈴仙は持っているお 茶を置くのも忘れ て、怯えているよう に見えた。</p>	<p>Reisen had forgotten to set down the tea service earlier, and I could see it trembling in her hands.</p>
<p>「鈴仙。慌てる事は 何一つありません。 私の言う通りにすれ ば、永遠亭には何一 つ問題は起こらない でしょう」</p>	<p>"Reisen. There's nothing for you to be afraid of. Just do as I say, and nothing will happen to Eientei, I'm sure of it."</p>
<p>「で、では、まずは 何をすれば良いので すか？」</p>	<p>"B-But first, what should we do?"</p>
<p>「まずは、そのお茶 をここに置いて、そ れをゆっくり飲みな さい」</p>	<p>"First, I want you to set the tea down here and drink it slowly."</p>

<p>鈴仙は笑顔を取り戻し、お茶をゆっくり飲んだ。落ち着きを取り戻した様子で、再び「何をすれば良いのですか？」と訊いてきた。</p>	<p>Reisen's smile returned, and she slowly sipped some tea. Once she'd regained her composure, her question of "What should we do?" returned as well.</p>
<p>「まずは、月にいる兎と連絡を取り現状を探る事です」</p>	<p>"First, you should ask the rabbits on the moon and try to get some information."</p>
<p>「はい、判りました」</p>	<p>"Okay!"</p>
<p>「それで、この前の鈴仙の話だと『新しい勢力が月を支配しようとしている』と書いていたわね。その勢力について、何でもよいから詳細や首謀者の名前を聞き出して欲しいの」</p>	<p>"You said earlier that some new force is trying to exert itself on the moon. I'd like you to find out anything you can about that force, or who's behind it."</p>
<p>「お安いご用です。もともと、兎に判る程度の話しか知りませんが」</p>	<p>"That's an easy request. Still, the information's only as good as the rabbits it comes from."</p>
<p>兎は嘘、噂、ゴシップの様な物は大好きであり、いまいち話に信憑性がない。だが、火の無い所に煙は立たぬ、噂から真実を推測する事は容易である。</p>	<p>Rabbits love lies, gossip and rumors, so it's hard to take much stock in what they might say. Still, there's no smoke without fire, and there's usually a kernel of truth at the heart of any rumor.</p>
<p>「でも絶対に、神社にいる月の兎の事に触れては駄目よ。たとえ、向こうから持ち出してきたとしても」</p>	<p>"But, you absolutely must not talk to the rabbit at the shrine. Even if she tries to talk to you."</p>
<p>「え、どうしてですか？」</p>	<p>"But, why?"</p>
<p>「噂がふれてしまうからです。私の言う通りにしないと何が起きても知らないからね」</p>	<p>"Because that will just start more rumors. Make sure you do as I say. Who knows what will happen if you don't."</p>

<p>鈴仙は部屋を出て満月に向かって話しかけ始めた。一見危ない人の様だが、月の兎はああやって遠く離れた兎同士会話が出来るのである。その姿を眺めながら、私は次の一手を考えていた。</p>	<p>Reisen left the room and started speaking while facing the full moon. This method seems doubtful to the uninitiated, but this is how the rabbits can speak to each other over long distances. I watched her and planned our next move.</p>
<p>さて、月を支配しようとする<b>新たな勢力</b>とは一体何なのだろうか。</p>	<p>Just what could this new power trying to gain control of the moon be?</p>
<p>もし、その勢力が前回の月面戦争のように外の人間であれば特に問題はない。その昔、人間は月面に旗を立てて、月を自分達人間の物だと言った時代があった。人間は自分の科学力を盲信していて、月ですら自分のものだと思ったのだろう。</p>	<p>If it were an influence from the humans of the outside world, like in the last Lunar War, it wouldn't be a problem. Long ago, the humans had made it to the moon's surface and claimed it as their own by planting a flag. They were probably impressed by their own science and thought the moon really was theirs.</p>
<p>しかし、蓋を開けてみると月の都の科学力とは雲泥の差であった。月面に基地を造ると豪語していた人間も、基地どころか建造物を創るような段階まで至らずに逃げ帰ってきたのだ。人間の惨敗だった。</p>	<p>But, if you know where to look, the moon's technological prowess was far beyond that of the Earth's. The humans had spoken of building a base on the moon, but in the end they ran back home before ever deciding on a place or even acquiring the means to do such a thing. It was a terrible defeat for the humans.</p>
<p>外の世界では、月面着陸は大成功の様に報道されているが、惨敗だった時は報道されていない。最初の月面到達以来、人間は負け続けたのでそれ以降月面には行っていない事になっている。本当は、何度も月に行っては月面基地開発に失敗している事を、月と通じている私達は知っていた。</p>	<p>The humans' lunar landings were reported as a great success in the outside world, but their failures were not. The humans kept losing after their first landing, so eventually they stopped returning to the moon. And we, who'd remained in contact with the moon, knew how every time they tried to establish a base, they'd failed.</p>

<p>人間は大して成長していない。むしろ退化している位である。再び月を侵略開始しようと、月の都にとって大した恐怖ではないだろう。</p>	<p>Humans rarely seem to learn. In fact, it's more likely they're moving backwards. Even if the humans decided to launch another expedition, it wouldn't create much of a stir in the lunar capital.</p>
<p>しかし、今回は人間ではないようである。どうやら月の都の中で何かが起きたのではないかと思われる。</p>	<p>However, it seems that it's not a problem with humans this time. I have a feeling that some sort of internal affair may have sprung up.</p>
<p>「ねえ……永琳。何やら騒がしいわね。どうしたのかしら」</p>	<p>"Um... Eirin. It's noisy tonight, isn't it? I wonder what's happening?"</p>
<p>後ろから不意にか細い声で話しかけられた。蓬萊山輝夜<small>ほうらいさんかくや</small>、月のお姫様である。ここ永遠亭のご主人様である。</p>	<p>A soft voice spoke out unexpectedly behind me. It was Kaguya Houraisan, princess of the moon, and the mistress of Eientei.</p>
<p>「輝夜……。月の都に急激に動きがあったかも知れない」</p>	<p>"Kaguya... it seems something may have happened all of a sudden in the lunar capital."</p>
<p>「ふーん。やっぱり、さっきのは月の羽衣だったのね」</p>	<p>"Hm. So, that was a lunar veil earlier, after all."</p>
<p>「輝夜にも見えていたのね」</p>	<p>"Ah, so you saw it, too?"</p>
<p>「見えていたけど、何なのか判らなかったので、どうでも良いかনাと思っていたのよ。ああ、綺麗だなあって感じで」</p>	<p>"I did, but I couldn't tell what it was, so I didn't think much of it. It was very beautiful, though."</p>
<p>輝夜は逃亡者の割には暢気な性格だった。昔はそんな事は無かった筈なのだが……長い間平穏な日々が続きすぎたのかも知れない。</p>	<p>Kaguya had a very laid-back personality for a fugitive. This hadn't always been the case... perhaps she'd just led a peaceful life for too long.</p>

<p>「その月の羽衣を使って降りてきたのは、どうやら傷ついた月の兎だったらしいの。今は神社にいる」</p>	<p>"It seems that a wounded youkai rabbit was the one using the veil. She's at the shrine, now."</p>
<p>「ふーん、傷ついた兎が一匹ねえ……。なんか昔を思い出すわね」</p>	<p>"Hmm, a lone youkai rabbit... It seems like that's happened before, a long time ago."</p>
<p>「昔？ ああ、鈴仙の事ね」</p>	<p>"A long time ago? Oh, you mean Reisen."</p>
<p>「あの時も私達は警戒したわねえ。蓋を開けてみればなんて事も無かったけど」</p>	<p>"We were both very suspicious that time, too. But in the end, it turned out to be no problem at all."</p>
<p>鈴仙が最初にこの家を訪れたのも、三十年位前のこんな満月の夜だった。竹林を彷徨<sup>さまよ</sup>っていたてゐから「月からの侵入者が居るよ」という報告を受けた時は会うべきかどうか散々悩んだ。</p>	<p>It was a full moon, like tonight, on the night Reisen first came to this manor over thirty years ago. When Tewi, who watched over the forest, told us an intruder from the moon had appeared, we spent a long time worrying over whether to meet her, or what else we might do.</p>
<p>「永琳、あの時は悩んだけど、結果として会って良かったじゃない。鈴仙は完全に私達の味方だわ。だから今回の月の兎にも会って見たら？」</p>	<p>"Eirin, we were worried that time, as well, but we were better off for having met her. Reisen is truly our ally. So, why don't we go meet this moon rabbit, too?"</p>
<p>「輝夜は自分が逃亡者だという自覚が足りない。月の使者に見つかったら今度はただじゃ済まされない筈よ。用心するにこした事はない」</p>	<p>"Kaguya, you don't seem to be fully aware of your position as a fugitive. I don't think you'd be able to get off easily if we were found by the moon's emissaries. There's nothing wrong with a little caution."</p>
<p>輝夜は「永琳は心配性ねえ」と言って、お茶を飲み始めた。</p>	<p>Kaguya simply replied, "Eirin, you love to worry," and began to drink some tea.</p>
<p>「ねえ、じゃあ鈴仙の時は何で会ったの？」</p>	<p>"Well, why did you decide to meet with Reisen, then?" She asked presently.</p>

「その時は、月の様子を知りたかったからよ。月の兎には特殊な能力があるからね」	"Because I wanted to know what was happening on the moon. Moon rabbits have that special ability, after all."
「もし、鈴仙が月の使者に私達を引き渡そうとする兎だったらとか考えなかったの？」	"Didn't you think about what might happen if she decided to turn us over to the emissaries of the moon?"
考えない訳がない。今回もそれを考えて用心しているのだから。	Of course, I did. In fact, that is the reason why I'm being so cautious now.
「もし私に逆らうようだったら、兎一匹位私の手でどうとでも……」	"If she'd decided to turn against me, then a single rabbit wouldn't be too much for me to... "
「冷たいのね」	"How cold."
気が付くと窓の外に鈴仙の姿は無かった。もう月との交信は終わったのだろう。	I realized that Reisen had disappeared from outside the window. She must have finished her conference with the moon.
「失礼します。あ、輝夜様もいらしたのですか？」	"Excuse me. Oh, Princess Kaguya is here, too."
「あら鈴仙、もう月との交信は終わったの？」	"Ah, Reisen. Have you finished your conference with the moon?"
「ええ、終わりました。大変な事が判りましたよ」鈴仙は輝夜の方をちらっと見た。	"Yes. I've found out something important." Reisen stole a glance towards Kaguya.
「えー……っと、後の方が良いですか？」	"Ummm... perhaps I should come back later?"

<p>「続けて構わないわ。輝夜も大体判っているから」</p>	<p>"Please, go on. Kaguya knows most of what's going on, after all."</p>
<p>「そうですか、では、まず現在の月の都の状態から報告します。簡単に言うと、『地上からの侵入者』の痕跡が見つかって大騒ぎだそうです」</p>	<p>"I see. Well, I'll start with the current state of affairs in the capital. Basically, there's a big uproar over the discovery of traces of invaders from the Earth."</p>
<p>「地上からの侵入者？」私は、月の内部分裂だと思っていたのだが.....また外の人間の仕業なのだろうか。</p>	<p>"Invaders from the Earth?" I'd thought this was surely some sort of internal squabble, but... it seems to be the work of the humans from outside again.</p>
<p>鈴仙の話によると、月の都に地上からの侵入者があったらしい。その侵入者が目論んでいるのは、月の都を乗っ取る事だそうです。</p>	<p>According to Reisen, there seems to have been another invasion from the Earth. The invader's objective appears to have been to occupy the lunar capital.</p>
<p>「そこまでは良いんですが、問題はこの後の話です」</p>	<p>"Which is all well and good, but the next part is the real problem."</p>
<p>「そんなに勿体ぶらなくても良いわ」</p>	<p>"Now, please don't make assumptions like that."</p>
<p>「その侵入者側に協力している月の兎がいるという噂があって、兎が次々と不当な裁判にかけられているらしいのです」</p>	<p>"There's a rumor that some of the moon rabbits are helping the invaders, and the rabbits are being unfairly put on trial, one after another."</p>
<p>「なんていう事.....まるで、魔女狩りね」お茶を飲みながら輝夜は言った。</p>	<p>"How terrible... It's like some sort of witch hunt," Kaguya said as she drank her tea.</p>
<p>私には話の先が殆ど見えていた。私の想像が正しければ、鈴仙が大変な事と言うのもよく分かる。</p>	<p>I could see where this conversation was going. If I was right, Reisen knew the gravity of what she was saying, too.</p>

<p>「それで私がスパイの筆頭の様な扱いを受けているんだって！ 地上と繋がりが深いから」</p>	<p>"And they're all talking about me like I'm some sort of spy! All because of my connection to Earth."</p>
<p>想像通りである。まあ確かにそう思われても仕方がないだろう。鈴仙は元々月の都を裏切って逃げて来た兎だし、それに今でもちよくちよく交信を行っているのである。</p>	<p>Just as I'd thought. Well, not like there's any helping it. Reisen did originally betray the moon to come here, and she still talks to the other rabbits fairly often.</p>
<p>「なるほどね。今の話で、神社に居る月の兎の正体が判明したわね」</p>	<p>"I see. I think I know who that rabbit in the shrine is, now."</p>
<p>「え？ なんですか？」</p>	<p>"What? How do you know that?"</p>
<p>「スパイ扱いされて拷問を受けていた兎が逃げ出してきたか、本当にスパイ兎なのか、どっちかでしょう。だとすると、会ってみる価値はあるかも知れないわね……」</p>	<p>"Well, she's either run away because she was wrongly accused of being an anti-Lunarian spy, or she really is one. Which might make it worth our while to try to meet her..."</p>
<p>「あ、そうそう、もう一つですね……。その地上からの侵略者ってのがどうも……」</p>	<p>"Oh, right, one more thing... The invaders are supposed to be..."</p>
<p>鈴仙の様子が少しおかしかった。ちなみにその話の続きも想像済みである。</p>	<p>Reisen was acting a little odd. Naturally, I could imagine what she was about to say.</p>
<p>「言うまでもないわ、鈴仙。その侵略者は私と輝夜の二人って事になってるのでしょうか？ 鈴仙がスパイで、侵略者は私達」</p>	<p>"No need to say it, Reisen. Of course, the invaders are myself and Kaguya, right? If Reisen is the spy, of course we'd be the masterminds."</p>

<p>笹の葉が風で揺れる音が、海の波のうねりのように聞こえた。</p>	<p>The sound of the wind through the bamboo forest was like that of the swelling of waves at sea.</p>
<p>輝夜は絶句していた。それはそうだろう、輝夜はそろそろ月の都の人達は自分を受け入れてくれるだろう、と暢気に考えている様子だったのだ。そんな甘い考えも、有らぬ疑いをかけられては絶望的と言わざるを得ない。また住む場所を替えて、人間から身を隠さなければいけないとしたら最悪である。</p>	<p>Kaguya remained speechless. Well, of course, Kaguya had likely presumed optimistically that the people of the moon would be able to accept her again soon. Even if that assumption was naive, it's certainly not unnatural to experience some despair after being hit with such unwarranted suspicions. Just the notion of going back into hiding from humans and moving from place to place would be distressing.</p>
<p>鈴仙は落ち着かない様子で私に問いかけた。</p>	<p>Reisen, now visibly agitated, implored of me:</p>
<p>「お師匠様！ 私達は一体どうすれば良いのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"Master! What should we do?"</p>
<p>「さっきも言ったでしょう？ 私の言う通りにすれば何も心配する事はありません。この程度の事は予想済みです」</p>	<p>"Didn't I tell you before? If you do as I tell you, there will be nothing to worry about. I've accounted for something like this in my plans."</p>
<p>安心させる為の嘘ではない。いつかこの様な日が来る事は想像していた。私達を利用して月の民を扇動する輩が現われる事を。</p>	<p>It wasn't just a lie to calm her down. I'd imagined a day like this might come, that one day someone might appear on the moon who wished to try to use us for their own ambitions.</p>
<p>「まずは情報を集めるのです。本当に侵略者など居るのか、居るとしたら何処の誰なのか。それが判るまでは私達は今まで通り隠れ住んで居れば良いのです」</p>	<p>"First, gather information. Find out if there really are any invaders, and if so, who they are. We should stay hidden until we know that much."</p>

「で、でも、月から刺客が来たりしたら……」	"But, but what if an assassin comes from the moon..."
「ここは見つかりません。てゐが月の使者を寄せ付けない様にしてくれているのですから。それに、月の使者に私の味方がいます」	"They won't be able to find this place. Tewi will make sure of that. Besides, I have my own allies among the emissaries of the moon."
鈴仙は驚いた顔をして「味方……ですか？」と言った。	Reisen looked surprised. "Allies...?"
そうです。恐らく今は月の使者のリーダーをやっている筈です」	"Yes. She's probably their leader by now."
と言ったものの正直、味方になってくれるのか心配だった。	Though, to be honest, I was a bit worried about whether she'd really turn out to be an ally.
あの二人のお姫様とは、千年以上前に別れてから一度も会った事が無かった。それでも私が教育したその二人のお姫様なら、私の言っている事を信じる筈である。特に妹の方は賢かったし、今はそれ <small>すが</small> に縋るしかなかった。	I hadn't met either of those two princesses since the day we'd parted over a thousand years ago. Still, I'd expected they'd be willing to listen to what their old tutor would have to say. The younger one had been particularly sharp, and I really had no choice but to depend on them.
「だとしたら心強いですね」	"Well, that's reassuring, then."
「でも、私達は鈴仙と違って交信する手段がありません。貴方に言伝を頼んでも良いのですが、さらにスパイ容疑が濃くなる可能性があります」	"But, unlike you, Reisen, we have no way to keep in contact. I wouldn't mind having you relay messages for us, but it would lend credence to the theory that you're a spy."
鈴仙の表情が曇った。	Reisen's expression became serious.

「大丈夫ですよ。既に疑われてるから、これ以上疑われたって平気です」	"That's okay. Some people already think I'm a spy, so I don't care if more people do."
「貴方が平気でも、私達は平気ではありません」	"You may not care, but we do."
「では……どうしましょう？」	"Then... what should we do?"
「ここは神社にいる月の兎に事情を話し、協力して貰うのが一番無難です」	"We'll ask the rabbit at the shrine about what's going on. It will be best for us if she decides to cooperate."
鈴仙は手を叩き「あ、忘れてました」と言った。	Reisen clapped her hands and exclaimed, "Oh, I forgot about her."
「その兎も、月の羽衣を持っているのだから月に帰る事も出来ます。それで手紙を渡して頂くのです」	"That rabbit has a lunar veil, so she can go back to the moon. I'll have her deliver a letter for me."
私は手紙を書いた。	I wrote a letter.
書き手が八意永琳である事を証明する為に二人のお姫様の小さな頃の思い出話から書いた。	As proof that it really was from Eirin Yagokoro, I opened with reminiscences about the princess' youth.
途中で誰かに読まれたり改竄される事を恐れて量子印を付けた。量子印は、量子の特性により中身を読んだ人の数が判る特別な印鑑である。これを発明したのは私である。いまだ私しか作れないので、これも本人証明になる。その他にも二重三重に仕掛けを施し、最後に薬草で封をした。	As I wrote, I became afraid that somebody might read it or alter it en route, so I affixed a quantum seal. A quantum seal is a special type of seal that uses the state of the subatomic particles inside the letter to keep track of how many people have read it. This device was an invention of mine, and since I'm still the only person who can make one, it also served as proof that I wrote the letter. I set two or three other devices to it as well, and finally sealed it with medicinal herbs.

<p>残念ながらこの手紙の返事が来る事は期待できない。表向きには月の使者は私を捕まえなければいけない筈である。この手紙に返事を書く事は、二人のお姫様にとっても危険な事だからだ。</p>	<p>Unfortunately, I can't expect a response to this letter. Officially, the moon's emissaries are charged with my arrest. Writing a response to this letter would be a dangerous thing for the princesses to attempt.</p>
<p>満月は竹の背丈より低い位置まで落ち、うっすらと東の空が明るくなり始めていた。夜が明けたら神社に向かうつもりである。</p>	<p>The full moon dipped below the tops of the highest bamboo trees, and the eastern sky began to glow with a faint light. Once day broke I would head for the shrine.</p>
<p>いつの間にか月面戦争に巻き込まれている事を考え、私を利用している犯人をこの手で捕まえてやると心に誓ったのだった。</p>	<p>Thinking upon how I'd been dragged into another lunar war, I vowed to catch the culprit who was trying to use us to their own ends by my own hand.</p>

1. [Jump up](#) ↑ Under the assumption that Eirin's true identity is Omoikane, and the Watatsuki sisters represent Toyotamahime and Tamayorihime, this relationship holds true.

# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Second Chapter

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第二話 三千年の玉	Chapter 2: Gem of Three Thousand Years
<p>その竹林は深い霧に覆われ、迷い込んだ人間にとって無限の広さを持つと錯覚させられた。規則正しく並んでいない竹、緩やかな起伏、目印になる物が殆ど無い。まっすぐ進んでいるつもりでもいつの間にか元の位置に戻ってきてしまう。そんな竹林ゆえ、迷いの竹林と呼ばれた。</p>	<p>The bamboo forest was enveloped in a deep fog, and a human lost in it would be fooled into believing that it stretched endlessly in all directions. The wild bamboo doesn't form any paths, the ground gently rises and falls in hills and there aren't any proper landmarks. Even if you try to walk straight ahead, at some point you end up back at the same place. Such qualities has given it the name the Bamboo Forest of the Lost.</p>
<p>その迷いの竹林に私の永遠亭は存在する。随分と長い間ここに住んでいたのだが、私にとっての時間はあの事件を機に動き出したばかりである。あの二、三年ほど前の地上の民による襲撃事件があったから、私は永遠亭に永遠の魔法をかけるのを止めた。</p>	<p>In the Bamboo Forest of the Lost lies my residence, Eientei. I've lived here for quite a while, but time has only begun to move for me since that incident occurred. Since the people of Earth attacked us two or three years ago, I've lifted the spell of eternity over Eientei.</p>
<p>何故なら、人間と妖怪が協力している様を見て、酷く羨ましく思ったのだ。永遠に月の都からの使者に怯えて暮らす自分が馬鹿馬鹿しく感じた。</p>	<p>I did this because I was so fiercely jealous when I saw the cooperation between the humans and the youkai. I felt so foolish for living hidden in fear of the moon for a thousand years.</p>



永遠の魔法とは、一切の歴史の進行を止め、穢れを知らずに変化を拒む魔法である。

The spell of eternity is a halts the progress of history, denying any sort of change to preserve purity.



生き物は成長を止め、食べ物はいつまでも腐らず、割れ物を落としても割れることはない。覆水も盆に返る。私は月の民である自覚から地上の穢れを恐れ、この魔法を建物全体にかけていたのだが、地上の民の魅力を目の当たりにし、自らその魔法を解いたのだ。

Living things stop growing, food never spoils, fragile things don't break even if dropped and water never passes beneath the bridge. In my self-awareness as a Lunarian, I was afraid of the impurity of the Earth, and cast this spell over everything in the manor, but when faced with the charms of the Earth, I undid it myself.

その結果、永遠亭も地上の穢れに飲み込まれた。食べ物は早く食べないとすぐに腐り、飼っていた生き物は皆一様に寿命を持ち、高価な壺は慎重に持ち運ばないといけなくなった。その代わりに月の都から使者に怯えて暮らす日々は、明るく楽しいものへと変化した。

As a result, Eientei too was enveloped by the impurity of the Earth. Food rotted if you didn't eat it quickly, living things began to age naturally and you had to make sure to carry valuable vases with care. But, in return, our restless days of living in hiding from the moon's emissaries became cheerful and enjoyable.



それにより永遠亭も永遠亭に住む私達も、地上の一部となったのである。もう月の都に帰る事は出来ないが、後悔はしていない。

And so Eientei, and those of us living there, became a part of Earth. We can never return to the moon, but I have no regrets.

そんな永遠亭には不思議な盆栽があった。珊瑚のような枝には実も葉も付いておらず、傍から見ると枯死してしまったようにしか見えない。

There is a particularly odd bonsai plant in Eientei. Its coral-like branches bore no fruit or flower, and at a glance it looked as if it could only be dead.

だが私はその盆栽の花が咲き、見事な実になる事を知っている。ある条件が揃わないと花が咲かない事も知っていた。しかもその条件は揃いつつある。

But I know that this bonsai will some day blossom and bear splendid fruit. I also knew that it wouldn't flower unless certain conditions were met. However, those conditions were beginning to take shape.

<p>今夜は中秋の名月である。定例の例月祭を行う予定だが生憎の雨だったので、永琳のいる部屋へ今夜の予定を聞きに行った。</p>	<p>Tonight is the night of the harvest moon. We'd intended to hold our monthly lunar festival, but due to the inclement weather I decided to go to Eirin's room to hear her plans for the evening.</p>
<p>「こんな雨じゃ、今年 の中秋の名月は見られ そうにないわね」</p>	<p>"It looks like we won't be able to see the harvest moon this year due to the rain."</p>
<p>私は残念そうに言った が実のところ少し安心 していた。というの も、昔は中秋の名月が 輝く日を恐れた筈なの に、ここ二、三年の間 に満月を見る事を楽し むようになってい るからである。その変化が 何か怖いのだ。怖いゆ えに、満月は見えない 方が考える必要が無く て安心する。</p>	<p>I said this as if I were disappointed, but in truth I was a bit relieved. Though I used to fear the nights when the harvest moon shone down brightly, in the past two or three years I've come to enjoy watching the full moon. This change is a bit frightening. But more than that, it was more relieving not to have to worry about being seen by the moon.</p>
<p>「満月は雲に隠れて見 えない位が丁度良いの ですよ」</p>	<p>"It's best if the full moon is hidden behind the clouds, anyway."</p>
<p>ここの所、細かい雨が 降ったり止んだりを繰 り返し、秋の長雨を感 じさせた。今年の秋は 晴れの日が少ない様 にも感じる。今日も例 外ではなく、朝から小 雨が降ったり止んだり している。</p>	<p>A series of light rain showers had been falling off and on lately, making it feel like we'd entered the autumn rainy season. It felt like there hadn't been very many sunny days this autumn. Today had been no exception, and small showers had been falling off and on since the morning.</p>
<p>「ねえ永琳、イナバ達 に伝えておく？ 今日 の例月祭は体を冷やさ ないように気をつけて やってって」</p>	<p>"Oh, Eirin? Maybe we should tell the Inabas to be careful not to let themselves catch a chill during today's festival."</p>
<p>「いやいや輝夜、すで に今日の例月祭は雨が 酷いようなら室内で 行ってもいいと伝えて おいたわ。兎だって、 雨の中団子を搗くのは 嫌でしょう？」</p>	<p>"No, no, Kaguya, I've already told them we'll hold the festival indoors if the rain worsens. I'm sure they wouldn't want to make dumplings in the rain."</p>



<p>「そうねえ、雨水で搗いた団子なんて食べたくないからね」</p>	<p>"That's true, they wouldn't want to eat dumplings that were made in the rain."</p>
<p>最近、永琳が兎達に優しくなった様な気がしてならない。昔は兎に限らず、永琳にとって地上の生き物は自分の手足でしかなかった。月の都でも月の民にとっては、兎達はただの道具でしかないのだから当然と言えば当然である。月の民は他の生き物とは別次元といっても過言ではない程の、高貴な者達なのだ。</p>	<p>I can't help thinking Eirin's been acting more kindly towards the rabbits lately. Long ago, Eirin treated all of the Earth's creatures - not just the rabbits - as nothing more than her hands and feet. Even in the lunar capital the Lunarians saw the rabbits as nothing more than tools, so I suppose it's no surprise. Lunarians are of such a higher class than the people of Earth it's not an exaggeration to say they're in a different dimension entirely.</p>
<p>それがいつ頃からか永琳は、私達月の民も地上の兎達も対等の存在として扱い始めている様に思える。妖怪と人間が対等に暮らす幻想郷の影響だろうか。</p>	<p>I suppose at some point Eirin began to start seeing us Lunarians and the creatures of Earth more as equals. This was probably due to having lived in Gensokyo, where youkai and humans lived together as equals.</p>
<p>でもそれが嫌だという訳ではない。むしろ私にとっては特別視されるよりは居心地が良かった。何せ幻想郷には月の民は私と永琳の二人しかいないのだから、地上の民より優れていると思っても孤立するだけだし、地上の民がみんな道具であるのならば道具が多すぎるからだ。</p>	<p>That's not a bad thing, though. It's more comfortable to me than being treated as special. Since Eirin and I are the only two Lunarians in Gensokyo, believing us as being superior to the people of Earth would only lead to isolation, and she would have too many tools if that's all she saw the Earth people as.</p>



<p>余り昔の事は思い出したくもないのだが、私は一度も地上の民と同一視された事はなかった。蓬莱の罪を犯して地上に追放された時も、誰一人普通の人間として扱ってくれる者は居なかった様に思える。</p>	<p>I don't want to dwell much on what's happened long ago, but I've never been seen as equal to anyone on Earth. Even when I was exiled to the Earth after committing the crime of drinking the Hourai Elixir, not a single person treated me as a normal human being.</p>
<p>そういえば追放された時に初めて降り立った地上も、こんな霧の深い竹林だった。そこで私を見つけた老夫婦も、最初は私に奇異の念を抱いていた事を覚えている。</p>	<p>As a matter of fact, when I first came down to Earth after my exile, it was in a bamboo forest under thick fog, just like this one. I remember how the old couple that found me were especially careful when they picked me up.</p>
<p>それは当然の事だった。何せ私は竹林の一本の光る竹の中に入れられ、人とは思えぬほど小さくさせられていたのだから、妖怪の類だと思われても仕方がない。妖怪に人間が捕って喰われるのが当たり前前の時代、何故その老夫婦は私を拾って帰ったのだろうか。</p>	<p>It's only natural. I was found inside a glowing bamboo shoot in the forest, too small to be thought of as a human being, so I wouldn't be surprised if I were taken as some sort of youkai. I wonder why the old couple took me home and cared for me in an age where humans were often caught and eaten by youkai.</p>
<p>老夫婦が私を匿ってくれた理由は、月の都の監視役が定期的に富を与えていたからだと思う。月の都の監視役は、私と同じように光る竹に黄金を隠して、この老夫婦に私を匿ってくれた事による謝礼だと印象付けさせた。当然、老夫婦は私を家に住ませれば富が得られると考えるようになる。だからなのか、私は特別視され家から出ることも許されなかった。他の家の者に取られなくなかったのだと思う。</p>	<p>I believe the reason why the old couple took such good care of me is that they were periodically rewarded by the moon for their foster care. I got the impression that the people of the moon would leave gold in glowing shoots of bamboo like the one I was found in as a reward for their care. So, they let me live with them because they believed they would become rich. That's why they looked so closely after me and never allowed me to leave the house. They didn't want another household to snatch up their key to wealth.</p>

<p>それに私は地上では目立っていた。何をしても噂を聞きつけ様々な人間が集まってくるようになった。私も地上の表舞台に出る事は避けたかったし、いつの間にか老夫婦に感謝と愛着の様なものも芽生えていたので、老夫婦が家に匿ってくれる事は有難かった。</p>	<p>In addition, I stood out on Earth. I didn't do anything particularly unusual, but rumors spread, and before long a great number of people had come to see me. I tried to avoid becoming the center of attention on Earth, and before long feelings of love and gratitude began to emerge towards the old couple in their efforts to help shelter me.</p>
<p>そんな日々を経て、いつしか地上を月の都よりも魅力的な場所だと思うようになっていた。その時は永遠の魔法をかける事はなく、僅かだが地上の穢れに侵食されていた影響だと思う。</p>	<p>As I lived out my days in that fashion, I began to see Earth as a more charming place than the lunar capital. I never used my eternity magic during that time, so I think I was probably weakened somewhat under the influence of the Earth's impurity, even if only the faintest bit.</p>
<p>ただ、その時はまだ私も自分が地上の民とは違う高貴な者だと認識していたし、地上の民は道具としか思っていなかったのだが.....ここ幻想郷はとても不思議な土地であった。妖怪と人間が対等に暮らし、古い物も新しい物も入り交じった世界。そこに月の民と月の都の最新技術が混じったところで、誰も驚かないのだろう。自らを高貴な者だと言っても笑われるだけである。</p>	<p>In those days, I still thought of myself as nobility, different from the people of Earth, and I only thought of the Earth people as means to an end, but... Gensokyo is truly a mysterious place. It is a world where humans and youkai live side by side, and where the old and the new intermingled. Nobody would bat an eye at the presence of Lunarians or advanced lunar technology. People would just laugh if we said we were some sort of high-class nobles.</p>
<p>何とも幻想郷は居心地の良い土地だった。何故なら、わざわざ隠れ住まなくても目立つ事がないのだから。</p>	<p>Gensokyo was the place that put me at ease, because even if I didn't spend my time in hiding I wouldn't stand out at all.</p>
<p>「最近の雨はペーハーが低ってよく聞くから特にね。ほら、イナバ達は毛が多いから.....」</p>	<p>"Especially since I hear the pH level in the rain is so low nowadays. After all, the Inabas have so much hair..."</p>

<p>「うふふ、安心して良いわよ輝夜。幻想郷の雨はペーハー6だわ。それに草木が枯れるくらいの雨じゃないと、毛が抜け落ちたりしないわよ」</p>	<p>"Hmhmhm, don't worry, Kaguya. the pH level of the rain in Gensokyo is 6. That won't make any plants wither, so the rabbits' hair won't fall out."</p>
<p>永琳は私のジョークに対し「それに毛が抜け落ちるのを防ぐ薬位簡単に作れるわ」と真面目に答えた。</p>	<p>Eirin responded seriously to my joke with "And even if it did, it would be easy enough to make a medicine to grow it back."</p>
<p>私も勉強して地上の事を少しは理解したつもりである。それでも永琳の勤勉さには敵わない。知ったかぶりで難しそうな単語を用いて話しても、永琳は全て受け答えてくれる。正直、私にはペーハーとは何の事なのかすら判っていないのだが.....。</p>	<p>I want to study to learn a bit more about Earth. Of course, I can't compare with Eirin's intellect. Eirin could come back with a response to any complicated words or phrases I used on her. Honestly, I don't even know what pH is supposed to mean...</p>
<p>何故、彼女はそんなに多くの知識を持っているのだろうか。月の都にいた頃から不思議でならなかった。月の事も地上の事も熟知し、幻想郷にいても外の世界の事すらよく知っている。</p>	<p>I wonder how she's come to know so much. It's always something I've found mysterious, even back from my time on the moon. She is well-informed of the Earth and the moon, and despite living in Gensokyo she even knows much about the outside world.</p>
<p>ただ、博識な者特有の癖というか、そういったものもある。自分の知識を判りやすい形で伝えようとしさない。わざと難しく言って相手の反応を楽しむのだ。つくづく、教授と学者は似て非なるものだと思う。</p>	<p>However, particularly erudite people do have what you might call their own particular habits. They don't typically relay their knowledge in an easily understand fashion. Sometimes they'll say something difficult to understand on purpose to enjoy the reactions of others. I think there's a world of difference between a teacher and a scholar.</p>
<p>「ペーハーが6って事は.....えーっとー」</p>	<p>"So, if it's pH 6... umm..."</p>

「雨にとっては至極正常な状態よ。殆ど酸っぱくないって事」	"It means the water is very neutral. It's not terribly acidic."
ペーハーとは酸っぱさの度合いらしい。今回は永琳にしては判りやすい説明で有難い。	So the pH rating is a measure of how acrid the water is. This time I'm grateful to Eirin for having made it so easy to understand.
「雨水が酸っぱいって事があるのかしら。まあ、どのみち小雨でもイナバ達には家の中で餅を搗いて貰いましょう」	"Ah, so rain can become acidic as well. Well, why don't we have the Inabas make their dumplings inside even if it's not raining too hard."
私がそう伝えると言うと、永琳は頷いた。	Eirin nodded as I said that.
私は薬くさい永琳の部屋を後にして、台所にいる鈴仙に今日の例月祭の事を伝えた。	I left Eirin's medicine-scented room behind me and went to tell Reisen, who was in the kitchen, about the plans for the day's festival.
「あ、輝夜様。もうすぐ準備が出来ますので……」	"Oh, Princess Kaguya. We're almost ready, so..."
鈴仙は既に合羽を着込み、外で餅を搗く気満々であった。	Reisen was already wearing a raincoat, and seemed ready to head outside to pound rice cakes.
「あ、良いのよ。今日は家の中で搗いて頂戴」	"No, that's okay. Please make them inside today."
「え？」	"Huh?"
鈴仙は意外そうな顔をしていた。それもその筈、今まで家の中で行った事は、余りの暴風で兎達が立っていらなかった時を除いて無かったからである。	This seemed to take Reisen by surprise. This was probably because the only other time we'd held the festival indoors the wind was so strong the rabbits couldn't even stand up.

「先ほど、師匠も『雨が酷いようなら』と言っておられました。ただ見た感じ軽い小雨なので外でやるつもりですけど」	"Master said to stay inside if the rain got too bad, but it's still only a light shower outside, so we were going to go out..."
「雨が酸っぱくないから家の中で良いわ」	"The rain isn't too acidic, so you can stay inside."
「雨が酸っぱくないから？ それは一体……」	"The rain isn't...? What does that..."
「pH値6だって、まあ、深い事は考えないの。私の言う通りに動けば間違いないから」それは永琳の口癖だ。根拠が無くても口に出してみると非常に気持ちが良い。	"A pH level of 6 is, well, don't worry about it. Just do as I say, and everything will be all right." Eirin liked to say things like that. It's feels good to say it even if there's no real reason to do so.
「は、はい、有難うございます。では今日の例月祭は永遠亭の中で行おうと思います。その代わり少々騒がしくなるかも知れませんが……」	"O-Okay, thank you. I believe we'll hold the festival inside Eientei today, then. It might get a little loud though..."
例月祭では兎達が歌を歌いながら餅を搗いている。別に儀式とはなんの関係もないのだが、兎達は楽しそうなので放っておいたのだ。まあ、永遠亭の中だと逆に緊張するのも知らない。	The rabbits sing songs while they pound rice cakes during the lunar festival. It's not really part of the ceremony, per se, but the rabbits seem to enjoy it, so we let them be. Well, it might make them more nervous if they did it inside.
「不思議ねえ。神妙なお祭りの筈なのに何で騒がしくなるのかなあ」	"How strange. It should be such a quiet festival, but it's always so boisterous."
「は、いや、今回は静かにさせます」	"Uh, no, we'll be sure to keep quiet this time."
「いやいや別に良いのよ。貴方達が歌いながら餅を搗いている事なんて知っていたわ」	"No, no, it's quite all right. I know how you all enjoy singing while you pound rice cakes."

<p>「貴方達というか、私は歌っていないんですけどね。てゐ達が言う事を聞かないもんで……」</p>	<p>"We? Well, I won't, actually. But Tewi and the others never listen to what I say, so..."</p>
<p>「言う事聞かないじゃ、静かにさせますって言っても無理な話でしょ？」</p>	<p>"If they won't listen to you, then there's no point in promising to be quiet, is there?"</p>
<p>鈴仙は「いやはや済みません」と言うと、お勝手口から「まだ始めないのー？」とてゐの聲が聞こえてきた。</p>	<p>Just as Reisen said she was very sorry, Tewi's voice could be heard calling out through the back door in the kitchen, "Is it time yet?"</p>
<p>「じゃあ騒がしくなる代わりとっては何だけど、出来れば団子の味のバリエーションが欲しいわ」</p>	<p>"Well, in return for the noise, I'd like you to try to add more kinds of flavors to the dumplings today."</p>
<p>「それはお安いご用です。何か要望が御座いましたら是非」</p>	<p>"That is a simple request. Please let us know if you have anything in particular you'd like."</p>
<p>少し考え、とりあえず「三色団子があるんだから、七色の団子なんて如何？」と言っておいた。</p>	<p>I thought for a while, and eventually responded, "We have three-colored dumplings, so why not seven-colored dumplings?"</p>
<p>私は自分の部屋に戻り、奇妙な盆栽を愛でる仕事に戻った。</p>	<p>I returned to my room, and to the task of caring for the unusual bonsai.</p>
<p>例月祭といっても私はやる事がない。いや、例月祭に限らず普段の生活でもやる事が殆ど無い。竹林の外の情報はイナバ達に伝えて貰うし、急患や来客があったとしても永琳が全て対応してくれる。何もしなくて良いという生活は、正直退屈なものだった。</p>	<p>I just don't have anything to do, even though it's the day of the lunar festival. Well, it's not limited to festival preparation, I rarely have any tasks that I need to perform. I get my information about what's happening beyond the bamboo forest from the Inabas, and Eirin takes care of any emergency patients or visitors. Honestly, a life where you don't have to do anything is boring.</p>

<p>月の都にいた頃も同様に、やる事が何も無かった気がする。退屈さ故に地上に憧れたものだったが、地上に降りてきて初めて判った。やる事が無いのは月の都や地上など環境に関係なく、私自身の問題だと。何事も環境の所為にする心が退屈さと窮屈さを生むという事を。</p>	<p>I think it was the same when I was still in the lunar capital. I became fascinated with Earth due to my boredom, but I didn't understand until I first came here. The lack of anything to do was not limited to my environment, whether the moon or Earth, but it was a personal issue. A heart that relies only on outside stimulation leads to boredom and unease.</p>
<p>だから私は退屈な日々を打ち破る第一歩として、盆栽を愛でる事を仕事にした。それだけだが、毎日やらなければいけない事があるだけで気持ちは大分変わるものである。</p>	<p>So, in an effort to break through that boredom, I made it my job to care for this bonsai. It really does change your mood to have something you must do every day.</p>
<p>私が眺めている盆栽は、毎日眺めていても何の変化も無い。しかし、変化の無い物は地上には存在しない筈である。形ある物は必ず壊れ、命ある物はいつかは死せる。地上に存在するあらゆる物も、その呪縛から逃れられない様に出来ている。その理由は地上に蔓延る穢れに原因があると永琳は教えてくれた。</p>	<p>The bonsai I've been gazing at so intently never changes no matter how much I stare at it. However, it shouldn't be possible for anything on Earth to remain unchanged. Anything with a form will erode, and anything that lives will die. This is a fate that nothing on Earth can escape. Eirin told me this is because of the impurity that permeates all things on Earth.</p>
<p>穢れは物質や生命から永遠を奪い、同時に寿命をもたらす。地上に存在するあらゆる物は多かれ少なかれ穢れているから、永遠に残り続ける者など無い。ましてや、変化しない事など有り得ないのだ。</p>	<p>This impurity steals the eternity from all things' life force and physicality, and at the same time it plunders from their lifespan. Since all things on earth are tainted in this manner to some degree, nothing can last forever. And, of course, nothing can remain the same forever.</p>

<p>しかし、私の目の前にある盆栽は穢れていない。だから変化せず永遠を保っている。成長してないように見えるのは、決して枯死している訳ではなくつい最近まで私の能力により永遠を保っていたからである。私の能力は『永遠と須臾<small>しゅゆ</small>を操る能力』。地上には存在し得ない、穢れ無き永遠を作り出すことができるのである。</p>	<p>However, the bonsai before me is not tainted. It has been able to preserve its eternity. It appears unable to grow not because it's already dead, but because it's still full of eternity thanks to my power. My power is the ability to control eternity and the instantaneous. It gives me the ability to create a pure eternity that could never exist otherwise on the Earth.</p>
<p>この盆栽の正体は、本来月の都にしか存在しない植物『優曇華』。地上では三千年に一度咲くとも言われている幻の花と同じ名前の植物である。</p>	<p>In fact, this bonsai is a plant that only grows in the lunar capital called the udonge. It has the same name as a legendary plant on Earth that's said to flower once every three thousand years.</p>
<p>同じ名前と言ったのは、地上にも別に優曇華という植物は存在するからである。三千年に一度しか咲かないという伝説が元になり、非常に稀にしか咲かない植物にその名前を当てただけの物だ。</p>	<p>The plant on the Earth is a different plant called the udonge. It takes its name from the plant of legend, and only blooms very rarely.</p>
<p>本当の優曇華は、月の都にしか生えていない木である。この木が花を咲かせ、実を付けると綺麗な七色の玉が枝に付くのである。昔、私に求婚に来た男<small>たまえ</small>に要求した『蓬萊の玉の枝』と呼ばれる宝物は、この優曇華の木が開花して実を付けた物の事を指していた。蓬萊の玉の枝とは、蓬萊の優曇華にかけたものである。</p>	<p>Real udonge are a tree that only grow in the lunar capital. When it blossoms, beautiful seven-colored jewels appear on its branches. The Jeweled Branch of Hourai that I requested from a man who came seeking my hand in marriage long ago refers to a branch from an udonge tree that has borne these "fruits." The Jeweled Branch of Hourai comes from the Hourai udonge.</p>

<p>この優曇華は、月の都では葉も花も実も付けない。見窄らしいが、実に『わび・さび』の『さび』を感じさせる木である。枯れる事も成長する事も無くただ生えている。しかしこの枝を地上に持ってくると、地上の穢れによりその姿を大きく変化させる。その穢れを栄養とし成長を始め、美しい七色の玉を実らせるのだ。</p>	<p>The udonge never blooms or bears fruit in the lunar capital. It looks deteriorated, but it embodies the sense of "the flow of time" inherent in the phrase "wabisabi". It only lives, never growing or bearing fruit. But, if you bring one of its branches to Earth, it changes its form in reaction to the Earth's impurity. It feeds on that impurity and begins to grow, bearing fruit to a beautiful seven-colored gem.</p>
<p>何故穢れを栄養とする植物が、穢れの無い月の都に生えているのかはよく判らないが、大方月の都に住む賢者の誰かが作った植物なのだろう。月の都に穢れを持ち込むと、すぐに花を咲かせて知らせるからである。</p>	<p>I don't know how a plant that feeds on impurity could live on the pure moon, but I'm sure it was created by a certain sage that lived in the lunar capital. As soon as any impurity found its way onto the moon, the plant would blossom, allowing it to serve as a detection mechanism.</p>
<p>他にも月の使者は地上に降り立つとき、この優曇華の枝を持ち寄る。そしてそれを一権力者に渡すと、穢れに満ちた権力者によって美しい七色の玉が実る。権力を持っていればいる程、美しい玉の実を付ける。当然、権力者はその玉を権力の象徴とする。</p>	<p>The emissaries of the moon typically take a branch from an udonge with them when they descend to Earth. Once there, they give it to an authority figure, and it reacts to the impurity in that person and bears splendid fruit. The more powerful the person is, the more beautiful the gems borne by the branch. Of course, the recipient invariably takes that as a sign of their authority.</p>
<p>だが、地上に存在するものは必ず壊れる。盛者必衰、力あるものもいずれ必ず衰え滅びる。その時、この優曇華の玉の枝は奪い合いの対象となるのだ。そして地上の世の平和は乱れ、戦乱の世へと変化する。</p>	<p>Still, everything on the Earth eventually breaks down. The prosperous will always return to nothing, and even the powerful will eventually fade away. When that happens, the jeweled branch of the udonge will be coveted by many, and a fight over it will ensue. Thus, the peace of the Earth is disrupted and turned into chaos.</p>

<p>つまり優曇華は、月の民が地上に争乱をもたらす為にも利用されている植物である。何故争乱をもたらす必要があったのかは、人間の歴史を見れば容易に判る。人間の歴史と成長は、全て戦争の歴史と成長なのだから。争い事がなければ何も成長しない。現状に満足した時点で人間は生きるのを諦めてしまうだろう。月の民は地上の民の事を思って、日々暮らしているのだ。地上の民の歴史は月の民が作っていた事に他ならない。</p>	<p>In other words, the udonge is often used as an implement by which the moon causes disorder on Earth. It should be easy to understand why this is by examining human history. Human history and growth are both linked closely to strife. Without conflict, humanity would have no impetus for growth. When humans are satisfied with their present condition, they may as well give up on life. The people of the moon spend much of their lives thinking of the people of Earth. The history of Earth has progressed just the way the moon has wanted it.</p>
<p>「輝夜、ほら雨が上がって雲の切れ間から満月が見えるわよ」</p>	<p>"Kaguya, look. The rain's stopped, and you can see the moon through a break in the clouds."</p>
<p>背中からかけられた声で目が覚めた。盆栽を眺めながら考え事をしていたら、いつの間にかうとうとしていたようだ。</p>	<p>I opened my eyes at the sound of a voice behind me. I must have dropped off while looking at the bonsai and thinking.</p>
<p>「あらほんと、優曇華の盆栽を眺めていたら軽く眠ってましたわ」</p>	<p>"Oh, so it has. I must have dozed of while looking at the bonsai."</p>
<p>私が持っている優曇華の盆栽はまだ実を付けていなければ花も咲いていない。</p>	<p>The udonge bonsai I held in my hands still hadn't borne fruit or flower.</p>

<p>それは私がこの屋敷全体に永遠を与えていたからであるのだが、その永遠の魔法もこの間の騒動で止めてしまった。つまり永遠亭にも地上と同じく歴史が動き始めたのである。すぐに穢れはこの屋敷にも広まり、永遠亭は地上の一部になっていくだろう。この優曇華に花が咲くのも時間の問題であると思われた。</p>	<p>This was because I'd cast a spell of eternity over the entire mansion, but I had lifted that spell after recent events. In other words, Eientei's history had begun to advance, just like the rest of the Earth. Soon, the Earth's impurity would begin to spread throughout the mansion, and Eientei would become just another part of Earth. It was just a matter of time before the udonge blossomed.</p>
<p>私や永琳の心境に微量な変化が見られるのも、恐らく地上の穢れの影響であろう。一度地上の穢れにまみれてしまえばもう二度と月の都に戻る事は出来ないが、私も永琳もそのつもりであった。可哀相なのは私達の巻き添えになって帰れなくなる月の兎、鈴仙くらいである。</p>	<p>If the outlook Eirin and I had held has changed, it's probably the effect of the Earth's impurity. Once touched by the impurity of the Earth, you can never go back to the lunar capital, but we had no intention to do so. I do feel sorry for Reisen, though, who got caught up in our affairs.</p>
<p>そう言えば、映倫は鈴仙の事を『優曇華』と名付けている。それはどういう意味だろうか？ 私達に蔓延る穢れを計る為の存在と考えているのだろうか.....。いや永琳の事だ、恐らく穢れを知らなかった月の兎が、地上の穢れに触れて美しい実を付ける事を期待しているのだろう。</p>	<p>Thinking of which, Eirin often calls Reisen "Udonge." I wonder why that is? She must think of her as something to gauge the extent of the impurity that's creeping into us... Or perhaps it's meant to mean that a moon rabbit who knew no impurity on the moon will become something beautiful when touched by the Earth's.</p>
<p>「あら、雨上がりの所為か満月が綺麗に見えるわね。それで、イナバ達は？ さっきは家の中で例月祭をしると伝えたのだけど」</p>	<p>"Oh my, maybe it's because of the rain, but the moon looks so beautiful tonight. Oh, what about the Inabas? I told them they could have the festival indoors tonight, but..."</p>
<p>永琳は笑顔でこう答えた。</p>	<p>Eirin, smiling, replied:</p>

<p>「もう外でやってるわ。兎達も外の方が気楽で良いみたい」</p>	<p>"They're already outside. They seem to be more comfortable outside."</p>
<p>「ふーん。それはどういう意味かしらね」</p>	<p>"Hmmm. I wonder what that means."</p>
<p>「何をやるにしてもボスは近くにいない方が気が楽って事」</p>	<p>"No matter what you do, you're always more at ease when the boss isn't close by."</p>
<p>「じゃあ、今度からどんな雨でも外でやって貰う事にしようね。 <small>のわき</small> 野分 (*注) でも何でも」窓の外から兎達が歌っている声が聞こえてくる。家の中では随分と抑えて歌っていたようだ。外で楽しそうに歌っているのを見ると永琳が優曇華の盆栽を気にしていた。</p>	<p>"Well, maybe we should have them always hold the festival outside, no matter what the weather. Come nowaki (* the autumn typhoons) or anything else." The rabbits' voices drifted in from outside the window. Their singing had been very restrained when there were inside. They seemed to be having a lot of fun singing now. Eirin noticed the udonge bonsai.</p>
<p>「.....まだ変化がないみたいね。でも、もうじき成長を開始するでしょう。ひっそりとした花を咲かせた後、綺麗な七色の玉の実を付ける筈です。楽しみね」</p>	<p>"...It still hasn't changed, I see. I'm sure it won't be long before it starts growing. And after its first flowers bloom, it should bear fruit to splendid seven-colored jewels. It will be nice, won't it?"</p>
<p>「ええそうね。綺麗な優曇華の木は地上の民の特権ですから。それに今日は一足早くその七色の玉の実を味わえる様にしてみたわ」</p>	<p>"Yes, it will. The jeweled branch of the udonge is a special privilege for the Earth people. Oh, and I've done something to try to help give us a taste of that jeweled fruit today."</p>
<p>永琳は「どういう事？」と言って首を傾げた。どんな事でも永琳が疑問に思うとちょっと嬉しく思う。</p>	<p>Eirin asked, "What do you mean?" and tilted her head to one side. It's nice to be able to befuddle Eirin once in a while.</p>
<p>「鈴仙に今日の例月祭の団子に、三食ならぬ七色の団子を勧めてみたの」</p>	<p>"I asked Reisen to make seven-colored dumplings instead of the usual three-colored ones for today's festival."</p>

「なるほど、それは面白いわね。でも、その団子が優曇華みたいな七色だったら私はちょっと遠慮したいわね」	"I see, how interesting. I don't know how much I'd like it if they turned out the same colors as the udonge's jewels, though."
「どうして？」	"Why is that?"
「だって、蓬莱の玉は青とか藍とかあるのだから。食欲そそらないでしょ？」	"Because the Hourai jewels have colors like blue and indigo. Those aren't very appetizing, don't you think?"
——外から聞こえる兎達の歌の激しさが増していた。大勢で餅を搗く音が和太鼓が奏でる激しいリズムの様に聞こえる。兎達には不思議な能力がある。以心伝心に優れていて、兎同士なら言葉を交わさずとも強い連携が保てるのだ。	The rabbits' singing voices outside became more intense. The sounds they made pounding dumplings sounded just like a Japanese taiko drum. The rabbits have a mysterious ability. Even beyond telepathy, they're able to maintain a strong connection without exchanging a word.
鈴仙は月の都にいる兎と連絡を取る事が出来るし、てゐ達は何も言わずともリズムを合わせて踊りだす。餅を搗くタイミングと周期をみんなですしずつづらせば、不思議な音楽の出来上がりである。	Reisen can communicate with the rabbits on the moon, and Tewi and the others can all dance in perfect rhythm without saying a word. The rhythm and cyclical nature of the pounding all came together to make a mysterious sort of music.
私と永琳は居間で兎達が奏でる音楽をお茶請けにして秋の夜長を楽しむ事にした。別に中秋の名月だからといって、外で休憩するのは止めた。	Eirin and I took in the music the rabbits were playing outside with our tea and enjoyed the autumn night. Because it was the harvest moon, we took some time to relax outside.
「それにしても、今日の兎達が搗くリズムは凄いわね。何がそうさせているのかしら」	"The rabbits' rhythm tonight is amazing, isn't it? I wonder why that is."
「中秋の名月だからかなあ」	"It must be because it's the harvest moon..."

<p>そう言って永琳はさらに「まるでケチャみたね」と付け加えたが、私には何の事だかさっぱり判らなかつた。</p>	<p>Having said that, Eirin added, "Just like kecak, isn't it?", but I had no idea what she was talking about.</p>
<p>「ところで永琳。二ヶ月前の話だけど……。何だかあれから不穏な感じがしない？」</p>	<p>"By the way, Eirin. Remember two months ago... Doesn't it seem like something's been happening since then?"</p>
<p>「ああ、確かに地上では誰が広めたのかあちこちで月の話題が出ているわ」</p>	<p>"Yes, someone on Earth has definitely been spreading the subject, and everyone's talking about the moon nowadays."</p>
<p>そうなのだ。ふた月前、月の都では永琳をはじめとする反逆群が月に攻めてくるという噂が出てきたかと思うと、神社には逃亡してきた月の兎が降りてきたりと不思議な出来事が続いた。</p>	<p>That's right. I think it was about two months ago that the rumors started of a revolutionary force, led by Eirin, was going to infiltrate the moon, and that fugitive moon rabbit showed up at the shrine.</p>
<p>その前から、月の都では内乱の兆しが見えていたとも聞いていたし、何者かが月の都で暴れようとしているのは間違いなかった。そのスケープゴートとして永琳の名前を使っているか、もしくは自然と永琳の名前が出てきただけであろう。</p>	<p>We'd heard of rumors of internal disorder in the lunar capital before then, and someone was definitely trying to cause unrest in the lunar capital. Perhaps they were using Eirin's name to serve as a scapegoat, or perhaps she just came up naturally.</p>
<p>それに関しては、永琳が月の都で信頼の置ける人物に封書を送る事で解決しているから心配ないと思うのだが、それから何故か幻想郷のあちこちで月の噂をする者が増えたのだ。</p>	<p>I didn't worry too much about it after that since Eirin sent a sealed letter to certain people she trusted on the moon explaining the circumstances, but since then more people have been spreading rumours about the moon in Gensokyo.</p>
<p>「二ヶ月前の妖怪兎が月の兎である事を知っている人間なんていない筈なのにねえ」</p>	<p>"But there shouldn't be any humans that know that that rabbit from two months ago was a moon rabbit, should there?"</p>

<p>「恐らく、それは予想外の事故だと思うよ」</p>	<p>"Well, that probably was an unexpected accident."</p>
<p>「事故？」</p>	<p>"Accident?"</p>
<p>「本当の黒幕が想定していなかった出来事って事」</p>	<p>"It probably wasn't something the real mastermind imagined would happen."</p>
<p>「.....黒幕なんているのかしら？ それに黒幕が何を想定しているのか私にはさっぱりだわ。でも事故じゃなくてそれも黒幕が仕掛けた出来事だったら？」</p>	<p>"...I wonder if there really is such a person? I just don't have any idea what a mastermind would have imagined. But, what if it wasn't an accident, and that mastermind planned it, too?"</p>
<p>「その可能性があったら.....お手上げかもね」</p>	<p>"If that's the case... then I give up."</p>
<p>永琳は「もう月の都にいる彼女達との連絡手段が無いんだから」と両手を上に向け、肩の所まで持ち上げた。</p>	<p>Eirin said, "After all, I don't have any other ways to contact those girls on the moon," raising both hands to about shoulder height, facing the sky.</p>
<p>問題は月の戦争だけではない。吸血鬼が月ロケットを組み立てようとしているらしい。神社や香霖堂など、あちこちを巻き込んで大がかりな装置が完成しようとしていると噂である。</p>	<p>The war on the moon wasn't the only problem. It seemed that the vampire was trying to assemble a moon rocket. According to rumor, they were attempting some sort of large-scale construction and had gotten the shrine and Kourindo involved somehow.</p>
<p>「もしかしてあの吸血鬼が黒幕なのかしら。月ロケットを開発していてもう完成間近だって噂だし、月の都に攻め入る可能性があるのは吸血鬼一味位だし」</p>	<p>"I wonder if that vampire is behind it all. They say they've almost finished developing a moon rocket, and trying to invade the lunar capital seems like something she'd do."</p>
<p>「その可能性も高いけど、だとしたら私がスケープゴートになったのも、月の旗が抜かれたのも、月の兎が降りてきたのも偶然ね」</p>	<p>"The possibility is high, but that would mean that using me as a scapegoat, the flag drifting down from the moon and that moon rabbit's appearance were all just coincidences."</p>

<p>「どうしてかしら？」      答えは想像つくけど一      応聞いてみたが「あんな      子供にそこまでの知      恵は無いわ」と予想通      りの答えで少し残念      だった。</p>	<p>"And why is that?" I had an      idea of what her answer      would be, but I was a bit      disappointed to hear the      response I'd expected:      "Because that child doesn't      know anything about any of      those."</p>
<p>——ドンドンと激し      かった太鼓の音は、ガ      ヤガヤとした兎達の声      に取って代わった。今      月の例月祭も無事に終      わったようだ。</p>	<p>The loud, resounding sounds      of the pounding had turned      into the chattering voices      of the rabbits outside. It      seems this month's festival      had ended without incident      as well.</p>
<p>私と永琳はその様子      を見に外に出ると、既      に団子が大皿に盛りつ      けされていた。見事に      団子が七色になっていた      が、どぎつい赤や色鮮      やかな青、サイケデー      リックな色彩でとても      食欲をそそるような代      物では無かった。</p>	<p>When Eirin and I went      outside to check, the      dumplings had already      been piled up on a large      platter. They were, in      deed, magnificent seven-      colored dumplings, but      the psychedelic colors,      such as a gaudy red and      a dazzling blue, made      them appear quite unap      petizing.</p>
<p>「あ、輝夜様、お師匠      様。今片付けますので      少々お待ちください」</p>	<p>"Oh, Princess Kaguya,      Master. We're still clean      ing up, so please wait a      bit."</p>
<p>鈴仙はてゐに臼を片付      けるように命令した。      私は空を見上げて中秋      の名月と呼ばれる月を      探してみたが、空には      満月の姿は見あたらな      かった。</p>	<p>Reisen ordered Tewi to      clean up the millstones.      I looked to the sky to      try to find the wonder      ful moon called the har      vest moon, but it was      nowhere to be seen.</p>
<p>「雨は上がったけ      ど.....また月は雲に      隠れちゃったのね」</p>	<p>"The rain has cleared      up, but... the moon is      hidden behind the clouds      again."</p>
<p>「ええそうなんです      よ。月が見えていたの      はほんの一瞬だけでした。      折角お月見が出来      ると思っていたのです      が.....どうなされま      した？」</p>	<p>"Yes, it is. It was only      out for the briefest of      moments. I'd hoped we'd      finally be able to sit and      watch the moon, but...      what's the matter?"</p>

<p>「いや、月の都から逃げてきた月の兎の癖に『折角お月見が出来ると思って』だなんて可笑しくて」私は軽く笑ってしまった。</p>	<p>"No, just hearing the words 'I thought we'd finally be able to sit and watch the moon' from a fugitive moon rabbit was amusing." I couldn't help laughing softly.</p>
<p>鈴仙は少々照れるように「そりゃこれだけ地上にいれば、そこら辺の地上の民と変わらなくなりますよ」と言った。</p>	<p>A little embarrassed, Reisen said, "Well, if you spend time on Earth, you start to do the same things Earth people do."</p>
<p>地上の兎達は大人しく臼を全て片付けている。いつもなら片付けも中途半端にして何処かへ消えてしまうのに、と鈴仙が不思議がっていた。</p>	<p>The earth rabbits were obediently cleaning up all the millstones. Normally they'd halfheartedly clean up for a while before disappearing off somewhere, and Reisen was amazed by their obedient behavior.</p>
<p>それもその筈、今日の団子にはいつもの薬を混ぜていないからだ。いつもなら兎達が摘み食いする事を想定して、興奮する薬を混ぜて祭りを盛り上げるのだが、今日は私達も団子を食べるつもりだったので薬は滋養強壯の薬に変えておいたのだ。興奮の少ない兎達はいつもより従順である。</p>	<p>Of course, that was because we hadn't mixed in the usual medicine with the dumplings. Normally we'd sneak in something to make them more excitable as they snuck a few dumplings during the festival to make it more lively, but we exchanged it with a strength-nourishing medicine because we were to have some dumplings tonight as well. Without the usual stimulants, the rabbits were more obedient.</p>
<p>それでも兎達は祭りを盛り上げていた様である。薬なんて関係無しに盛り上がるのなら、それに越した事はない。</p>	<p>Still, it seems the rabbits had plenty of excitement during the festival, regardless. If they can enjoy it so much without us having to add medicine to the dumplings, then nothing could be better.</p>
<p>「それで、鈴仙。七色の団子って言ったけど.....本当に鮮やかな七色の団子を作ったのね」</p>	<p>"Oh, Reisen. I asked for seven-colored dumplings, but they turned out to be truly vivid, didn't they?"</p>

<p>私は「三色団子は桃色と白とヨモギ色で食欲をそそるのに」と皮肉を込めて言った。</p>	<p>I added to myself, "The three-colored dumplings being peach and white and dark green isn't very appetizing either."</p>
<p>「説明しましょうか？ 紅、橙、黄、緑、青、藍、紫の虹色団子になっています。それぞれの色は頑張って材料を探したのですが.....割と色しか考えていなかったの、内容を聞くと食欲をそそりませんけど聞きます？」</p>	<p>"Ah, why don't I tell you about them? We made rainbow dumplings with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. We did our best to find ingredients to make each of the different colors... but we really only had the colors in mind, so you may not think the contents are very appetizing. Do you still want to hear about them?"</p>
<p>「いや、聞かない」聞く前から余り食欲はないし、これ以上食欲を削がれたら今夜はうなされそうだ。</p>	<p>"No, thank you." They weren't all that appetizing before I knew what was in them, and it would be a shame if I had any less desire to try to finish these tonight.</p>
<p>永琳は青色の団子を掴み口に放り込み、「これは意外といけるわね」と言っていた。なるほど、永琳の知識は何にでも挑戦する所にあるのか、と感心した。</p>	<p>Eirin placed a blue dumpling in her mouth and said, "This is actually really good." So Eirin's knowledge is such that it can stand up to any challenge anywhere. I was impressed.</p>
<p>「ところで話が変わりますが、先々月から何か地上に不穏な空気が流れているのを感じていませんか？」</p>	<p>"Sorry to change the topic, but don't you get the impression that the disorder on the moon is spreading to the Earth now?"</p>
<p>私と永琳は顔を見合わせ「兎が心配するような事じゃない」と声を合わせて言った。</p>	<p>Eirin and I glanced at each other and said together, "It's nothing for the rabbits to worry about."</p>
<p>鈴仙は少し不安そうな顔をした。</p>	<p>Reisen looked a bit uneasy.</p>

<p>「いや、大した事じゃないのかも知れないですが、この間吸血鬼のメイドが家に訪れて、月に行く為の資料は無いかしらって言ってきた事もありましたし」</p>	<p>"Well, I don't know if it's a big deal or not, but the vampire's maid came here asking about fuel to take them to the moon."</p>
<p>「あら、うちにも来ていたのね」</p>	<p>"Oh, she came here, too?"</p>
<p>「うちにもって？」</p>	<p>"Too?"</p>
<p>「さっきまで、永琳と二人でその話をしていたのよ。吸血鬼が月に行く為のロケットを作っているって。その為の資料をあちこちで探しているみたいなの」</p>	<p>"Eirin and I were talking about this before. The vampire is trying to build a rocket to go to the moon. It looks like they're going around trying to find rocket fuel for it."</p>
<p>「そうなんですか。でもその時はすぐに追い返したんですけど……」</p>	<p>"I see. Well, I sent her away immediately when she came here..."</p>
<p>「何故すぐに追い返したのかしら？」</p>	<p>"Why did you send her away?"</p>
<p>「え？ だって、地上の妖怪が月に行こうとする事に協力する訳が無いじゃないですか。そんな事で輝夜様やお師匠様の手を煩わせたくない」と</p>	<p>"What? Well, there's no reason for us to help Earth youkai try to get to the moon, is there? That, and I didn't want to disturb either of you about it."</p>
<p>「鈴仙が追い返していなければ、お茶位は出せたわ。資料は出せないけど」</p>	<p>"You shouldn't have sent her away, but sent out tea. Just not information."</p>

<p>雨上がりの所為か、冷たい風が吹き込んできた。今月も無事に満月の夜を過ぎる事が出来たようだ。本当のところ、もう満月の日に月の都からお迎えが来るなんて事は考えてもいなかった。もうそんな事は有り得ないと思うようになっていた。</p>	<p>A cold wind began to blow, perhaps due to the rain earlier. It looked like we'd passed another full moon safely. Honestly, I didn't believe we'd have to worry about someone from the lunar capital coming to find us during the full moon anymore. We believed such things were no longer possible.</p>
<p>何故だろう、この屋敷に永遠の魔法をかけていた千年以上もの間はずっと怯えていたと言うのに、三年ほど前に魔法を解いてからすぐに心境の変化が現われた。</p>	<p>I wonder how it could be that my outlook changed so much in three years after having spent over a millennium in hiding in this manor behind my spell of eternity.</p>
<p>これが地上に蔓延る穢れの影響だとするならば、地上の民というのは如何に変化が早く気楽なものか。いつまでも同じ不安に悩まされる事も無く、嫌な事は次から次へと忘れてしまう。私がそう変化したという事は、やはり永琳も同じなのだろうか？</p>	<p>If it's due to the effect of the impurity that wears down everything on Earth, Earth people must adapt quite quickly to change. They're not always worrying over the same thing, but rather always going from one problem to the next, and forgetting the unpleasant experiences. If I've changed this much, I wonder if Eirin has, as well?</p>
<p>永琳は私なんかよりずっと長く生きている。月の都にいた時間も長ければ、月の都では賢者として重要な立場にいた。地上に降りてきても人間離れした考え方を持っていた。</p>	<p>Eirin has been alive for much longer than I have. Due to her longevity, even on the moon, she was a key figure in her role as sage. Even since coming down to Earth she has a way of thinking that's quite different from the humans'.</p>
<p>だからなのか、私が永遠の魔法を止めたとしても、きっと変わらないのだろうと考えていた。何となく、地上の穢れとは無縁なのではないかと考えていた。当然、そんな筈もなく、少しずつだが永琳の行動にも変化は見られる。</p>	<p>That's why I thought that even if I lifted my spell of eternity, she wouldn't change much. I thought that the Earth's impurity had nothing to do with us. Of course, reality was not like that, and one can see slight changes even in Eirin's behavior.</p>

<p>永琳は地上で医者を開業した。今や、里の医者では治せない病気を患ったら永遠亭に行けと言われる程の名医である。昔の永琳では考えられない出来事だった。地上の民は手足でしかないと考えていた人物が、今では地上の民を助ける手足でもあるのだから。</p>	<p>Eirin opened a clinic on Earth. Now she's well-known enough that people in the village refer cases to Eientei that their doctors cannot heal. The old Eirin would never have thought to do such a thing. Before she would have only seen them as means to her own ends, but now she goes so far as to help maintain their health.</p>
<p>病院を始めた理由は、永琳曰く「これからは地上の民として暮らすのですから、地上の民の勤めを怠ってはいけません。お互い他人の為に働く事が地上の民の勤めなのです」という事らしい。つまり、働かざる者食うべからずという事だろう。</p>	<p>As for why she opened the clinic, Eirin herself said, "We'll have to live as Earth people now, so we can't neglect our duties towards others. It's customary for Earth people to help others in need," she said. It must be like that saying, a day's work for a day's bread.</p>
<p>私には何となく理解できる。私を匿った老夫婦も、なまじ月の都から財宝を頂いたが為に、平穏な暮らしを奪われてしまったのだ。地上の民は自分の働き以上の見返りは期待してはいけない。必ず不幸になるからである。</p>	<p>I believe I understand that. Even the couple that raised me had their peaceful life taken away by the moon's opulent rewards. Earth people don't expect results for anything beyond their own actions. To do so would be to invite unhappiness.</p>
<p>ただ、理解できるのだがまだ実践できていない。私に限らず、幻想郷にはその地上の民の勤めを果たしていない者が多い気がする。そんな悩みを永琳に打ち明けると「輝夜は自分のやりたい事だけすればいいのよ。もしやりたい事がなければ、やりたい事を探す事を仕事にきなさい」とはぐらかされる。</p>	<p>Even though I understand it, but I can't put it into practice myself. And I get the feeling that there are many people, not just me, who aren't working for the good of other people. When I tell Eirin about these worries of mine, she avoids the question and says, "Kaguya, just worry about doing what you, yourself, want to do. If there's nothing you want to do, then make finding something to do your job."</p>

<p>今はまだ、地上の民として自分がやるべき仕事は見つかっていないが、優曇華の花が咲く頃には何かを始めている筈である。むしろ、何かやりたい事を見つけた時に花が咲くのかも知れないと思った。</p>	<p>I still haven't found a role for myself as a member of Earth society, but something should start around the time the udonge blossoms. I thought that the flower might bloom about the time I found something to do.</p>
<p>「鈴仙。吸血鬼の使いが来たのなら、私の所まで通してくれば良かったのに」</p>	<p>"Reisen. If one the vampire's servant comes here again, I hope you'll bring them to me."</p>
<p>永琳が少しきつめの口調で鈴仙に忠告したので、鈴仙は慌てた様子でこう言った。</p>	<p>Eirin's advice to Reisen was worded a bit sternly, so Reisen appeared a bit downcast as she said:</p>
<p>「お師匠様。すみません、もしかしてそのメイドから何か情報を得ようとかそういうおつもりでしたか？ でしたら、もう一度呼んでくる事も考えますが.....」</p>	<p>"I'm sorry, Master Did you want to try to find out something from that maid? I think she intends to come around once more..."</p>
<p>永琳は「通してくれば、丁重にお断り出来たわ」と言って笑った。鈴仙も安心した様子で「じゃあ今度からはお師匠様に追い返して貰いますよ」と言った。</p>	<p>Eirin replied, "If you bring her to me, I can turn her down politely," and smiled. Reisen seemed a bit more at ease on hearing this, and said, "Well, then, next time I'll be happy to bring her to you."</p>
<p>「ま、もう私達には月に行く手段が無いしね」</p>	<p>"We no longer have the means to go to the moon anyway."</p>
<p>「そうですね.....。私達だって月に行く手段がないというのに、吸血鬼がどうやって行くって言うのでしょーう」鈴仙は名月がある筈の方向を向いてつぶやいた。</p>	<p>"That's true... but even so, the vampire will want to know how to get there," Reisen whispered, gazing at where the harvest moon should have been.</p>

永琳は、鈴仙の表情が僅かに変化したのを見て安心させるようにこう答えた。	Eirin, noticing the subtle change in Reisen's demeanor, said this to put her at ease.
「だから、鈴仙も地上に不穏な空気が流れていても全く心配する必要はないわ」	"Anyway, there's no need for you to worry even if whatever disturbance comes to the Earth."
鈴仙は何かを吹っ切った様にお師匠様の方を向いて、再確認の為に質問をした。	Reisen seemed to achieve some sort of breakthrough, and asked her Master to once more for confirmation.
「つまりそれは、地上の誰も月の都に行く事は出来ないから安心して良いって事ですか？」	"Is that because there's no way for anyone on Earth to get to the moon?"
それを聞いて永琳は何故か大笑いをして、次のように返答した。	Eirin smiled mysteriously upon hearing that and responded:
「あはは、違う違う。私達はもう月の民ではなくて、ただの地上にへばり付く人間と妖怪なんだから、月の都の心配しても仕様が無いって事よ」	"Hahaha, that's not it. We're not members of the lunar society anymore. We're just a simple group of humans and youkai living on the Earth, so there's no need for us to worry about what happens on the moon."
それを聞いて私も大笑いした。それと同時に、今起きている不思議な出来事は永琳に任せておこうと思った。	Once I heard that, I smiled as well, and decided to leave the strange goings-on in Eirin's hands.
pg.41 *注 秋の台風の事	Pg.41 *Note: A typhoon/hurricane in the fall.



# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Third Chapter

 [en.touhouwiki.net/wiki/Cage\\_in\\_Lunatic\\_Runagate/Third\\_Chapter](http://en.touhouwiki.net/wiki/Cage_in_Lunatic_Runagate/Third_Chapter)

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第三話 浄土の竜宮城	Chapter 3: The Dragon King's Palace in the Pure Land
不純物を含まない月の風が音も無く海面を揺らす。風以外に水面を乱す物は何もない。目の前の海には何の生物も棲んでいないのだ。	A wind bearing no impurities sweeps soundlessly causes ripples on the surface the sea. Nothing else disturbs it. After all, nothing lives in the moon's seas.
地上の生命は海から生まれたという。気が遠くなる程の長い時間、生き残りを賭けた生命戦争が繰り広げられた。	It's said that life on Earth came from the seas. At a time so far into the past that the mind boggles to consider it, a desperate war for survival was unfolding.
他を圧倒する為に体を大きくする生物、酸素を利用して素早く動く生物、新天地を求め地上へと進出する生物、地上から空を目指す生物..... 様々な形の勝者が現れ始めた。海は生命の源であり最大の戦場でもあった。そんな歴戦の勝者である海の生物に穢れが無い筈も無い。	Creatures who became larger to overwhelm others, creatures who used oxygen to move nimbly, creatures who moved to dry earth seeking a new realm, creatures that left that earth for the skies, many new victors began to appear. As the source of all life, the seas were also the greatest battlefield. As the victors of such a embattled history, there were none that were supposed to have remained impure.



<p>だが月の都には穢れのある者は殆どいない。だから目の前の海には何の生物も棲んでいないのだ。如何なる海の生物も月に移り住む事は適わなかったのである。そう、この海は何一つ穢れていない、ただ一点だけ、水面に移っている青い星の場所を除いて――。</p>	<p>However, there are nearly no impure beings in the lunar capital. So, the sea that stretched out before my eyes is devoid of life. Not a single of the creatures from this sea were able to take up residence on the moon's surface. Yes, this sea bears not a single impurity, save one thing, the place where it reflects that blue planet.</p>
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<p>「お姉様？ 静かの海に何か見えましたか？ 最近、よくこの海を見に来ているようですが……」</p>	<p>"Sister? Did you see something in the Sea of Tranquility? You've come here to check on it quite often lately..."</p>
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<p>「いいえ。今日も何も起こりませんでしたわ」</p>	<p>"No, nothing's happened today, either."</p>
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<p>私がそう答えると妹 <small>わたつきのよりひめ</small> の綿月依姫は心配顔をした。</p>	<p>When I said that, my younger sister, Watatsuki no Yorihime, looked concerned.</p>
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<p>「最近、兎達の間には不穏な噂が流れているから……私達も行動を慎重に行わないと」</p>	<p>"There have been a lot of rumors causing unrest among the rabbits lately... We should be careful about our movements."</p>
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<p>「大丈夫よ、何の心配もいらないわ」</p>	<p>"It will be fine. There's no need for concern."</p>
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<p>「いいえ、私達は地上の民に手を貸しているんじゃないかと疑われているのです。何故かという……」</p>	<p>"No, I mean, people suspect us of aiding those from the Earth. And that's because..."</p>
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<p>「私の能力の所為って事かしら？」</p>	<p>"Because of my power, perhaps?"</p>
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<p>「ええまあ、それも有るんですが……どちらかというとお姉様の行動が怪しいからじゃないでしょうか」</p>	<p>"Well, it may be because of that, but... don't you think your behavior as of late looks suspicious to other people, Sister?"</p>
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<p>「私は海を見ているだけなんだけどねえ」</p>	<p>"But I'm only coming here to watch the sea."</p>
<p>「海を見てるだけって、それが怪しい行動だと思われるのです。そんな自由に行動されると.....何れかなえ 兔達に鼎の軽重を問われても（*注）知りませんか？」</p>	<p>"But people think that's suspicious. If you're going to act with such liberty... I believe the rabbits may start wondering if you are truly pulling your own weight." (*1)</p>
<p>「私は最初から重くはないけどね。大丈夫、私達には八意様から頂いた未来があるんだから」</p>	<p>"Well, I never was that heavy to begin with, anyway. Don't worry, <i>the future</i> that Lady Yagokoro left for us <i>is still there.</i>"</p>
<p>そう言った私ではあったが、風に僅かではあるが穢れが含まれている事に気付いていた。私——海と山を繋ぐ事が出来る月の姫、綿月豊姫<small>わたつきのとよひめ</small>にだけ見える異変を感じ取っていたのだ。</p>	<p>Even as I said that, I realized the faintest trace of impurity borne in the wind. It was a portent of calamity that only I, Watatsuki no Toyohime, the lunar princess with the power to connect mountain and sea, could sense.</p>
<p>僅かの穢れは気の所為なのか、それとも密かに穢れを持ち込んでいる者が存在するのか。もしくは月の都で良からぬ事を考えている者が居るのか.....。</p>	<p>Was it just my imagination, or had someone secretly come brought the impurity from the Earth? Was somebody planning some foul deed in the capital...?</p>
<p>依姫には余計な心配をかけたくなかったのでその事は伝えず、私達は静かの海を後にした。</p>	<p>I didn't want to worry Yori-hime unnecessarily, so I kept the matter to myself, and together we departed from the Sea of Tranquility.</p>



月面が荒涼とした世界だと誰が言ったのだろう。時には生き物を苦しめる事もある季節も存在せず、一年中春の暖かさ、夏の活気の良さ、秋の豊かさ、冬の侘しさ、全てを兼ね備えた気候。青い星の下に輝く美しい桃の木。そして兎達の笑顔の絶えない月の都。

Someone once said the surface of the moon was a bleak and desolate world. There is no trace of the seasons which bring occasional discomfort to the living; it's a climate that combines the mildness of spring, the liveliness of summer, the plenty of autumn and the loneliness of winter year-round. The beautiful peach trees glimmering beneath the blue stars. And, of course, the lunar capital, full of the smiles of rabbits.



私達が都の道を歩いているといつもの様に兎達が挨拶してくる。兎達は道ばたで将棋を楽しんだり、お茶を飲んだり、昼寝をしていたりしている。私達も笑顔で挨拶を返しつつも、この兎達はちゃんと自分の仕事をしているのか疑問に思った。

The rabbits greeted us like they always did as we walked through the streets of the capital. They lined the roads whiling away the time with activities such as shogi, sipping tea and napping. Even as we cheerfully returned their greetings, we couldn't help but wonder if they were really doing their work.



月の兎にはそれぞれ仕事の担当が割り当てられている。一番多いのが農作物を管理する兎であるが、他にも薬搗き、掃除、月の都の警備等々、多くの仕事が兎達に任されている。

The rabbits of the moon are assigned various tasks. Most of them work in agricultural affairs, but many other jobs are left to them as well, such as medicine making, cleaning and the defense of the lunar capital.

我が綿月家は地上の監視を担っているので、うちで飼っている兎は月の使者であり、いざとなれば地上の者とも闘えるように鍛えられている……善である。

Since we, the Watatsuki family, are in charge of watching over the Earth, the rabbits we *keep* at our house serve as lunar emissaries, and are trained to do battle, presumably, with the Earth if the occasion arises.

<p>月の都は完成された高度な都市であった。物質的、技術的な豊かさはとうの昔に満たされており、精神的な豊かさを高める事が最も重要であるとされていた。勿論それは月の民にとっての話であり、月の兎達はその為に働かなければいけないのだが。</p>	<p>The lunar capital was a perfect advanced metropolis. Its physical and technological wealth had been established far into the past, which made enhancing its spiritual wealth all the more important. Of course, this is according to the people of the city, but it's important for the rabbits to work towards these ends.</p>
<p>ただ、それを実現する為に必要な事は、穢れた物の存在を決して認めない事だった。万が一月の民が穢れを負ってしまうと地上に落とされる。月にとって地上は大きな監獄であった。そして地上に落とされた罪人を監視するのが私達、綿月姉妹の仕事である。</p>	<p>However, this perfection would have been unattainable in the presence of any impure living thing. If by some off chance a Lunarian were to become impure, they would be banished to Earth. To the Lunarians, Earth was a great prison, and we, the Watatsuki sisters, watched over those who were sent to Earth.</p>
<p>私達は屋敷に戻り、桃の葉を浮かべたお茶を飲みながら今後の対策を練る事にした。</p>	<p>We returned to the mansion, sipped tea flavored with peach leaves and set about planning our defense.</p>
<p>「困ったわね。最近の噂には」</p>	<p>"These recent rumors are troubling."</p>
<p>私がそう言うと、依姫は何を言うかといった表情で「お姉様が自由に行動しすぎるからじゃないですか?」と言った。</p>	<p>When I said that, Yorihome adopted an expression that seemed to question whether I know what I was saying and remarked, "Isn't that because you've been acting too freely of late, my sister?"</p>
<p>最近月の兎達の間で流行っている噂がある。表の月に刺さっていた地上人の旗——我々はアポロの旗と呼んでいる旗が、いつの間にか無くなっていた事から噂は始まったらしい。</p>	<p>It was a rumor that was spreading among the rabbits. It seems to have started from the news that the flag that had been planted on the <i>light side</i> of the moon, which we called the Apollo flag, had disappeared.</p>

<p>その噂とは月の都の保安に関する物だった。「地上から誰かが攻めてくる」とか「月の都に反逆者が居る」だとか、他愛のない物ばかりだったが、純粹で噂好きな月の兔達はそれを信じていた。</p>	<p>The rumors concerned the security of the lunar capital. They were all silly, baseless things, like "Someone is going to invade from Earth", or "There's a traitor in the capital", but the rabbits were naive and loved rumors, so they believed them.</p>
<p>地上の敵が来るとしても反逆者だとしても、まず疑われるのが私達である。私達は職務と能力の関係故に、月の民の中でも最も地上との距離が近いからだ。特に私達は半永久的に地上に落とされた特級罪人、八意様に育てられた数少ない生き残りである。今では私達は八意様を探しに行かなくなってしまったし、疑われても仕方がない。</p>	<p>Whether an enemy attacked from Earth or a rebellion began on the Moon, we'd be the first to fall under suspicion. This was because, our duties and abilities aside, we were the most closely-related to matters regarding Earth. On top of that, we were the only two still alive who had been raised by the high-level criminal who had been semipermanently banished to the Earth, Lady Eirin Yagokoro. Since we had not spent too much effort in looking for her, it's only natural that people would suspect us.</p>
<p>「噂なんて七十五日もすれば消える筈なんだけど……もうかなりの時間経っているのに消えないから、そろそろ私達は潔白だと皆に見せた方が」</p>	<p>"They say rumors are fated to disappear within seventy-five days, but... none of them have actually done so, even after all this time has passed, so I believe it is now necessary to prove to everyone we are innocent."</p>
<p>「依姫は心配性ねえ。兔達が大げさで噂好きなだけでしょう？」</p>	<p>"You worry too much, Yorihome. It's just because the rabbits love rumors so much."</p>

<p>流言蜚語が社会を揺るがす事は自明である。だから噂を無視する訳には行かないのだが、逆にそれを利用して社会を纏める事も出来る。私はどんな噂であれ否定するより利用した方が良いと考えている。いたずらに否定すると逆に不信感と混乱を招きかねないからだ。</p>	<p>Obviously, an unfounded rumor can still cause panic among society. So, we couldn't really afford to ignore the rumors, but on the other hand, we could also use them to our advantage to keep the public under control. I personally think it's better to take advantage of a rumor than to deny it. A forceful denial can invite mistrust and disorder.</p>
<p>「そうは言っても……」</p>	<p>"Maybe, but..."</p>
<p>「噂は真実でも虚偽でも構わない。恐らくは虚偽の物ばかりだと思うけど……でも、噂が流れているという事だけは誰が見ても真実なの。私達はその上で行動を選べば良いだけの話。噂は利用出来るのよ」</p>	<p>"It does not matter if the rumors are true or not. Of course, I don't think they are... but it's obvious that rumors are spreading around the capital now. All that means is we must choose our actions with prudence. We can use the rumors to our advantage."</p>
<p>「でもねえ、疑われていたらお姉様みたいに自由に行動して気楽に楽しんで……安心して生活なんて出来ないわ」</p>	<p>"But, you know, if we're under suspicion I can't just do as I please like you, my sister... I can't live a carefree life like that."</p>
<p>「何よ。人を無神経みたいな言い方で」</p>	<p>"What? Can't you say it a bit nicer than that?"</p>

<p>お茶の時間は終わり、自分達の職務に専念する事になった……と言っても、戦闘要員兎達（しかも最近新しい人員を確保したばかりである）の戦術指南を担当する妹に比べ、地上との通路と使者の兎の先導を担当する私は普段やる事は殆ど無い。精々、私も一緒になって稽古に参加したりする位である。</p>	<p>Tea time came to an end, and it came time to apply ourselves to our duties... yet, compared to my sister, who is in charge of drilling the members of the Rabbit Guard (and they had just inducted a new member), I, who am in charge of watching over the path to Earth and leading the rabbits we use as emissaries, usually don't have much to do. Usually, I will join them in their training.</p>
<p>ただ、今は戦闘兎達は緊急事態である為、邪魔をしないように再び静かの海を見に行く事にした。静かの海は月の都の正反対に存在する海である。</p>	<p>However, since the Rabbit Guard are in a state of emergency preparation now, I decided not to disturb them and stole away to watch the Sea of Tranquility once more. The Sea of Tranquility is the lunar mare that spreads out across the moon on the opposite side of the moon from the lunar capital.</p>
<p>——何も棲んでいない海は静かに波を揺らしていた。私は海を見ると昔を想像してしまう。</p>	<p>Waves rippled in silence across the lifeless ocean. As I watched the ocean, memories of the distant past sprang to my mind.</p>
<p>海で生まれた生命は、生き残りを賭けた長い戦いの末に海は穢れ、そして勝者だけが穢れ無き地上に進出した。</p>	<p>The life that arose from the seas in the very beginning staked its continued existence in a long battle, and its conclusion, the ocean was defiled, and only the winners set out onto the land, which then knew no impurity.</p>

<p>陸上ではさらに壮絶な生き残りを賭けた戦いが繰り広げられた。ある者は肉体を強化し弱者を食料にした。またある者は数を増やし食べられながらも子孫を残した。陸上を離れ空に穢れの無い世界を求める者も居た。敵う者は殆ど居なくなったが順応性を失い絶滅した者も居た。地上を諦め再び海に戻る者も居た。勝者はほんの僅かであり、数多くの者は戦いに敗れ絶滅した。</p>	<p>On land, the epic battle for survival unfolded once more. Some creatures became strong and fed on the weak. Some increased their numbers and were able to leave successors after being eaten. There were even those who cast aside the earth and sought a pure world in the sky. There were even those few who had no competition but lost their ability to adapt and went died off. Some even gave up on the earth and returned to the sea. There were very few victors, and most were destroyed in the battle, becoming extinct.</p>
<p>生命の歴史は戦いの歴史である。常に勝者を中心に歴史は進む。そんな血塗られた世界だから地上は穢れる一方だった。生き物は本来いつまでも生きる事が出来るのだが、穢れが生き物に寿命を与えた。生命の寿命は短くなる一方だった。</p>	<p>The history of life is a history of conflict. And winners dictate how history is recorded. The Earth is a world of impurity because it is this sort of blood-stained world. Living things tend to live on forever, but the impurity stole away their longevity. It was a world of the short-lived.</p>
<p>現在、地上は百年以上生きる事の出来る生き物が殆ど居ない世界になってしまった。</p>	<p>Today, Earth has become a place where almost nothing can live for more than a hundred years.</p>
<p>しかし穢れが与える寿命の存在に気付いた賢者がいた。その賢者は満月が夜の海の上に映るのを見て、穢れた地上を離れる事を決意したという。</p>	<p>However, there was a sage who realized that the impurity was stealing life from all living things. It is said that while watching the full moon hanging in the sky over the ocean, this sage became determined to free themselves from the impure Earth.</p>

<p>海から地上へ、地上から空へ移り住むかの様に、賢者は地上から月に移り住んだのだ。その方が月の都の開祖であり、夜と月の都の王、 つくよみ 月夜見様である。</p>	<p>As if moving from living in the sea to the earth, or from the earth to the sky, this sage left the Earth and took up residence on the moon. This sage is the founder of the lunar capital, the lord of the night and of the lunar capital, Tsukuyomi.</p>
<p>月夜見様は自分の親族で信頼の置ける者をつれて月に移り住んだ。月は全く穢れて居なかった。その結果、月に移り住んだ生き物は寿命を捨てた。寿命が無くなるという事は、生きても死んでもいないという意味である。それは月とは穢れの無い浄土、つまり死後の世界と同じだったのかも知れない。</p>	<p>Lord Tsukuyomi took only relatives he had the utmost trust in and moved to the moon. The moon was completely without impurity. As a result, those who had moved to the moon forsook any lifespan. That they had no lifespan meant they were neither alive nor dead. In that sense, the moon is be a <i>Pure Land</i>, without impurity. It may even be the same as the world in the afterlife.</p>
<p>勿論、月の民も月の兎も不老不死ではない為、事故や戦いによって死ぬ事はあるだろう。そうだけでなくても月の都に住んでいる民も、僅かにだが穢れを持っている。私達だって何れ寿命で死ぬ運命にあるのかも知れない。</p>	<p>Of course, since the lunar citizens and the moon rabbits aren't immortal, they can die in, for example, accidents or battles. Still, even the citizens of the lunar capital bear just the faintest trace of impurity. Even we may be fated to die some day.</p>
<p>私達の師匠は月夜見様よりも長く生きています。月夜見様が月に移り住んで都を建てる時に最も頼りにしたのが、私達の師匠——八意様である。</p>	<p>Our master has lived even longer than Lord Tsukuyomi. When he moved to the moon and built the capital, the one he relied on the most was our master, Lady Eirin Yagokoro.</p>
<p>「……お姉様。また海を見ていたのですか？ そんなに海が気になるって事は、やっぱり何かあったんじゃないですか？」</p>	<p>"...My sister. Have you come to watch the sea again? If you're so concerned to come here so often, does that mean something has happened, after all?"</p>

<p>依姫の呼ぶ声がした。考え事をしていたら随分と時間が経っていたみたいだ。</p>	<p>Yorihime's voice called out to me. Once I stopped to think about it, it seemed quite some time had passed.</p>
<p>「いや、八意様の手紙の内容が本当だとすれば、まだ変化は無い筈だけだね」</p>	<p>"No, if we're to believe the contents of Lady Yagokoro's letter, then no change should have already occurred."</p>
<p>「それなら良いんですけど……」</p>	<p>"I hope that's the case..."</p>
<p>「地上から誰かが攻めてくるかも知れないって考えながら海を見ていたら、昔を思い出しちゃってね」</p>	<p>"I was watching the sea while wondering if someone would attack from Earth, and it reminded me of long ago."</p>
<p>「昔って……。もしかして八意様が裏切って地上にお隠れになられた時の話ですか？」</p>	<p>"Long ago... Do you mean when Lady Yagokoro betrayed the moon and hid herself on the Earth?"</p>
<p>「ううんもっと昔。依姫は覚えていないかな？」</p>	<p>"No, much longer ago. Do you remember, Yorihime?"</p>
<p>「もっと昔って、千年以上前の話？ 流石に簡単には思い出せないですが……」</p>	<p>"Even longer ago? Over a thousand years ago? I can't quite recall off-hand, of course..."</p>
<p>「私は千五百年以上前の話でも思い出せますよ。ほら、地上の人間が静かの海から亀に乗って現われたのを」</p>	<p>"This happened over 1500 years ago, and I can remember from before even then. Come now, don't you remember when that human from Earth came riding on a turtle from the Sea of Tranquility?"</p>
<p>今、私達は静かの月の海の前にいる。月では海は地上と最も近い場所である。その為、稀に地上の生き物が紛れ込む事があるのだ。</p>	<p>We were standing before the Sea of Tranquility, but the moon's seas are its closest points to the Earth. As a result, living things from the Earth would occasionally find their way there.</p>

<p>地上ではその現象を神隠しと呼んでいる。だが、神隠しは月の都に来る事だけを指す訳ではない。過去、未来、地獄、天界等、様々な世界に迷い込む事を指す。何故そのような事が起こるのかを、八意様は昔、次のように説明した。</p>	<p>This phenomenon is called <i>spiriting away</i> on Earth. However, this doesn't just refer to things finding their way to the moon. It also refers to things getting lost in the past, the future, Heaven, Hell, and various other places. Long ago, Lady Yagokoro explained to us why this happens.</p>
<p>「量子的に物事を見た場合、起こり得る事象は必ず起こります。何故なら量子の世界では確率的に事象が決まるのに、その情報を完全に捉える事が出来ないからです。結果を求められない確率で起こる事象とは、如何なる低い確率であろうと0ではない限り存在する事象なのです。この世は量子から出来ている以上、地上から月に生き物が偶然紛れ込むなんて珍しい事ではありません。それに私達だってそうやって地上から月に移り住んだのですから」</p>	<p>"From a quantum point of view, possible events will absolutely always happen. This is because in the quantum world, everything is decided by probability, but it's impossible to capture that probability with exact precision. As long as an unrealized event has a non-zero probability, no matter how low it is, it will occur at some point. Since the universe is built on quantum phenomena, it's not all that unusual that living things from Earth should find their way to the moon. After all, that's how even we came to live on the moon."</p>
<p>私はいち早く八意様の押絵を理解し、今では地上と月を結びつけ、自由に行き来できる数少ない能力者である。</p>	<p>Right away I understood Lady Yagokoro's lesson, and now I am one of the very few who have ever had the ability to bind together Earth and the moon, who have the power to go back and forth between them at will.</p>

<p>月の民は昔から世界が可能性で出来ている事、どんな事でも起こりえる事に気付いていた。だからこそ、地上から月に移動する事が出来たのだ。余談になるが現在の地上の人間の科学力の発展は目覚ましく、数十年前からミクロの世界は可能性で出来ている事に気付いているという。その事実は月夜見様を驚愕させた。何故なら月の民が一番恐れている事は、地上の人間が月に来る事だからである。今のところ、表の月に原始的なロケットを飛ばす程度で済んでいるが、油断は出来ないだろう。</p>	<p>The Lunarians had long ago realized that our world is built on probabilities, that absolutely anything can happen. That was what enabled them to move from the Earth to the moon in the first place. Digressing somewhat, the human scientific community on Earth awakened to the fact that the microscopic world is built on potential some decades ago. This development shocked Lord Tsukuyomi. This is because the one thing the Lunarians fear the most is that the humans from Earth will find a way to get to the lunar capital. For now, all that's happened is the launch of a primitive rocket to the side of the moon closest to them, but we can't afford to be careless.</p>
<p>「千五百年以上前？ 地上の人間が現われた事？ 亀に乗ってって、えーと……」</p>	<p>"Over 1500 years ago? A human from Earth suddenly appeared? And riding a turtle..."</p>
<p>「大分昔の話だから <small>みずえのうらのしまこ</small> ね。水江浦嶋子がうちに来たのも、お師匠様が地上に降りるよりずっと昔……」</p>	<p>"Well, it was quite a while ago. The time when Mizue no Uranoshimako came to the moon, much further back than when our master went to Earth..."</p>
<p>それはもう千五百年以上は昔の話であるが、水江浦嶋子と名乗る人物が水に映った青い星から出てきた事があった。</p>	<p>Over 1500 years ago, a human by the name Mizue no Uranoshimako appeared from the blue planet reflected in the ocean.</p>
<p>神隠しにあった大抵の人間はすぐにパニック状態になり、自分の理解出来る世界に帰りたがるものである。だから見つけ次第私の力ですぐに帰してやる事にしていった。</p>	<p>Most human victims of spiritings-away go straight into a state of panic, and seem to want to return to the world they knew. So, as soon as I find them, I typically use my power to send them back.</p>

<p>だが、彼は違った。栄華を極めた月の都を見るなり地上に帰る事も忘れ、もう少しここに居たいと言いだめたのだ。彼はもしかしたら頭が少し弱かったのかも知れない。ただ私も地上の人間に興味があったので、八意様には内緒でうちの屋敷に匿う事になった。</p>	<p>However, he was different. As soon as he regained his senses and saw the lunar capital he forgot about returning to Earth, and began to say he wanted to stay here a little longer. Maybe he was a little slow. But, since I was interested in the people of Earth as well, I let him stay in our mansion for a while, keeping it a secret from Lady Yagokoro.</p>
<p>彼の話はこうだった。彼の仕事は漁であった。いつものように漁に出かけていると、背中が五色に彩られた不思議な亀が泳いでいるのを見つけた。余りにも珍しく美しかったので、どうしてもそれを捕まえたいと思い舟で後を追った。陸が見えないくらい沖に出た辺りで、海に飛び込みようやく捕まえた。</p>	<p>This was the story of Urashimako. He was a fisherman, and one day as he was setting out as usual he saw a strange turtle with a shell dazzling in five colors. Since it was so unusual and beautiful, he decided to make it his by any means and set his boat in pursuit of it.</p>
<p>しかし、近くにあったはずの自分の舟が何故か見あたらず、途方に暮れて亀の背中に捕まって彷徨っていたのだと言う。その為、いつの間にか自分の居た世界と異なる世界に紛れ込んでいる事に気付いていなかった様子で、ようやく辿り着いた月の都を海の向こうの国だと勘違いしていた。海の向こうの国——実際は月の都だったのだが、それが蓬莱国だと思いついて入っていたのだ。</p>	<p>He followed it out to sea so far that he couldn't even see the shore, and eventually dove into the sea and caught it, but his boat, which should have been nearby, had suddenly disappeared, so he simply clung to the back of the turtle and let it lead him in its wanderings, with no destination in mind. And so, without realizing he had slipped out of his own world and into a totally different world, he finally arrived at the lunar capital, mistaking it for the country across the ocean. The land across the ocean was, of course, the lunar capital, but he believed it was the land of Hourai.</p>

<p>私はそれは違うと訂正した。“お前が今居る場所は蓬莱国などではなく海底に存在する『竜宮城』である、と嘘を教えた。五色の亀は迷子になっていた私のペットであり、捜していたら貴方が背中に捕まっていた、という事にした。</p>	<p>I told him this wasn't the case, and fed him the lie that he wasn't in the land of Hourai, but at the Dragon King's Palace at the bottom of the sea. I said the five colored turtle was a lost pet of mine, and that when I'd gone looking for it, I'd found it with him clutching to its back.</p>
<p>嘘を教えたのは地上の人間が月の都への興味を持ち、権力者が月の都を目指す事を恐れたからだ。今思うとこの判断は間違っていたと思う。その間違いは後に八意様の手で修正される事となる。</p>	<p>I lied to him because of the interest Earth humans had in the lunar capital, and because I was afraid that someone powerful might find it. In retrospect, I believe that my judgment was wrong, and this mistake was corrected through the actions of Lady Yagokoro.</p>
<p>浦嶋子は歌って踊る兎達の楽しい日常を見て、ひどく感動していた。海底はこんなに楽しいものなのかと感心するばかりだった。</p>	<p>When Urashimako saw the amazing sight of the lunar rabbits singing and dancing, he was incredibly moved. He was amazed that the bottom of the ocean was such an enjoyable place.</p>
<p>月の都は昼間でも太陽と共に星が見えるのだが、彼はその空を見て疑問に思っていた。“何故、海底の空はこんなに星が見えるのか？”と訊かれたので、それは星ではなく、魚達が毎日躍っている姿なのだと教えた。ここは魚の姿も点に見える程、深い海底なのかとまた感動していた。</p>	<p>The stars are visible along with the sun during the day from the lunar capital, so he became doubtful when he first looked at the sky. "Why are there so many stars in the sky on the bottom of the ocean?", he asked, so I told him they weren't stars, but the shimmering forms of fish dancing in the ocean. He was impressed that we were so far beneath the sea that even the fish looked like little dots.</p>

<p>そうして、勘違いしたまま浦嶋子は三年ほど月の都で暮らしたのだ。地上の人間でそこまで長く月の都に滞在した者は少ない。だから私はよく覚えていたのだが、依姫にとってはそんなに重要な記憶ではなかったみたいだ。</p>	<p>And so, Urashimako spent three years in the lunar capital under these false impressions. It was truly unusual for someone from Earth to spend so much time in the capital. That's why I remembered it so clearly, but it seems Yorihome doesn't have as strong an impression of that time.</p>
<p>「水江浦嶋子？ ああ、確かにそんな人間も居たわね。確か、釣り好きな彼もめでたく神になったんじゃないっけ？」</p>	<p>"Mizue no Uranoshimako? Ah, yes, I remember such a human. He loved fishing, and eventually became quite a splendid god, didn't he?"</p>
<p>彼は三年経って、ようやく家が恋しくなったと言い始めたのだ。普通の人間なら数時間で思いそうな感情を覚えるまで随分と時間がかかったものだ。</p>	<p>After three years had passed, he began to speak of a yearning for home. Most humans would be a little homesick after a few hours, but it took quite a bit of time for him to feel that way.</p>
<p>「そうよ。その人間<small>つつかわ</small>よ。今では彼は筒川大明神だわ、一介の平凡な漁師が出世したものね」</p>	<p>"That's right. That human. He's the Tsutsugawa deity now. Not a bad place for a simple fisherman to end up."</p>
<p>一度帰りたいと言い始めたら、もう何を見ても感動しなくなった。帰りたいと駄々を捏ねるだけであつた。</p>	<p>As soon as he began to say he wanted to go home, nothing here could move him anymore. All he ever did was complain about how much he wanted to go home.</p>
<p>私としても帰りたいと言う人間を帰さない理由は無い。そもそも黙って月の都に穢れのある人間を入れていたのだから、ばれる前に帰した方が良い。</p>	<p>I had no reason to keep a human here who wanted to go back to Earth. Since I'd kept an impure human here for so long in secret, it was better to send him back before I was found out.</p>

<p>だが一つ気がかりな事があった、彼を地上に帰して三年間も何処に行っていたのかを問われれば、彼はここで過ごした経験を語るだろう。そうすれば竜宮城——月の都に興味を持つ者が出てくるかもしれない。それは月の都のピンチを招きかねないのでは無いか。</p>	<p>However, there was one thing I worried about: if someone asked him where he'd been for the past three years, he'd surely speak of everything he'd seen here. That might make people interested in the Dragon King's Palace, in the lunar capital. This would be a problem for the capital.</p>
<p>私は八意様に全てを打ち明け、そしてどうすればよいのかを相談した。意外にも八意様は人間を匿っていた事に関しては何も怒りはしなかった。</p>	<p>I confessed everything to Lady Yagokoro, and consulted with her on what the best course of action would be. To my surprise, Lady Yagokoro wasn't at all angry that I'd kept a human here for so long.</p>
<p>八意様は即断で「そのような人間は亡き者にするのが一番です。海に出てから三年も姿が見えなければ、地上では死んだ者として扱われてるでしょう。大体、地上から来た生き物を興味半分で匿うからその様な事態に陥ってしまうのですか……。」と言った。</p>	<p>Lady Yagokoro's advice was: "It's best to make someone like that a dead man. People on Earth would treat someone who went out to sea three years ago and hasn't been seen since as dead. Well, this is generally what you'd expect to happen if you halfheartedly hide some living thing that's come here from Earth for so long..."</p>
<p>「そうそう、筒川大明神ね。あんな欲深き凡庸な人間を神として祀っているなんて、私達から見たら滑稽ですけどね」</p>	<p>"Yes, yes, the great Tsutsugawa deity. Though, it seems laughable to us that such a greedy fisherman could be revered as a god."</p>
<p>「八意様は即断で殺せて仰ってたけど、流石にそれは可哀相だしねえ」</p>	<p>"Lady Yagokoro advised us to kill him right away, but we felt too sorry for him to carry it out."</p>

<p>私は流石に自分が匿った所為という事もあり、とても殺す気にはなれなかった。妹も同様であり、やはり殺す気にはなれなかった。</p>	<p>Of course, the fact that I'd looked after him so long made it difficult to kill him. My sister was the same, so she didn't want to kill him, either.</p>
<p>仕方が無くそれ以外の良い方法は無いのですかと訊いてみた。そうすると八意様は微笑んで「勿論ありますよ、貴方達は優しいのね」と言って、別の案から最善なものを教えてくれた。</p>	<p>That being the case, we asked if there were any other way to deal with this situation. Lady Yagokoro smiled and said, "Of course, you're both too kind for that," and suggested a different, truly excellent plan.</p>
<p>別の案とは、『水江浦嶋子を覚えている人間が存在しない時代に送り返す』という物である。つまり、竜宮城と地上では時間の流れが百倍近く違うという事にし、三百年後の地上へ送り返すという物だった。</p>	<p>The alternative was to send him to an era where nobody remembered who Mizue no Uranoshimako was. In other words, to <i>create a time difference between the Dragon King's Palace and Earth of a factor of almost a hundred</i>, and return him to a time three hundred years after he left.</p>
<p>当時の私達は何故その案が最善なのかはよく判っていなかった。自分の事を知っている人間が誰も居ない世界に送り返されたら、人間は途方に暮れるだろうし、竜宮城の事を皆に言いふらす事には変わりがないのではないか。だが、八意様は間違った事を言わないのである。私達は絶対の信頼を置いていた。だからその案を採用する事にした。</p>	<p>At the time, we didn't understand why that solution was best. If we sent a human back to a world where he didn't know anybody, he'd just be confused, and he'd still tell everyone about the Dragon King's Palace. However, Lady Yagokoro was never wrong. We placed our absolute trust in her. So, we took her advice.</p>

<p>三百年後の地上に送り返す為には、まず  <small>コールドスリープ</small>      彼を人工冬眠させる必要があった。私達は千五百年以上前の当時の最先端の医療技術であった人工冬眠を施し、そのまま三百年ほど眠らせた後に地上に帰す事にした。まさか三百年後になる前に、八意様との突然の別れがあるとは思っていなかったのだが.....。</p>	<p>To send him back to a world three hundred years after the time he left, we decided to place him into cryogenic storage, which was cutting-edge technology at the time, and return him to the Earth after he'd slept for nearly three hundred years. Of course, we hadn't suspected that our sudden parting with Lady Yagokoro awaited us less than three hundred years away...</p>
<p>「それで、何故御姉さまはその話を今？」</p>	<p>"But why are you bringing that up now?"</p>
<p>「今、地上から同じ様に人間が紛れ込んできたなら、私達はどのような行動を取ればいいのかなと思って」</p>	<p>"I was wondering what we should do if someone comes like that from Earth again."</p>
<p>かくして水江浦嶋子は、五色の亀に連れられて月の都に紛れ込んでから三年程楽しんだ後、三百年後の地上の世界に戻る事になった。</p>	<p>Thus, Mizue no Uranoshimako was brought to the lunar capital on the back of a five-colored turtle, and spent three wonderful years there before being returned to an Earth where three hundred years had passed.</p>

<p>彼は砂浜に着いたときから何か違和感を感じていた。白い砂、松の木、青い空、漁をしていた頃と何一つ変わらぬ筈なのに、海風に違和感を覚えた。不安になった浦嶋子は自分の家に戻ったが、家があるはずの場所には何もなく草が生えていた。さらに知人の家を訪ねても、そこに住んでいる者には見覚えはなく、それどころか村の誰一人、浦嶋子の事を知っている人は居なかった。彼は余りの絶望に悲嘆した。</p>	<p>Something felt wrong as soon as he reached the sandy beach. The white sand, the pine trees, the blue sky; even though nothing at all should have changed since the day he set out fishing, he felt unease on the sea air. The anxious Urashimako returned to his house, but where his house should have been there was an empty expanse of grass. Even when he went to his friends' houses, the people living there had no recollection of him, and not a single person in the village knew who he was. He fell into deep despair.</p>
<p>「今なら……すぐに追い返すか殺すと思います。あの頃ほど私達は愚かでは無いですから」</p>	<p>"Now... I think we should send them back right away or kill them. We're not as foolish now as we were then."</p>
<p>「千五百年前のあの頃ほど優しくない……と？」</p>	<p>"Or we are not as kind as we were fifteen hundred years ago...?"</p>
<p>物語はそこで終わらない。</p>	<p>The story doesn't end there.</p>
<p>八意様は地上にお隠れになる前に、浦嶋子に土産として<small>たまくしげ</small>玉匣（*注）を渡せと言っていたのだ。さらに彼には「この玉匣は地上での生活に困ったら開けなさい、しかし再び竜宮城に来たいのであれば決して開けてはいけません。」と伝えろと言われていた。</p>	<p>It's said that before Lady Yagokoro went into hiding on the Earth, she sent Urashimako a tamakushige (*2) as a gift. It's also said that she sent a message along with it. "If you ever become troubled by your new life on Earth, open this box. However, if you ever want to return to the Dragon King's Palace, you must absolutely never open it."</p>
<p>あの玉匣には何が入っていたのだろうか。八意様の居ない今となっては、確かめる手段も中身を再現する事も出来ない。</p>	<p>I wonder what exactly was in that. Now that Lady Yagokoro is no longer here, there's no way to find out or to reproduce it.</p>

どうやら浦嶋子は地上に降りてからすぐに玉匣を開けてしまったようだ。自分を覚えている人が誰も居ない世界に余程絶望したのだらう。泣き叫びながら玉匣を開けた。しかし不幸はまだ終わらなかった。玉匣を開けた彼の肉体はみるみる間に若さを失い、そこに歩くもままならない老体が残された。その玉匣は肉体を老いさせる何か<sup>何か</sup>が詰まっていたのだ。

In any case, it seems that almost as soon as he returned to Earth, Urashimako opened it. It was probably too depressing to continue living in a world where nobody remembered him. With a loud cry, he opened it. However, his misfortune did not end there. In an instant, all his body lost all of its youth, and he quickly aged to the point where he could no longer even walk. *Something* had been sealed inside that hastened his aging.

しかし老人となった事が幸いした。三百年前の話を知っている老人は、村では生き神様の様な扱いを受ける様になった。彼の不思議な話は神の世界の話と信じられ村では伝説となった。当時の人間には彼ほど老いるまで生きられる事は少なく、また文字も読めなかった為、話が出来る老人はもて囃されたのだ。浦嶋子が若い姿のままだったら、ただの与太話だと思われただらう。

But this sudden aging was a blessing in disguise. This old man who knew about things that happened three hundred years ago was treated as a living god. His strange tale was believed to be a tale from the world of the gods, and became a legend in the village. Few people in that age lived to be as old as he was, and he couldn't read the script of the time but could still converse with others. If Urashimako had appeared to be young, his story would probably have remained idle gossip.

<p>さらに浦嶋子の伝説は時の天皇、淳和天皇の耳まで届いたのだ。淳和天皇は浦嶋子の竜宮城の話を聞き、それこそが常世の国——蓬莱国であると予想し、非常に関心を持った。蓬莱国は不老不死の国であり、当時の権力者は誰しもが競うように探していた。ただ、伝説は既に陳腐化し始め蓬莱国の存在は疑われ始めていたから、浦嶋子の伝説は天皇を大いに喜ばせたのだ。</p>	<p>At length, Urashimako's story reached the ears of the then-current emperor, Jun'na. Emperor Jun'na listened to Urashimako's tale of the Dragon King's Palace, and he believed that he had found the fabled land of eternity across the sea, the land of Hourai, so he took great interest in the man. The land of Hourai was the land of eternal youth, so all of the authority figures of the age were searching desperately for it. By then, the legend had become somewhat cliched, and people began to doubt the existence of the land of Hourai, so hearing the legend of Urashimako pleased the emperor greatly.</p>
<p>淳和天皇の予想は的を射ていたが時は既に遅かった。浦嶋子は一步も動けぬ程老いており、天皇の遣いが到着してまもなく息を引き取ったのだ。</p>	<p>Emperor Jun'na set about his plans immediately, but it was already too late. Urashimako was so old he couldn't take a single step, and by the time the Emperor's men found him, he had already breathed his last.</p>
<p>天皇は水江浦嶋子に蓬莱国から帰還した数少ない人間という威徳を認め、彼の為に神社を造らせ、さらに彼に筒川大明神という神号を送った。</p>	<p>The emperor recognized Mizue Urashimako as one of the few men to have ever gone to the land of Hourai and returned, erecting a temple in his honor and bestowing upon him the Tsutsugawa divinity.</p>
<p>偶然神隠しにあった水江浦嶋子。彼は神様の仲間入りを果たし、それと同時に蓬莱国——月の都信仰も確固たるものとし、地上の権力者に蓬莱の民の威厳を知らしめたのである。</p>	<p>Mizue no Uranoshimako, a man who had been spirited away by chance. He was entered into the ranks of the gods, and by doing so strengthened people's faith in the land of Hourai, in the lunar capital, and made all of the era's authority figures aware of the majesty of its people.</p>

<p>お師匠様にはこうなる未来が見えていたのだろうか。愚かな疑問である、当然見えていたのだろう。でなければ、三百年余り眠らせた人工冬眠も老いてしまう玉匣も、ただの戯れとなってしまう。お師匠様は厳しそうに見えて、一番優しかったのである。</p>	<p>I wonder if our master knew that this would happen. No, that's a foolish question, of course she knew. If she hadn't, then having him put into cryogenic storage for three hundred years and preparing the tamakushige that would age him was just idle play. Our master may have seemed the harshest one of us at first, but she was in fact the kindest.</p>
<p>「今では、何百年も時を超えて未来の世界に行く事を『ウラシマ効果』と呼ぶらしいですわ」</p>	<p>"Now, it seems that traveling hundreds of years into the future is called the Urashima Effect."</p>
<p>「神様となり、その上に未だに名前が残っているのであれば彼も幸せでしょう。ねえ依姫、私達にそこまで先の未来を見通す事が出来るかしら？ もうすぐ地上から何者かが現われるかも知れないと言うのに……」</p>	<p>"He's become a god, and his name is left to history. I'm sure it's made him happy. Hey, Yorihome, I wonder if we can predict what will happen so far in advance? It would be nice, since it seems like someone may come from the Earth..."</p>
<p>私達共通の思い出話を楽しんでいた依姫だったが、少し険しい顔をした。</p>	<p>We enjoyed reminiscing, but suddenly Yorihome made a grim face.</p>
<p>「私達は八意様が居なくなってから様々な事を学びました」</p>	<p>"We've learned quite a few things since Lady Yagokoro left us."</p>
<p>依姫は海の方を見て言葉を続けた。</p>	<p>Yorihome looked out across the sea and continued.</p>
<p>「学んだ事は、私達にはそこまで深い考えを持つ事は出来ない。思慮の浅い優しさは人間も月の民も不幸にすると」</p>	<p>"We've learned that it's impossible for us to have such a deep comprehension of the future. That careless kindness can be problematic, both for humans and Lunarians..."</p>
<p>私は少々強張った依姫の肩に手を掛けた。</p>	<p>I placed a hand on Yorihome's tense shoulder.</p>

「ならば、もうすぐ来るであろう人間が攻めてきた時、私達は追いつく事に専念すれば良いのです」	"In that case, when the invaders from the Earth come, we'll have to do our best to repel them right away."
「お姉様.....八意様みたいな言い方するんですね」	"My sister... that sounds like something Lady Yagokoro would say."
「私の方が年上ですからね」	"That's because I'm the older one."
「って、これだけ長く生きていけば大差ないでしょうに」	"...But we've lived so long that a difference like that is insignificant."
「いいえ。年の差は何年、何千年経っても決して変化する事のない事実なのです」	"No. No matter how many thousands of years pass, that's something that will never change."
「つまり、お姉様の方が先に隠居するって事ですね。八意様みたいに」	"Hm, that means that you'll retire first, doesn't it? Just like Lady Yagokoro."
依姫は少し笑顔になった。私はそれを見て肩から手を離し「ところで、兎達の稽古は万全かしら？」と聞いた。依姫は溜め息を吐いて答えた。	Yorihime smiled a bit. Seeing that, I lifted my hand from her shoulder and asked, "By the way, have the rabbits perfected their drills?" Yorihime sighed and responded.
「ああ、ええ。皆、頑張ってるんですけどね、いかにせん人手不足で.....。そういえば新しく入ったレイセンを重点的に稽古付けてるのですが.....筋はイマイチです」	"Ah, I suppose so. They're all doing their best, but I'm afraid we're a bit understaffed... I think I've been spending most of my time training our new recruit, <a href="#">Rei'sen</a> , but she just isn't very strong."
「でしょうねえ。餅搗き担当の兎なんて歌好きでいい加減でとろい奴が多いから。あんまり戦闘向きじゃ無いかもね」	Yorihime sighed, and smiled a bit. I let go of her shoulder when I noticed this. "I bet. A lot of the rabbits assigned to pounding mochi are a pretty dull lot that just love singing. They're probably not worth much on the battlefield."

<p>「昔のレイセンの方が才能有ったのだけど.....今は何処で何をしてるのか」</p>	<p>"The old Reisen had some talent... I wonder where she is now?"</p>
<p>月の使者担当は月の兎の中でも比較的規律が厳しく、肉体労働で楽ではない。だから逃げ出す兎も少なくないのだ。レイセンとは先の戦争が始まる前に逃げ出した兎である。</p>	<p>The rabbits assigned to be lunar emissaries have relatively strict regulations, and it involves no small amount of physical training. So, it's not that unusual for rabbits to run away. Reisen was a rabbit who'd done just that before the start of the last war.</p>
<p>レイセンは能力的には高かった。簡単に姿を消し、人の心を乱す事が出来た。だが、性格は臆病で自分勝手であった。その性格は戦闘時は致命的であると予想は出来たが、矯正は出来なかった。結果、協調性は低く、実践の前に任務を放棄し地上に逃げてしまったのだ。</p>	<p>Reisen was exceptionally talented. She could hide easily and disturb the minds of others. However, she was also somewhat cowardly and self-centered. Obviously, these were potentially fatal traits for a soldier, but we couldn't correct them. As a result, she was uncooperative, and before the time for battle came, she abandoned her duties and fled to Earth.</p>
<p>レイセンを探し出し月に連れ戻す事も私達の仕事ではあるのだが、アレから四十年以上経ってしまい時効とするしか他に無かった。レイセンは地上で人間に捉えられ鍋にされたか、穢れにまみれて月に連れ戻すには適さないと判断した。</p>	<p>It was our job to search for Reisen and bring her back to the moon, but over forty years had passed since then, and there was no point in pursuing the matter further. We decided she'd probably been made into some human's stew, or had been tainted by the Earth's impurity and could no longer be admitted back into the lunar capital.</p>
<p>「今のレイセンはセンスも良くないし、少し鈍くさいので心配です」</p>	<p>"I'm worried about the new Rei'sen. She doesn't seem to have much sense, and seems a bit dull."</p>
<p>今から三ヶ月程前だろうか、私達の元に傷ついた兎がやってきたのだ。</p>	<p>It was about three months earlier that this rabbit had come to us in a wounded condition.</p>

<p>その兎は餅搗きが嫌で地上に逃げたのだが、そこで八意様から手紙を託され、再び月に戻ってきたのだと言った。八意様捜索を打ち切ってから既に数百年は経っていたのだから、まさか八意様の方から連絡があるとは思っていなかった。</p>	<p>She said she had tired of pounding mochi and fled to Earth, but Lady Yagokoro entrusted a letter to her there, so she came back to the moon. It had been several hundred years since we'd ceased the investigation into her whereabouts, so we hadn't thought that she would reach out to contact us.</p>
<p>手紙の内容は月の都を守る為のものだった。"もはや月の都には戻る事が出来ないし、こうして連絡を取る事も私達に迷惑を掛ける事になるので余り本意ではないが、地上の者で何やら良からぬ事を企んでいる輩がいるという事をどうしても伝えたかった。直接連絡を取るのは危険だと思ったので、偶然居合わせた玉兎を利用した事は許して欲しい、との事だった。</p>	<p>The contents of her letter told how to protect the lunar capital. "I can't return to the lunar capital anymore, and I don't intend to cause trouble by contacting you in this manner, but I had to do something to tell you that somebody on Earth is plotting <i>something untoward</i> against the moon. Since I thought it would be too dangerous to contact you directly, I hope you'll forgive me for using this moon rabbit I happened to meet."</p>
<p>手紙を持ってきた兎は私の屋敷で匿う事にした。餅搗きに嫌気がさして地上に逃げたのだからその罪は小さくない。だが、八意様の手紙を持ってきたという功績もあるし、何より兎が可哀相な気がしたのでレイセンと名付け匿ったのだ。</p>	<p>We let the rabbit who'd come with the letter stay in our mansion. The crime of escaping to the Earth to avoid pounding mochi was not a small one. However, she'd done the service of bringing Lady Yagokoro's letter to us, and I felt sorry for her, so we gave her the name Rei'sen and let her stay with us.</p>
<p>「それに今のレイセンも、一度地上に逃げた経歴も持つからねえ。また逃げ出さないとも言い切れない」</p>	<p>"Plus, our current Rei'sen has already fled to Earth once. We can't say for sure that she won't try to run away <i>again</i>."</p>

「八意様の手紙通りならば、近いうちに地上から攻めてくる者がいる筈というのに、大丈夫かしら？」依姫は私の方を向いてそう言った。	"If everything happens as Lady Yagokoro has written, the invaders from Earth should be coming soon, but I'm still unsure about the situation." Yorihime said, turning to face me.
「今度は、兎には頼らない方が良さそうですね。依姫、貴方が自ら戦えば良いのです」	"It's best not to rely too much on the rabbits this time. Yorihime, when the time comes to fight, you should fight personally."
「え、ええ。敵の数にもよりますか.....」	"V-very well. Of course, it depends on how many come..."
「大丈夫。貴方には数多くの神様が味方してるんだもの」	"It'll be fine. After all, you have many gods on your side."
——私達の会話は中断を余儀なくされた。	An unexpected emergency interrupted our conversation.
静かの海の向こうから何者かが飛来してきたからだ。	Something had flown from the other side of the Sea of Tranquility.
静かの海は月の都の正反対に位置し、この辺は月の民や兎達も余り訪れる事はない。	The Sea of Tranquility was on the other side of the moon from the lunar capital, so the citizens of the capital and the moon rabbits seldom visited it.
飛来してくる者を注意深く観察した。小さな黒い塊——どうやらそれは鴉の様だ。	With great caution I observed the being that was flying towards us. It was a small black mass - apparently in the form of a crow.
「鴉.....？」	"A crow...?"
「お姉様。鴉は太陽の化身です。月夜見様のお姉様の使いかも知れませんよ」	"My sister, a crow is the avatar of the sun. It may be a familiar of <i>Lord Tsukuyomi's</i> sister."

<p>「……いや、あれは違う。憎しみを持った血、欲深き好奇の目、穢れた羽を感じる」</p>	<p>"...No, it's not. I can feel the avarice in its blood, the greed in its eyes, the impurity in its wings."</p>
<p>あの鴉が太陽の化身ならば、その足は三本で瞳は赤でなければいけない！</p>	<p>If that crow was an avatar of the sun, it would have three feet and red eyes!</p>
<p>「あれは——地上の鴉です」</p>	<p>"That is... a crow from Earth."</p>
<p>鴉には私達の姿が見えていないのか、一心不乱に飛んでいた。それどころか動物が持っているという帰巢本能などの超感覚が働いていないらしく、ただただ真っ直ぐ飛んでいるようである。やがて私達の頭上を越して飛んでいった。</p>	<p>The crow didn't seem to be able to see us, but it flew doggedly on. In fact, it seemed to be driven not by any sort of homing instinct, but simply flew straight ahead, never wavering in its path. Eventually it flew right over our heads.</p>
<p>「地上の鴉……やはりこれも神隠しなのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"An Earth crow... Perhaps this is another spiriting away?"</p>
<p>「もうすぐ攻めて来るであろう敵と何か関係があるのかも知れない、後を追いましょう！」</p>	<p>"It may be related somehow to the invaders that will come from Earth, so let's follow it!"</p>
<p>鴉は時折方向転換をするだけでまっすぐ飛び続けた。</p>	<p>The crow flew straight on, occasionally making minor course corrections.</p>
<p>「何か妙ね……地上の鴉が迷い込む事は滅多にないし、それに飛び方が機械的すぎる」</p>	<p>"Something is odd... Birds from Earth hardly ever appear here, and its flight seems too... mechanical."</p>
<p>鴉は晴れの海を越え、雨の海を越え、嵐の大洋へと飛び続けた。</p>	<p>The crow crossed over the Sea of Serenity and the Sea of Rains and flew on towards the Ocean of Storms.</p>

<p>「やはり、あの鴉は何か目的があって地上から裏側の月にやって来ている！」</p>	<p>"I knew it, that crow flew from Earth to reach the far side of the moon, looking for something!"</p>
<p>それは、鴉が事故でやってきたのではなく誰かが仕向けた刺客って可能性があるという事だ。</p>	<p>That is, it was likely that the crow hadn't come here by accident, but someone had sent it here.</p>
<p>月の都は裏側の月に存在し、さらに結界を張りその姿は隠されている。人間が攻めてこようと、その結界を破れない限り月の都には入れないのだ。その結界の内側に飛び込む為には決められたルートで都を目指す必要があるのだが、何故か鴉は見えない筈の海の道を通っていた。ま <small>コンピュータ</small> るで式神の様な正確さであった。</p>	<p>The lunar capital is on the far side of the moon, protected by a barrier that hides its existence. As long as that barrier is in place, a human could never reach it. To make its way into that barrier, the crow would have to fly along a predetermined route, but somehow it was following the sea road that should have been invisible to it. With almost computer-like accuracy, like a shikigami.</p>
<p>鴉はスピードを一切落とさずに嵐の大洋を越えた。このまま行くと月の都の結界を破りそうである。</p>	<p>The crow crossed over the Oceanus Procellarum without dropping its speed. At this rate, it looked like it would cross through the barrier surrounding the capital.</p>
<p>「お姉様。このまま行くと月の都に辿り着いてしまいそうですよ！」</p>	<p>"My sister. If it continues any further, I believe it will reach the capital!"</p>
<p>「あの鴉は相当穢れを持っています。入れさせる訳にはいきません」</p>	<p>"That crow has a great deal of impurity. We can't allow it to do that."</p>
<p>妹に鴉の追跡を任せ、私は先回りをして鴉の行き先を操作する事にした。月の都に辿り着く為の最後の海に罠を仕掛ける為だ。</p>	<p>Leaving the crow's pursuit to my sister, I went on ahead to manipulate what was at the crow's destination to lay a trap over the final sea between it and the capital.</p>

海の上で暫く待っていると鴉は生物と思えない程、私の頭上に正確に飛んできた。	After pausing to hover over the sea in a completely unnatural fashion, the crow flew directly over my head.
「 <sup>えど</sup> 穢土に生まれ、 <sup>えしん</sup> 悪心に操られし穢身、お前の浄土はここではない！」	"Born in the land of impurity, you impure being controlled in malice, your pure land is not here!"
私が両手を広げると足下の海が次第に水分を失い、乾いた大地が姿を現し始めた。	As I spread my hands, the sea beneath my feet immediately began to drain its water, and the parched earth beneath it began to show through.
草木の生えていない荒涼とした山、人間の月面探査の残骸、黒い空。そして空気の無い世界。	A barren mountain devoid of grass or trees, the remnants of machines from the humans' lunar expeditions, a black sky. And, a world without any air.
荒涼とした表の月——これこそ地上の追い求めた月の姿である。何と醜い、寂しい世界なのだろう。	The desolate near side of the moon. This is the lunar world that the humans discovered. It is an exceedingly cruel, lonely world.
大気と重力を失った鴉は、飛ぶ力を失い回転しながらゆっくり墜落し、口から泡を吹いた。そしてまもなく息絶えた。呼吸が出来ずに窒息死したのだ。	Having suddenly lost its atmosphere and gravity, the crow spiraled slowly towards the ground, foaming at the mouth. Before long, it expired. Unable to breathe, it asphyxiated.
私は海と山を繋ぐ事が出来る。表の月と裏の月を結ぶ事も出来る数少ない者の一人である。	I have the power to connect mountains and seas. I am also the only person with the power to connect the near and far sides of the moon.
鴉が完全に動かなくなった事を確認すると、再び海は水を湛え、豊かな大地が姿を現した。	Once I'd confirmed that the crow was no longer moving, the sea was filled again with water, and our plentiful land came into view once more.
「お姉様！ 鴉はどうなりましたか？」	"My sister! What happened to the crow?"

<p>「完全に息絶えたわ。この鴉は誰かの意思で月に送られ、確実に月の都を目指していた、これが判った今、殺す事が最善だった筈です」</p>	<p>"It's dead. This crow was sent to the moon by someone; it was definitely heading toward the lunar capital, and knowing that now, clearly it was best to kill it."</p>
<p>「……ええ。それが最善で間違いないです」</p>	<p>"...Yes. That was certainly for the best."</p>
<p>「この鴉の死骸は、少し調べる必要がありそうですね。依姫、何か調べておいてくれないかしら？」</p>	<p>"I believe we'll need to study this crow's corpse a bit. Yorihome, would you look into that for me?"</p>
<p>「私は兎達の訓練で忙しいのです。お姉様はやる事がなくて暇なんじゃ無いですか？」</p>	<p>"I'm already quite busy attending to the rabbits' training. Don't you have quite a bit of free time yourself, my sister?"</p>
<p>「う」</p>	<p>"Uh."</p>
<p>私は暇が大好きなのに。</p>	<p>And I do love my free time so.</p>
<p>「大体、お姉様は緊張感が足りないのですよ。いつも桃を食べたり海に行ったり、たまに稽古に顔を出したかと思えば兎達と一緒に雑談したりして……」</p>	<p>"You have no sense of urgency, my dear sister. You're always eating peaches and going to the ocean, and if you ever do show up to training sessions you're only engaging the rabbits in idle chatter..."</p>
<p>調べ事は私の得意分野ではないのだけど。まあ、戦闘も戦術指南も調べ事も普段はみんな妹任せだから、一つぐらいは私も何かしないといけないかと自分を言い聞かせた。</p>	<p>But investigating isn't my specialty. Well, I usually leave war, battle instruction and investigation to my sister, so I told myself I really ought to contribute something once in a while.</p>
<p>「あーあ、判りました判りました。私が調べておきますよ」</p>	<p>"All right, I understand. I'll handle the examination."</p>

<p>私達は軽く笑った。 その笑いには若干の 緊張が含まれてい た。</p>	<p>We smiled to lighten to mood, but there was tension in our smiles.</p>
<p>pg.53 *注 しかる べき地位に付いてい る人物についてその 資格が疑われる事</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 - The literal phrase is "Doubting the weight of the kettle."</li> </ul>
<p>pg.64 *注 豪華な 化粧箱、玉手箱</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 - A splendid treasure box</li> </ul>

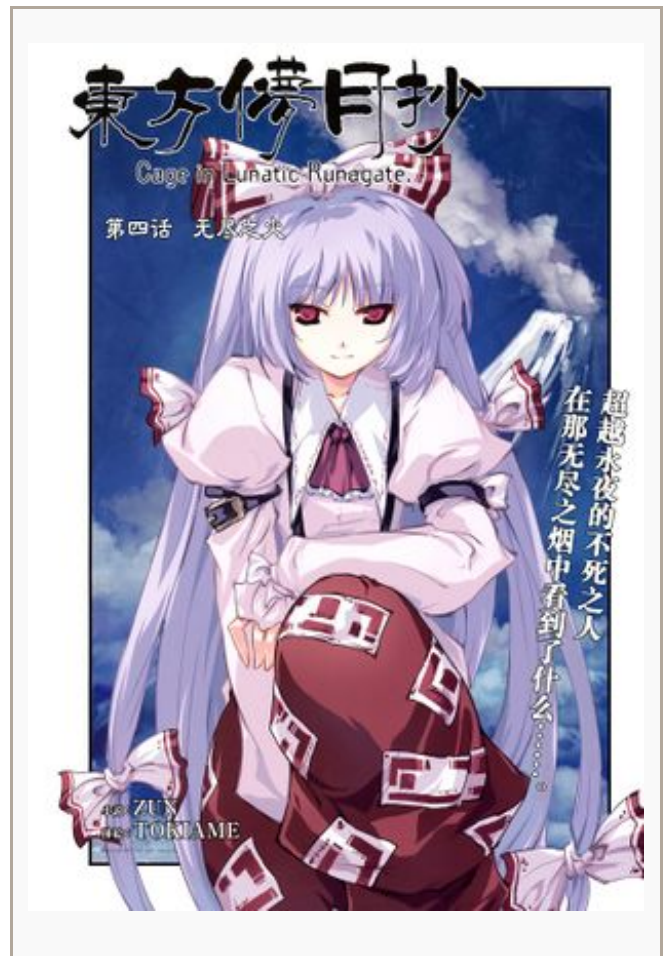
# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Fourth Chapter

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第四話 不尽の火	Chapter 4: The Eternal Flame
妖怪の山は静かに煙を上げていた。山の噴火は荒々しさは無いが、常に上空を燻らしている。	Smoke silently drifted from within Youkai Mountain. The mountain's eruptions were never severe, but they served to fill the sky above it with fumes.
里では山の煙は本物の煙によるものではなく、天狗や河童達が動かす工場が吐き出す煙だと言われていた。	In the village it's said that the mountain's smoke isn't real smoke, but rather fumes that spew from factories run by the tengu and the kappa.
何故なら、妖怪の山が活動していたのは伝説上の話で、煙を上げるようになったのは百年ほど前だからである。その時期と言えば、丁度山の妖怪が持つ優れた技術が、里に知られるようになった時期だった。	This is mostly because the mountain's activity was once mere legend, and the rising smoke only started in the past hundred years or so. This was about the same time that the advanced technology the mountain youkai possessed became known in the human village.
妖怪の山が今も活動しているかどうかはさておき、火山であるという事は事実である。それは魔法の森の近くにある玄武の沢を見れば明らかだ。玄武の沢とは、底は亀の甲羅のような六角形のひびが入った岩、周りの崖は垂直に切り立った六角柱で出来ているという不思議な沢である。	Whether the mountain is active or not is beside the point, as it is, in fact, a volcano. This is obvious on inspection of the <a href="#">Genbu Ravine</a> close to the Forest of Magic. The Genbu Ravine is a mysterious place made up of a six-sided rock formation covered in cracks so it looks like a tortoise shell with the surrounding cliffs forming a hexagonal prism <sup>[1]</sup> .



自然に出来たとは思えない不思議な地形は、実は溶岩が冷えて固まる時に出来る地形であるという事が判っている。妖怪の山から流れ出た溶岩が玄武の沢を作ったのである。大昔の妖怪の山は荒ぶる火山であった。

This bizarre rock formation, seemingly artificially formed, was made when a lava flow cooled and hardened. Flowing lava from Youkai Mountain created the Genbu Ravine. In days of old, Youkai Mountain was a raging volcano.

当然、妖怪の中には山が噴火していた頃を見てきている者もいるのだが、山が活動停止してから長い時間が経っているので、もう再び噴火する事は無くなったと思っているのだろう。

There are even youkai who have seen the mountain erupt before, but since it's been a long time since it was active, most of them probably think that it won't erupt again.

しかし、竹林に住む人間——ふじわらのもこう藤原妹紅は知っていた。今の妖怪の山が燻らしている煙は、河童達の工場の煙なんかではなく実は本物の火山の煙である事を。

However, the human that lived in the bamboo forest, Fujiwara no Mokou, knew. She knew that the smoke that came from Youkai Mountain wasn't from the kappa's factories, but from the dormant volcano.

「さあ、ここまで来ればもう迷わないだろう。このまま真っ直ぐ進めば里に着くはずだ」

"Go on, you shouldn't get lost anymore now. Just go straight down this path and you'll reach the village."

私が護衛した迷い人は安堵の表情を浮かべ何度も礼をすると小走り去っていった。

The villager I'd escorted thanked me time and time again as a look of relief swept over his face, then jogged off into the distance.

迷いの竹林は地名の通り道に迷う人間が多い。目印になる物が少ないのと、ここに住む妖精の悪戯が絶えない為だ。にもかかわらず、里の人間はよく竹林に足を踏み入れる。筍や茸、兔などの食材が豊富な為だろう。

Just as its name suggests, many people lose their way in the Bamboo Forest of the Lost. That's because there's not much to serve as landmarks, so the fairies that live here love playing pranks. And still, the humans find reasons enough to set foot here all the time. That's probably because food like bamboo sprouts, mushrooms and rabbits are plentiful here.



<p>私はこの辺の妖精に顔が利くので、道に迷わされたりする事はない。だから道に迷った人間を見つけると里に帰るまで送るようにしている。この辺は飢えた妖怪も多いし、迷い人の亡骸を見たくないからでもある。</p>	<p>Since I know the fairies around here pretty well, I don't get lost. So, whenever I find a lost human in the forest, I guide them back to the village. After all, lots of youkai hang around here, too, and I don't want to stumble across the remains of any lost villager.</p>
<p>気が付くと迷い人の姿が見えなくなっていた。暫く私は迷いの竹林の入り口で佇んでいた。</p>	<p>Before I knew it, the lost man had walked out of sight. I lingered for a while at the entrance to the Bamboo Forest of the Lost.</p>
<p>別に迷い人の姿が完全に見えなくなるまで見送っていた訳ではない。妖怪の山から立ち上る煙を見ていたのだ。あの煙を見て、昔の出来事を連想せざるを得ないからだ。</p>	<p>It's not as if I was waiting until that person was out of sight to make sure they made it back safely. I was watching the smoke rising from Youkai Mountain. I couldn't help but remember events long past whenever I gazed at it.</p>
<p>今から数年前の事である。私はどうしてもあの山の煙が気になり、里に住むある人に相談した事があった。</p>	<p>It was something that had happened a few years ago. For some reason I wanted to know more about the smoke coming from that mountain, so I went to talk to someone who lives in the human village.</p>
<p>幻想郷の歴史に詳しく、数少ない私の理解者である獣人—— <small>かみしらさわけいね</small> 上白沢慧音にである。</p>	<p>She was someone who knew a lot about the history of Gensokyo, and one of the few people who really understands me: the were-beast Keine Kamishirasawa.</p>
<p>「——貴方はあの妖怪の山の真実の姿を知りたいのですかね？」</p>	<p>"You want to know the truth about the smoke coming from Youkai Mountain?"</p>
<p>「そうだ、里の人間は河童の工場だとか天狗<small>のろし</small>の狼煙だとか言ってるけど、どうも腑に落ちない。私はあの煙に見覚えがあるのだけど……」</p>	<p>"Yeah, the villagers say it's the tengu's signal fires or the kappa's factories or something, but that doesn't sit right with me. I think I've seen smoke coming from that mountain before..."</p>



「.....そうですか。見覚えがあるというのなら、私も貴方に山の歴史を伝える必要がありますでしょう」	"...I see. If that's the case, I suppose I should teach you about that mountain's history."
「そうして貰えると助かるよ」	"That'd be a great help."
「あの煙.....工場の煙でも勿論狼煙でもありません。あれは火の山が吐く不尽の煙なのです」	"That smoke... of course, it's not factory smoke or signals of any sort. It's the eternal smoke of a volcano."
慧音は私に山の歴史について説明してくれた。彼女によると山にはある神様が宿っていたのだと言う。その神様 <small>いわながひめ</small> とは石長姫と呼ばれる神様らしい。	Keine told me about the mountain's history. According to her, the mountain had been home to a certain god. It seems this god was called Iwanagahime.
「妖怪の山の煙はその神様が出す火山の煙なのです。貴方が見覚えがあると言うのならその神様を知っているのではないでしょうか？」	"The smoke from the Youkai Mountain is produced by this god. If you can remember that smoke, perhaps you know something of that god?"
「石長姫.....？」	"Iwanagahime...?"
私はその神様の名前に聞き覚えがなかった。	I'd never heard that name before.
「そんな奴聞いた事がないけど、それがなんで私に見覚えがあると？」	"I've never heard of anyone like that before, so why should I know her?"
「そうですか、でも石長姫は貴方とは無縁ではありません。石長姫は永遠の命.....つまり不死を司る姫だからです」	"I see. Well, it's not as if Iwanagahime is unrelated to you. You see, Iwanagahime is the spirit of eternal life... meaning, immortality."
「不死の神だって.....？」	"So she's the goddess of immortality...?"

<p>不死……か。それならば関係は大ありである。私はとある理由により不老不死の身となってしまったからだ。</p>	<p>Immortality, huh...? In that case, that's a pretty big relation. After all, I'd attained immortality after a certain incident.</p>
<p>「そしてその石長姫は<small>せんげん</small>浅間様の姉に当たるのです。浅間という言葉は元々はあさまと読み、その言葉は火山を意味します。浅間様は<small>このはなさくやひめ</small>木花咲耶姫の事を指している為、今では火山の神様は咲耶姫の事とされていますが、本当の咲耶姫は火山を鎮める水の神で——」</p>	<p>"In addition, this Iwanagahime was the older sister of Lady Sengen. The name Sengen was originally read Asama, which means "volcano." Since Lady Sengen is another name for Konohana-sakuyahime, Sakuyahime is considered the goddess of volcanoes now, but Sakuyahime is actually a water deity who calms volcanoes-"</p>
<p>「ちょっと待って、今、咲耶姫と言ったね」</p>	<p>"Hold on a second. Did you just say Sakuyahime?"</p>
<p>「ええ、石長姫の妹で大変美しい神様です。性格には少し難がありますが、花が咲くように——」</p>	<p>"Yes, she's Iwanagahime's younger sister, and a very beautiful goddess. Her personality is said to be a bit difficult, but like a blooming flower-"</p>
<p>慧音は一度解説に火が付くと話が長くなるので強引にでも切った方が良い。</p>	<p>Since Keine's explanations tend to get extremely long once she gets started, sometimes it's best to just cut her off before things get out of hand.</p>
<p>「咲耶姫なら知っている。いや、知っているなんてもんじゃない。私はあの時——」</p>	<p>"Well, I know about Sakuyahime. No, that's not exactly right. Back then-"</p>
<p>今の境遇に陥った原因となった山を思い出した。</p>	<p>I remembered the mountain that was the cause of my present condition.</p>
<p>「——あの時、彼奴さえいなければ！」</p>	<p>"If only she hadn't been there then...!"</p>
<p>私は迷いの森の中にある小さな隠れ家に戻っていた。</p>	<p>I returned to a small house hidden in the Bamboo Forest of the Lost.</p>

<p>帰る途中、数年前の慧音とのやりとりを思い出していた。妖怪の山の煙には私しか知らない秘密があるのだ。</p>	<p>On the way back, I recalled the conversation I'd had with Keine several years ago. There's a secret behind the smoke coming from Youkai Mountain that only I know.</p>
<p>最近はずくなるのが早く、既に家の中は薄暗かった。雪がちらつく季節となりめっきり寒くなってきたが、まだ暖を取る用具を準備していない。</p>	<p>Lately, it had been getting dark early, so by the time I got back, the inside of the house was already dim. It was a season of light snowfall, and it had gotten quite cold, but I didn't bother with anything to provide warmth.</p>
<p>部屋の中は生き物が住んでいるとは思えないほど冷え切っていた。だがそれも慣れたものだ。いくら寒くても私は死ぬ事は無いのだから。寒いのを少し我慢すれば、また暖かい季節がやってくる。</p>	<p>It was so cold inside the room you wouldn't think that anything lived there. I was used to that, though. After all, no matter how cold it got, I wouldn't die. If I can just bear the cold for a little while, the warmer seasons would return.</p>
<p>不死になってからもう千三百年くらい経つだろうか。</p>	<p>It must have been more than 1300 years since I'd become immortal.</p>
<p>不死になってから最初の三百年は人間に嫌われ、身を隠さないと自分にも周りにも迷惑を掛けるという悲しいものであった。</p>	<p>For the first three hundred years, other people hated me, and I lived a sad life who only caused trouble to myself and those around me if I didn't stay in hiding.</p>
<p>次の三百年はこの世を恨み、妖怪だろうが何だろうが見つけ次第退治する事で薄っぺらな自己を保つ事が出来た。</p>	<p>The next three hundred years I spent harboring a grudge against this world, and was able to preserve the faintest sense of identity by immediately dispatching anything that crossed my path, youkai or otherwise.</p>
<p>その次の三百年はその辺の妖怪では物足りなくなり、何事に対してもやる気を失う退屈なものであった。</p>	<p>For the next three hundred years the youkai in the area couldn't hold my interest anymore, and I lost all motivation towards anything, surrendering to tedium.</p>

<p>その次の三百年、ついに私は不死の宿敵と再会し殺し合う事に楽しみを見出す事が出来た。</p>	<p>But during the next three hundred years, I was finally reunited with my immortal archrival, and we discovered the joys of killing each other, over and over.</p>
<p>そして今、私の存在も人間の社会に適応しつつある。今は永く生きてきた知識と長く闘ってきた力を使い、人間の護衛を行っているのだ。竹林に迷い込んだ人間——それは外の世界から迷い込む人間も含めてである、を竹林に棲む妖怪の手から守る仕事を行っている。</p>	<p>And now, humans know about my existence again and I've readjusted to their society somewhat. I use the knowledge I've gained from centuries of existence and the strength I've gained from countless battles to escort the humans from the village. I spend my time protecting humans that wander into the bamboo forest from the youkai there, including some people who wander in from the outside world.</p>
<p>昔は決して有り得なかった人間からの感謝が、今の私の生きる支えである。不死を恐れない人間のいる幻想郷はまさに楽園の様であった。</p>	<p>There was a time when I never would have imagined being thanked by another human being, but now it is what I live for. Finding Gensokyo, where the average person wasn't afraid of an immortal being, was like stumbling into paradise.</p>
<p>私は片膝を立てて床に座り、背中を壁に押し当てた。いつからだろう、私はすぐに起きられる体勢で眠る癖が付いていた。この体勢でいると深い眠りに付く事が出来ず、色々考え事が出来るからである。</p>	<p>I sat on the floor, my back against the wall, one leg folded upright. I wonder how long it's been since I started sleeping in positions like this that made it easy to wake up. It made it impossible to fall into a deep sleep, and easy to spend lots of time thinking.</p>
<p>「——あの時、彼奴さえいなければ！」</p>	<p>"Back then, if only she hadn't been there!"</p>
<p>咲耶姫の名前を聞いて封印された記憶が脳裏に蘇る。私が不死になる原因となった、我が人生で最もセンセーショナルな出来事である。</p>	<p>Long sealed-away memories surfaced again in the back of my mind at the mention of Sakuyahime's name. She was the cause of my immortality, and was at the heart of the most sensational event in my life.</p>

<p>「あの時、咲耶姫さえ出てこなければあの男を殺す事も、あの薬を飲む事も無かったのに——」</p>	<p>"If Sakuyahime hadn't showed up then, I wouldn't have killed that man, and I wouldn't have drank that elixir..."</p>
<p>私には宿敵がいた。その名は蓬莱山輝夜。私の家族の人生を狂わし、身勝手な行動で多くの人間に迷惑をかけた不死の人間である。勿論、今でも宿敵である事は変わらない。今ではお互い父子という事もあり、定期的に壮絶な殺し合いを行っている。</p>	<p>I had a very old enemy. Her name was Kaguya Houraisan. She was an immortal human who disrupted my family's lives, and selfishly used her wiles to bewitch countless other people. Of course, she's still my greatest nemesis. Now, we're both immortal, and every once in a while we engage in epic mutual murders.</p>
<p>勿論、若い頃の私は殺し合いをするような事もなく、輝夜に嫌がらせが出来ればそれで溜飲を下げる事が出来た。今思えば、他人の悔しがる姿が見たくて行動していたんだから歪んでいたんだと思う。でも、復讐の心は他の何よりも行動力を生む物であるという事も事実である。</p>	<p>Of course, when I was young, I wouldn't have thought about mutual killings. Finding a way to harrass Kaguya would have been enough to bring me some satisfaction. Looking back on it, I think spending that much time nursing my bitterness against others probably bent me. However, it's true that nothing brings a sense of motivation the way a lust for revenge does.</p>
<p>嫌がらせをする為に行動する事は苦痛であったが、その苦痛が大きければ大きいほど復讐としては価値があった。今味わってる苦痛は輝夜が私に与えている苦痛だと思う事で、さらなる大きな行動力を生んだ。つまり、私が復讐するのは完全に輝夜の所為だと思い込んでいたのだ。</p>	<p>It was painful spending all of my days in search of a way to spite her, but that just made the revenge I sought all the more valuable. Since I think the pain that I taste today was that pain bestowed upon me by Kaguya, it's made it easier for me to keep going. In other words, I believe that Kaguya is completely to blame for the fact that I desire revenge.</p>

<p>不死になるきっかけとなった日の私は、輝夜に復讐をする為にある人物の後を付けていた。岩笠という名前の男と思う。その男は数名の兵士を引き連れて壺を持ち、山を登っていた。その壺は輝夜が大切な人の為に残したという代物である。私はその壺を奪おうと企んでいた。その壺を奪う事で少しでも溜飲が下がるのならそれで良かったのだ。</p>	<p>The day I became immortal, I was following a certain person to seek my revenge against Kaguya. He was a man with a name something like Iwakasa, I think. He was leading a group of soldiers up a mountain carrying a jar. The jar was said to contain something Kaguya had left behind for someone important. I was planning to steal the jar. If I could gain even some slight amount of satisfaction from stealing the jar, then that would be fine.</p>
<p>一行が登っていた山はこの国で最も高い山と言われ、一部の修験者しか登らない霊山、今でいう富士山であった。</p>	<p>The mountain that the soldiers were ascending in single-file was said to be the highest mountain in this nation, a spiritual mountain that only a few ascetics ever climbed, which is now called Mount Fuji.</p>
<p>山はある程度登る時の高さは低くなり、次第に植物自体も無くなって岩ばかりになって行くものである。その意味する事は、姿を隠して尾行を続けるのが困難になるという事だった。</p>	<p>Once you reach a certain ways up the mountain, the trees become shorter, and gradually the vegetation disappears altogether, leaving nothing but rocks. That meant that it became much harder for me to stay hidden as I tried to tail them up the mountain.</p>
<p>さらにもう一つ尾行が困難になる致命的な要因があった。それは私の体力は限界に近づいていたという事だ。この山の麓に着くだけでも何日もかかり体力を消耗していた。その上、この山は一人で登れるような生易しい山では無かったのだ。</p>	<p>There was one other thing that threatened to deal a fatal blow to my plans. Namely, that I was reaching the limit of my physical endurance. Even reaching the foot of the mountain had taken several days and sapped me of much of my strength. To make matters worse, this was not an easy mountain to try to climb alone.</p>
<p>兵士が背負った壺をどうやって奪えばいいのか全く判らないまま、八合ほど登った所でついに力尽き、その場に座り込んでしまった。</p>	<p>With no idea how I'd steal the jar the soldiers were carrying on their backs, I ran out of energy about four-fifths of the way up the mountain and lied down.</p>

<p>「あの男は私が付けてきている事にとっくに気が付いていた。座り込んだ私の方に引き返ってきて、そして疲れ果てた私に水をくれたんだ。最後は数名の兵士と共に励まし合いながら山頂まで一緒に登ったんだ……だというのに」</p>	<p>"He'd realized I'd been following him long before that. He turned to watch when I lied down, then came back to where I'd collapsed from exhaustion to bring me some water. In the end, we all reached the summit together, cheering each other on... but..."</p>
<p>「貴方は何故その男を殺し、壺を奪って逃げる事になったのでしょうか」</p>	<p>"Why ever did you kill that man and take the jar?"</p>
<p>そうだ、私は岩笠には何の恨みもなかったのだ。それどころか、岩登りを助けてくれた命の恩人でもあった。壺の事だって本当はもうどうでも良かったのかも知れない。輝夜に対する復讐もただの幼稚な意地だったのかも知れない。</p>	<p>That's right, I had no grudge against Iwakasa. As a matter of fact, he'd probably saved my life. At that point, I don't think I even cared much about the jar anymore. Even my revenge against Kaguya was probably just a childish whim.</p>
<p>「……山の登りは山頂が常に見えていると、逆に歩みの遅さを思い知らされてしまう。残りの山登りは体の疲れと精神力の低下で大変なものだった」</p>	<p>"...When you're almost to the top of the mountain, it makes you realize just how slowly you're travelling. The last leg of the climb is very difficult due to your exhaustion and the drain on your motivation."</p>
<p>私達は山頂に辿り着くとその男になぜこの山に登っていたのかを訊いた。</p>	<p>When we reached the top of the mountain, I asked him why he'd climbed all the way to the summit.</p>
<p>「おかしいね。どう考えても山に登っていた不審者は私の方なのに。でも男は勅命である、と答えてくれた」</p>	<p>"It was odd, because no matter how you look at it, I was the one who had the most suspicious reasons for climbing the mountain. Still, he answered my question and told me that men have to obey orders."</p>

<p>私は山賊で貴方達を付けていたが、とんだ失態を見せてしまった、と言った。壺を奪おうとしてたのだから、あながち間違いでは無いと思う。それを聞いて兵士たちは笑っていた。どう考えても私一人では兵士一人にも敵わない様に見えたからだろう。</p>	<p>I told them the preposterous tale that I was following them because I was a bandit. I didn't think it was that far from the truth, since after all, I was trying to steal the jar. The soldiers laughed when they heard that. I'm sure that being by myself, I didn't seem like much of a threat to even a single one of them.</p>
<p>兵士達は岩笠の命令で、担いでいた壺を地面に置いた。何をするのかと思って見ていると、壺に紐を結びつけ始めた。</p>	<p>On Iwakasa's order, the soldiers placed the jar they'd been carrying on the ground. Just as I started to wonder what they'd do next, they started tying a string around the jar.</p>
<p>「紐を付けて遠くまで投げ飛ばし、壺を火口に入れて焼くって言うんだ。私にはその行動の意味が全く判らなかった」</p>	<p>"They said the string would make it easier for them to fling it far away, and that they were going to throw the jar into the volcano's crater to burn it. I had no idea why they would do that."</p>
<p>もしかしたら、岩笠に勅命を下した帝様も輝夜に嫌がらせをしたいのかとも思った。輝夜から頂いた贈り物をこんな高い山の火口へ投げ入れるって言うのだから。</p>	<p>I thought maybe the Emperor that had given Iwakasa his orders was trying to spite Kaguya, too. After all, he was going to the trouble to have someone take the gift Kaguya had left him up onto a volcano and throw it in.</p>
<p>「私はというと、壺を奪って鬱憤を晴らす為にこんな山の上まで来たのだが、もう壺がどうなるのか見守るしかなかった。でも、兵士達が火口に近づいた時、突然奇妙な女が現われて事態は一変した」</p>	<p>"I'd climbed to the top of the mountain to try to steal that jar and soothe the anger deep in my heart, but all I could do then was watch and see what would happen to it. However, as soon as the soldiers approached the crater, a strange woman suddenly appeared, and everything changed."</p>
<p>「その女の人がもしかして——」</p>	<p>"Was that woman, perhaps...?"</p>

<p>「そう、女は咲耶姫と名乗り、この山の噴火を鎮める女神であると言った。咲耶姫は、その壺を火口に入れてはいけませんと兵士達を恫喝したんだ」</p>	<p>"Yes, that woman called herself Sakuyahime, and said that it was her power that kept the mountain from erupting. Sakuyahime said that the soldiers shouldn't throw the jar into the crater."</p>
<p>咲耶姫はこの世の物ならぬ美しさと、何処か火口で燃え尽きてしまいそうな儂さを携えていた。突然の出来事に兵士達は動揺した。神々しい姿に反射的にひれ伏す者もいた。</p>	<p>Sakuyahime was possessed of an otherworldly beauty and a peculiar transience that made it seem like she'd been burned up in a caldera somewhere before. The soldiers were shaken by her sudden appearance. Some even prostrated themselves before her godly figure out of reflex.</p>
<p>本当に兵士達を動揺させたのはその後だった。岩笠は『私は壺をこの霊力のある神の火で焼かなければならない。これは帝の勅命である』と咲耶姫に向かって言うと、咲耶姫は軽蔑するような目でこちらを見ると次のように言った。</p>	<p>What came next shocked the soldiers even further. Iwakasa turned to Sakuyahime and told her, "I must burn the contents of this jar in the sacred fires of this mountain. This is an order from the Emperor." When he said that, Sakuyahime turned a contemptuous gaze upon him and said:</p>
<p>『その壺をこの山で焼かれてしまうと、火山はますます活動を活発にし、私の力では負えなくなってしまうでしょう。その壺は神である私の力をも上回る力を持っています。貴方達はその壺に入っている物がどのようなものなのか理解しているのでしょうか？』</p>	<p>"If you burn that jar in this mountain, the volcano will begin to resume its activity, and my power will be unable to prevent it. That jar holds a power even greater than that of a god such as I. Do you understand just what is contained within that jar?"</p>
<p>兵士達は沈黙した。中身に関しては誰も知らされていなかったのだろう。私も勿論、輝夜が残した物という事しか知らなかった。</p>	<p>The soldiers were dumbstruck. Probably, none of them had any idea about its contents. Of course, even I only knew that it was something Kaguya had left behind.</p>

<p>咲耶姫が『その壺に入っている物は……』と言うと、岩笠は『それは言うてはならぬ』と制止した。</p>	<p>As Sakuyahime began to say, "Inside that jar is..."; Iwakasa cut her off, saying, "You can't tell them that!"</p>
<p>しかし咲耶姫は『いいえ、ここまで担いできた兵士達には知る権利があります』と言い、その壺の中身はなんと不老不死の薬だと言った。</p>	<p>However, Sakuyahime said, "No, these men have a right to know after making it all the way up this mountain," and said that the jar contained the elixir of immortality.</p>
<p>「兵士達は動揺したよ。岩笠の命令を遂行してきただけなのに神様が怒るような事をしていたという事。さらに自分達が運んできた壺が不老不死の薬だったとはね」</p>	<p>"Of course, they were blown off their feet. To think that by simply following Iwakasa's orders they'd done something to anger a god. Not only that, but inside the jar they'd carried up the mountain themselves was the elixir of immortality..."</p>
<p>「そして貴方も動揺した、と」</p>	<p>"And you must have been quite surprised, too."</p>
<p>「勿論、私も動揺した。不老不死の薬が実在する事、輝夜が不老不死の薬を残したという事、その不老不死の薬が何故か捨てられようとしている事——」</p>	<p>"Of course, I was surprised. That such a thing existed, that Kaguya had left it behind, that she'd had a reason for doing it..."</p>
<p>目の前の慧音は私の愚かな過去の話聞いてくれる。愚かな人間ほど、他の人間の愚かな行動を嫌うというのに。</p>	<p>Keine stood before me and listened as I spoke of my foolish past, even though foolish people hate to hear about others' foolish exploits.</p>
<p>「——そしてその薬が目のある事に」</p>	<p>"...And that it was right before my very eyes."</p>
<p>——寒さで目が覚めた。部屋はすっかり暗くなっていた。軽く眠っていた様だ。</p>	<p>The cold woke me up. The room was completely dark. It seems I'd fallen asleep for a bit.</p>

<p>暗い家の中に月の明かりが差し込んでいた。月の明かりは暖を取るには向いていない。冷え切った躰をさらに冷やすだけであった。</p>	<p>The moonlight crept into the darkened house, but it brought no warmth with it. It only served to bring a chill to my already cold body.</p>
<p>不老不死の我が身は不摂生をするのに都合が良い。不摂生し放題である。</p>	<p>My immortal body is very convenient, despite how I neglected taking care of it. I could neglect it as much as I wanted.</p>
<p>まだ今夜の食事の準備をしていなかった。不老不死とはいえ、空腹は覚えるし冷えた躰は関節を痛めたりする。しかし、まめに躰を温めたり栄養のある食事を摂ったりして躰に気を付けるより、多少の苦痛を我慢する方が自分の性に合う。</p>	<p>I hadn't made anything for dinner yet. I may be immortal, but I get hungry and my joints hurt in the cold. Still, it better suited my personality to bear a bit of discomfort than to find a way to keep warm or eat a bit of nutritious food.</p>
<p>そう、何をしても死なないのだから。</p>	<p>Yes, because no matter what happened, I wouldn't die.</p>
<p>飽きるまで寝ようと、睡魔に喰い殺されるまで起き続けようと、躰には影響は無いのだから。</p>	<p>It wouldn't have any effect on my body at all, whether I slept until I was tired of sleeping, or whether I remained awake until I finally succumbed to drowsiness.</p>
<p>幻想郷の妖怪達も非常に長い間生き続けている。私より長く生きている者も少なくない。だが彼ら、彼女らは私とは根本的に異なるのだ。彼らは幾ら肉体が頑丈でも、必ず滅ぶ。</p>	<p>The youkai of Gensokyo also lived long lives. There were quite a few who had lived longer than I had. However, they were fundamentally different from me. No matter how strong they are, they would still waste away in the end.</p>
<p>生者必滅——生きとし生ける者は必ず死ぬ、それが世の定めである。だとしたら私はあの薬を飲んだ時から生きていないのではないか。生きる為に行動する事は意味が無い事ではないか。私は何を目的に行動すればいいのか。</p>	<p>All life crumbles away. Each and every living thing must die. This was the law of the world. If that's the case, then maybe I haven't been living since I drank the elixir. Maybe there was no point in acting to preserve my life anymore. What should I be trying to accomplish?</p>

<p>窓の外には細い月が浮かんでいる。その月に向かって何かの光の筋が上っていくのが見えた。</p>	<p>A slender moon hung outside my window. I could see a ray of some sort of light tracing towards the moon.</p>
<p>それを見て何か嫌な胸騒ぎがした。</p>	<p>Watching the light, I had an unpleasant premonition.</p>
<p>先日、吸血鬼が月に行くロケットが完成したとはしゃいでいたが、その時にも同じ不安を覚えた。</p>	<p>The other day, the vampire had been going on about having finished her moon rocket, and I remembered having the same feeling then.</p>
<p>私は家の明かりを点しもなく家飛び出す。</p>	<p>I sprang from my house without bothering to bring any light.</p>
<p>頭上には細い月と細長い光の筋。</p>	<p>Far above my head floated the slender moon and the long, thin ray of light.</p>
<p>行く先は竹林の奥深く、永遠亭である。</p>	<p>I headed towards Eientei, deep within the bamboo forest.</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p>「——不老不死の薬が目の前にあると言われてその場にいたみんなが動揺した。兵士が動かなかつた為、火口に壺を投げ入れる事も出来なかつた。それでも岩笠は壺を燃やそうとしたのだが.....何故か火が点かなかつたんだ。仕方が無く、その日は山頂で一晩越す事にし、対策を練る事になった」</p>	<p>"Unrest seized the party as soon as they heard that sitting before them was the elixir of immortality. Because they found themselves unable to move, they couldn't throw the jar into the crater. Even so, Iwakasa tried to light the jar on fire, but... For some reason, it wouldn't catch fire. Seeing no other choice, they decided to spend the night on the summit, trying to figure out what to do next."</p>
<p>「咲耶姫は元々、火を鎮める水の神様でした。恐らく壺を燃やす事が出来なかつたのはその為でしょう」</p>	<p>"Sakuyahime was originally a water goddess with the power to ward against flame. That's probably why they couldn't light the jar on fire."</p>

<p>私は岩笠に帝から受けたという勅命の詳細を訊ねた。何故、不老不死の薬をわざわざこの山に登って処分しようとしているのか。</p>	<p>I spent the evening wheedling the fine details of his orders from the emperor out of Iwakasa. I wanted to know why he had come all the way up here to dispose of the elixir of immortality.</p>
<p>岩笠によると、この壺は蓬莱の壺、中に入っている物は蓬莱の薬と呼ばれている物である。蓬莱の薬とは不老不死の薬の事で間違いないと言う。</p>	<p>According to Iwakasa, the jar was a Hourai jar, and its contents were called the Hourai Elixir. The Hourai Elixir was thought to surely be an elixir of immortality.</p>
<p>蓬莱山輝夜が月に戻る際に、自分を育ててくれた竹取の翁と迷惑をかけた帝にお礼として置いていった物だそう。翁はこのような薬は要らないと寝込んでしまい、帝も同じく輝夜無きこの世に不死となって生きながらえようか、と仰って最も月に近いこの山で燃やせと命令した。その勅使として目の前の岩笠が選ばれたらしい。</p>	<p>It was probably left by Kaguya Houraisan when she returned to the moon, as a token of thanks to the old woodcutter who'd raised her and the Emperor whose heart she'd stolen. The old man had said he didn't need to live forever and passed away, and the Emperor said there was no point in living forever in a world without Kaguya, so he ordered it to be taken to the point closest to the moon and burned. It seems that Iwakasa had been chosen to fulfill that duty.</p>
<p>不老不死の薬。その薬が目の前にあって手を出さない翁と帝。私には理解しがたい物であった。その疑問は岩笠も予想していた。兵士達が不老不死の薬の事を知っていたら、この勅命は遂行出来ないと思い誰にも伝えなかったのだという。</p>	<p>The elixir of immortality, and the old man and the Emperor who, when it was presented before them, wouldn't lift a finger. It was difficult for me to understand. Iwakasa had anticipated this sort of doubt. He was afraid his men would be unable to carry out his orders if they knew about the elixir of immortality, so he kept it a secret.</p>

<p>もし兵士達が不老不死の薬が目の前にあるという事を知っていたら何が起こるだろうか。恐らくその薬を奪って飲むなんて愚かな事はしないだろう。今の貧しく苦しい生活が永遠に続くなんて以ての外だからだ。</p>	<p>I wonder what would have happened if his men had known about the elixir all along. They probably wouldn't have tried something so foolish as to steal it and drink it themselves. It's unthinkable that they'd want to live a life as hard and poor as mine forever.</p>
<p>不老不死を欲しがる者は裕福で生活に不自由しない者である。しかし心の貧乏人にとって不老不死の薬は、それをネタに莫大な富と地位を得る事が出来る金の成る薬なのだ。</p>	<p>The people who want immortality are usually wealthy people who live life without inconvenience. The poor of spirit saw the elixir of immortality as a medicine that could bring them inestimable wealth and status.</p>
<p>兵士達は我こそがとその薬を奪い合い、最悪殺し合いを始めてしまうかも知れない。こっそり偽者にすり替えられたりするかも知れない。岩笠はそれを恐れて勅命の詳細は誰にも伝えなかったのだと言った。</p>	<p>Maybe they'd catch each other trying to steal it and kill each other in a horrible bloodbath. Maybe someone would secretly replace the real elixir with a fake. Iwakasa was worried about things like this, so he didn't tell anyone too much about his mission.</p>
<p>「その夜は異様な空気に包まれたよ。みんなが円陣を組み真ん中に壺を置いた。周りの人間が信用出来なかったのか、自然と誰か二人以上が順番に壺を見張るようになった」</p>	<p>"The night was cloaked in an uncanny atmosphere. We all formed a circle and placed the jar in the middle. The soldiers naturally fell into a pattern of watching over the jar in pairs. It seemed nobody trusted anyone else alone with it."</p>
<p>最初のうちは緊張で眠れなかったのだが、山を登った疲れから次第に口数も少なくなり、私は気を失うように眠っていた。</p>	<p>At first I was too nervous to sleep, but eventually the weariness of climbing the mountain set in and I fell into a deep slumber.</p>
<p>『……なさい』</p>	<p>"...Up."</p>

<p>私は誰かの呼ぶ声で目が覚めた。声の主はあの咲耶姫だった。</p>	<p>Somebody's voice calling to me woke me up. The voice belonged to Sakuyahime.</p>
<p>『……貴方とあの男が眠っている間にこの愚かな人間達は、壺を自分の物にしようと殺し合いを始めてしまいました』</p>	<p>"While you and that man have been asleep, these foolish humans have decided to take the contents of the jar as their own and have begun killing each other."</p>
<p>目が覚めた私は絶句した。辺り一面血の海だった。</p>	<p>Once I woke up, I was speechless at the sea of blood that surrounded me.</p>
<p>「私は余りの出来事に冷静に物事を考えられなかったんだ。咲耶姫は兵士達が殺し合いをしたと言ったが、今思えば現場の状態はそんな生易しいものではなかった。中には躰が焼け爛れたりしていた者もいた。壮絶な戦争が起こったか、もしくは何か得体の知れない怪物の様なものに襲われた感じだった。そんな中、私と岩笠だけ寝続けたなんて有り得ないじゃないか」</p>	<p>"At the time, I couldn't think too clearly about what had just happened. Sakuyahime said the men had started killing each other, but now that I think of it the scene of the incident didn't lend itself to such a simple explanation. Some of the bodies laying before me were burned to a crisp. It was as if some great battle must have occurred, or some mysterious <i>creature</i> had suddenly attacked. There's no way that Iwakasa and I could have slept through all of that."</p>
<p>「つまり貴方は咲耶姫が兵士達を殺した、と思うのですね？」</p>	<p>"So, you think that Sakuyahime killed those men?"</p>
<p>「そう。恐らく咲耶姫が私と岩笠を残して他の兵士達を殺したんだと思う。自分の山で不老不死の薬を捨てさせない為か、それとも誰かが飲んでしまわない様にか……。私と岩笠を残したのはこの後の咲耶姫が私達にやって欲しい事があったからではないか」</p>	<p>"Yes. I think she killed them all and left me and Iwakasa alive. Maybe it was because she couldn't let someone cast the elixir of immortality into her mountain, or she wanted to make sure nobody would drink the elixir... I'm sure she left Iwakasa and me alive because there was something she wanted the two of us to do afterwards."</p>

<p>咲耶姫は岩笠にも声をかけ起こした。岩笠はショックの余り言葉を失い、もう勅命を遂行する事は不可能だと悟って咲耶姫の言葉を鵜呑みにしていた。</p>	<p>Sakuyahime awoke Iwakasa in the same manner. The shock left him speechless, and realizing that he could no longer fulfill his mission, he finally swallowed her explanation.</p>
<p>咲耶姫は目の前が闇に包まれた私と岩笠に語り始めた。</p>	<p>Sakuyahime began to speak to Iwakasa and I where we sat enveloped in darkness.</p>
<p>『その薬は愚かな人間を狂わす物です。ほら、誰も口にしていないのに周りには不幸になってしまいました。この様な薬を供養する事は私も賛成なのですが.....しかし私にも余る代物なのです。ですからどうかこの山で供養する事は控えて欲しい』</p>	<p>"The elixir is a tool meant to deceive foolish humans. See? Even though nobody said anything about it, everyone around it has fallen into misfortune. I certainly approve of you setting out to dispose of such a thing... but it is too much even for me to bear. So, please forget about throwing it into this mountain."</p>
<p>岩笠は暫く考え込んでいたが、咲耶姫に勅命の内容を伝え始めた。</p>	<p>Iwakasa was lost in thought for a moment, but then he started telling Sakuyahime about about his mission.</p>
<p>「私は月に最も近い所で、この薬を燃やしてこいと言われた。ここより高い場所などあるものだろうか、この山より高い山などあるものだろうか」</p>	<p>"I was told to take this elixir to the point closest to the moon and burn it there. Is there any point higher than this? Is there any mountain higher than this mountain?"</p>
<p>『そうですか。ならば良い場所があります。この山より北西へ向かうと八ヶ岳と呼ばれる醜い山があります。そこに私の姉が住んでいます。姉は不死、不変を扱う神ですから、供養して貰うには丁度良いでしょう』</p>	<p>"I see. Then, I know of a suitable place. To the northwest of this mountain there is an incredible peak called Yatsugatake. My elder sister lives there. She is the deity with power over the immortal and unchanging, so that would be the most fitting place to dispose of this elixir."</p>
<p>「しかし、八ヶ岳では高さが足りないのではないか。この山に比べたら随分と低いのではないか」</p>	<p>"But, Yatsugatake isn't high enough, is it? It's quite low compared to this mountain."</p>

『いいえ。実は昔は私の山より高かったのです』	"No. In fact, it was once much taller than my mountain is."
「ええ？ そんな話は初耳だが……」	"Really? This is the first I've heard of that..."
『その昔あの山とちょっと喧嘩しましてね……ま、そんな話は置いておいて、ともかく、山の格としては十分ですし、月までの距離はもしかしたらこの山よりも近いのかも知れません』	"Long ago, there was a quarrel between us... well, that's not important, in any case, I believe the distance to the moon may be somewhat shorter atop that mountain."
「そうか……。では早速下山し、八ヶ岳へ向かう計画を立てよう。うちの部下が迷惑をかけて済まなかった」	"I see... In that case, I plan to descend immediately and head to Yatsugatake. I'm sorry my men caused you so much trouble."
岩笠が震える声でそう言うと咲耶姫は安心し、山の火口へ姿を消した。	Iwakasa said this in a trembling voice, and it seemed to mollify Sakuyahime, as she disappeared into the mountain's crater.
「それからの下山は酷く暗いものだった。岩笠は重たい壺を担ぎ、私の方を見ようともせず先頭を歩いていた。何の会話も無かったね」	"Our descent from the mountain was incredibly gloomy. Iwakasa just carried the heavy jar and walked straight ahead, never looking in my direction. We didn't speak a word the whole way down."
重たい沈黙が続いた。変化の無い景色、達成感の無い登山。私は岩笠が背負っている壺と足下の岩場を交互に見ていた。それ位しか目に入ってこなかった。	The heavy silence persisted. The unchanging scenery and the pointlessness of our ascent weighed on me as well. I kept switching my gaze between Iwakasa, the burden he shouldered and the rocky expanse beneath my feet. I laid eyes on nothing else.

<p>「小さな人間は魔が差すって事があるんだよね。ふと私は自分の目的を思い出したんだ。そもそも私はこの壺を奪う事が目的だった。そしてその壺は目の前にある。今なら——」</p>	<p>"They say little people are easily possessed. Suddenly, I remembered my original objective: that in the beginning, I'd meant to steal this jar. And then, it appeared right before my eyes. Now, I could..."</p>
<p>そう思ったが、岩笠には何の恨みもない。それどころか助けてくれたし感謝もしている。その男から壺を奪って逃げるなんて.....。</p>	<p>That's what I was thinking, but I bore no ill will towards Iwakasa. I was even grateful to him for helping me. Could I really steal the jar from him and run away...?</p>
<p>しかし、私は咲耶姫の言ったある言葉が頭に付いて離れなかった。</p>	<p>Still, I couldn't get something that Sakuyahime had said out of my head.</p>
<p>その言葉は現実を非現実へと変える。</p>	<p>Those words would turn my reality on its head.</p>
<p>何か耳の辺りが綿のような物で覆われるような、何か小さい穴の空いた布を被って遠くを覗いているような不思議な感覚。</p>	<p>I felt strange, like the area around my ears were covered with cotton, or like I was peeking through a hole in a cloth covering my head.</p>
<p>後先考えずに動いても永遠の時間でどうにかなりそうな魔法の言葉。</p>	<p>That magic word that made it seem like no matter how little care you gave for the consequences, everything would somehow turn out over the course of eternity.</p>
<p>——不老不死。</p>	<p>...Immortality.</p>
<p>「気が付いた時には、急な下り坂で岩笠の背中を思いっきり蹴飛ばしてたよ。そして壺を奪って逃げた」</p>	<p>"Before I realized what I was doing, I kicked Iwakasa as hard as I could down a sudden decline in the path. Then I took the jar and ran."</p>
<p>——夜の竹林は何か出てきそうなおどろおどろしさがあった。</p>	<p>In the dead of night, the bamboo forest had an eerie feeling about it, as if something were perpetually about to appear from the mist.</p>

でも人食い狼が出ようと、怨霊が出ようと私には怖さは感じられない。	But I wasn't afraid of a man-eating wolf or a cursed spirit appearing.
私は死ぬ事を恐れなくなった。	I was no longer afraid of death.
私は飢える心配も必要無くなった。	I no longer had to worry about starving.
その私が、今、何かに怯え足早に永遠亭に向かっている。	I ran as if possessed towards Eientei.
そうだ、不老不死の私が退屈しないで生きていられるのは、 <sup>あいつ</sup> 宿敵がいるからじゃないか！	That's right, the reason I was no longer afraid of the boredom of immortal life was because she was here!
不老不死の恐怖は永遠の孤独。罪の意識にさいなまれる永い現実。	The terror of immortality is eternal solitude. An endless reality tormented by the consciousness of one's sins.
それを共感出来るのは、同じ境遇である宿敵 <sup>不死</sup> だけだ。	The only one who could sympathize with that was my old immortal enemy.
私が不安に思っている事、それは『宿敵が永遠に居なくなってしまう』事だ。	I was afraid that she would no longer be at Eientei.
その宿敵は千三百年前に月に帰ると言っていた事を思い出した。だから、吸血鬼が月に行くって話を聞いた時から嫌な胸騒ぎがしていたのだ。	I remembered when I heard she had first returned to the moon 1300 years ago. That's why I felt uneasy when I heard about the vampire trying to get to the moon.
そして今日。その吸血鬼達のロケットがついに発射した。	And now, today. Their rocket has finally taken off.
地上の生き物が月に行く、いや月の民が月に帰る手段がまた一つ増えたのだ。	It was one more way for people from Earth to go to the moon or rather, for Lunarians to return to the moon.

<p>永遠亭の明かりが見えてきた。その明かりを確認すると、少しだけ安心した。</p>	<p>In the distance I saw the lights of Eientei. Seeing them made me feel a bit more at ease.</p>
<p>「——不死になってから三百年位死ぬほど後悔したよ。まあ死ねないんだけどね。何であんな事をしてしまったんだろうと」</p>	<p>"...Three hundred years after becoming immortal I was so burdened with regrets I could die. Well, except I couldn't die. I wondered why I did something like that."</p>
<p>「辛い記憶を呼び戻させてしまった様ですね。私が咲耶姫の名前を出したが為に」</p>	<p>"It seems I've made you recall something quite unpleasant by bringing up Sakuyahime."</p>
<p>「いや気にする事ではないよ。もう大昔の話だ。ところで何でこんな話に……」</p>	<p>"No, don't worry about it. It happened long, long ago. Why am I talking about this anyway...?"</p>
<p>「妖怪の山の話から、咲耶姫の話になったのです」</p>	<p>"We started talking about Youkai Mountain, which led us to Sakuyahime."</p>
<p>「妖怪の山の話……？ ああそうだったね。確か……ええっとー」</p>	<p>"Youkai Mountain ... ? Oh, right. That's it... Umm..."</p>
<p>「妖怪の山は石長姫の山なのです。石長姫は咲耶姫の姉ですのでつまり」</p>	<p>"Youkai Mountain is Iwanagahime's mountain. Iwanagahime is Sakuyahime's elder sister, so..."</p>
<p>「咲耶姫の姉……？ 何処かで聞いたようになって、そうかなるほど」</p>	<p>"Sakuyahime's older sister...? I think I've heard that before... Oh, yes, now I see."</p>
<p>私が奪った不老不死の薬は、本来は岩笠の手によって妖怪の山で供養される予定だったという訳か。</p>	<p>So the elixir I'd stolen had originally been destined to be put to rest by Iwakasa at Youkai Mountain.</p>
<p>「という事は、妖怪の山は八ヶ岳なのか？」</p>	<p>"So, that means Youkai Mountain is Yatsugatake, right?"</p>

<p>「単純に八ヶ岳、という訳でも無いのです。八ヶ岳は大昔、富士山と同じくらい高い山でした。あるとき、八ヶ岳と富士山はどちらが高いのか喧嘩になったのです。そして樋を二つの山頂に掛け、水を流して高さを測ろうという話になりました。水は低い方に流れるので、どちらが高いか一目瞭然という訳です。長い樋を掛けて実際に水を流してみました。そうしたら富士山の方に向かって水が流れ始めたのです。つまり富士山より八ヶ岳の方が高かったという事です」</p>	<p>"Well, not exactly. Yatsugatake was a mountain that was about as high as Mount Fuji, long ago. One day, an argument arose over which mountain was higher, Mount Fuji or Yatsugatake. So, someone decided to settle the question by setting up a water trough connecting the two summits. Water would flow downwards towards the shorter one, so it would be obvious which one was shorter. After a long time spent in preparation, they finally released the water. When that happened, water began flowing down towards Mount Fuji. In other words, Yatsugatake was taller than Mount Fuji."</p>
<p>「八ヶ岳ってそんなに高い山だったかなあ」</p>	<p>"Huh, it was really that tall..."</p>
<p>「富士山に住んでいた咲耶姫は、最も美しい私より高いなんて許せないと、八ヶ岳を砕いて低い山にしてしまったのです」</p>	<p>"Sakuyahime, who lived at Mount Fuji, wouldn't stand for a mountain taller than hers, so she broke apart Yatsugatake until it was quite a small mountain."</p>
<p>「.....豪快だねえ」</p>	<p>"...Amazing."</p>
<p>「しかし姉の石長姫は咲耶姫の性格に嫌気が差し、八ヶ岳へ移住してしまいました。石長姫は不変を司る神様ですので、今の富士山には不尽の力はありません。富士山が噴火活動を止めてしまったのにはこういう理由があるのです。そして幻想郷の霊山、妖怪の山は咲耶姫に破壊される前の八ヶ岳本来の姿、だと思われます」</p>	<p>"However, her older sister, Iwanagahime, was tired of her sister's attitude, and moved to Yatsugatake. Since she had control over the unchanging, Mount Fuji lost its inextinguishable flame. This is why Mount Fuji is no longer an active volcano. And so, the Gensokyo's spiritual mountain, Youkai Mountain, is thought of as the original form of Yatsugatake, before it was destroyed by Sakuyahime."</p>

「そうなのか.....私があの煙に見覚えがあったのは、あの煙は元々富士の山の煙だったという訳ね。いつの間にかそんな山の近くで暮らしていたとは、これも因果応報.....か」	"I see... So I remembered seeing that smoke because it was originally the smoke that rose from Mount Fuji. I guess it's part of my karma to spend so long living close to that mountain..."
慧音はこれが私の知っている妖怪の山に纏わる歴史です、と言って話を終えた。	Keine said "That is the extent of my knowledge of the history behind Youkai Mountain," and our conversation ended.
——永遠亭に辿り着いた。	...I finally reached Eientei.
勿論、私は表から堂々と入る事は出来なかったが、窓から様子を見てやろうと考えていた。	Of course, I couldn't just enter through the front like anyone else, so I thought I'd look inside a window to see what was going on.
月の都に幻想郷の妖怪が向かおうとしている。	Youkai from Gensokyo were trying to reach the lunar capital.
あんなロケットで無事に辿り着けるのだろうか？	Would they really be able to get there safely in a rocket like that?
月の都に行ったってどうせコテンパンにされて逃げ帰ってくるだけじゃないのか？	Wouldn't they just get there in such a horrible state they'd have to come right back?
先日のロケット完成パーティではそんな事を考えていた。	That's what I was thinking at the rocket completion party a few days ago.
しかしその時は肝心な事を忘れていた。	But, I'd forgotten something terribly important.
唯一の宿敵である輝夜は月の民であると言っていた。そして私が不老不死になってしまうきっかけは、輝夜が月に帰ると言って不老不死の薬を残したからである。	My one and only rival, Kaguya, had said that she was a Lunarian. And, of course, I'd even become immortal because she had left the elixir here after returning to the moon.

<p>つまり私が心配すべき事は、月に行く手段があるという事は輝夜が月に戻ってしまうのではないか、だけであつた。</p>	<p>In other words, what I should have been worried about was whether the fact that someone had come up with a way to get to the moon meant that Kaguya was going to go back.</p>
<p>永遠亭の窓は他の幻想郷の建物とは異なり丸い窓をしていた。満月を表しているのだろうか。それとも月の都の建物はみんなこんな形をしているのだろうか。</p>	<p>The windows of Eientei were rounder than most buildings' windows in Gensokyo. Maybe it symbolizes the full moon. I wonder if all buildings in the lunar capital have windows like these.</p>
<p>永遠亭の窓から話し声が洩れてくる。どうやらみんなが集合しているようだった。</p>	<p>Voices drifted out through the window. It seemed everyone was gathered together.</p>
<p>空には吸血鬼のロケットと思われる光の筋が見えている。</p>	<p>In the sky, a trail of light of what seemed to be the vampire's rocket could be seen.</p>
<p>見つからないように細心の注意を払いながら、出来るだけ近づき聞き耳を立てた。</p>	<p>While carefully paying attention in a way I wouldn't be found, I raised and strained my ear as much as I could.</p>
<p>「.....月の侵略者は、あの吸血鬼だったのね.....」</p>	<p>"...So the lunar invader was the vampire..."</p>
<p>部屋の中から話し声が聞こえてくる。どうやら窓から外を見ているらしい。私は慌てて窓の下に身を小さくして隠れた。</p>	<p>I could hear a voice from inside the room. It seemed like whoever was inside was looking out the window. Quickly, I crouched down and hid under the window.</p>
<p>「.....あんな付け焼刃のロケットで月なんて行って大丈夫かしら？」</p>	<p>"...Will they really be alright trying to fly to the moon in that shoddy rocket?"</p>

<p>輝夜の声が聞こえてきた。吸血鬼のロケットの話をしてた。やはり月の民だからロケットが気になるのだろうか。安全なロケットが開発されれば、月の都に帰ろうとか考えているのだろうか。</p>	<p>I could hear Kaguya's voice. She was talking about the vampire's rocket. Of course, she's a Lunarian, so she'd be interested in a rocket like that. If somebody built a safer rocket, would she think about going back to the moon?</p>
<p>話の内容からすると、吸血鬼のロケットは永遠亭の者が考えた代物では無く、吸血鬼に誰かが入れ知恵して完成した物らしい。</p>	<p>Judging from their conversation, it seems the rocket idea hadn't come from Eientei, but the vampire had gotten it from someone else.</p>
<p>その目的は月面侵略——の囃ませ犬といったところか。つまり吸血鬼達は誰かに踊らされているに過ぎないのだろう。</p>	<p>So, they were the lunar invaders, or would-be invaders. It seemed that the vampire and her friends were probably being manipulated by someone.</p>
<p>「.....月に辿り着いたら後悔するでしょうね。あの吸血鬼達」</p>	<p>"...They'll probably regret it if they do make it to the moon."</p>
<p>「.....ま、何の対策を取らなくても最初から戦力差は絶対だったと思うけど。依姫とあの吸血鬼&amp;三馬鹿トリオじゃ」</p>	<p>"...Well, no matter what sort of plans they have in mind, the difference in power between Yorihiime and that vampire with her three stooges is absolute, I think."</p>
<p>三馬鹿トリオ？ あの巫女と魔法使いとメイドの顔を思い出して吹き出しそうになった。確かに脳天気そう。</p>	<p>Three stooges? Images of the shrine maiden, the magician and the maid floated into my head, and I had to hold back laughter. They did seem pretty air-headed.</p>
<p>「.....さあさあ、大きなロケット花火も見えなくなった事だし、月の話はもうおしまい」</p>	<p>"...Well, we can't see that big bottle rocket anymore, so let's stop talking about the moon."</p>
<p>「.....そうね。私達はもう永遠に地上の民なんだから」</p>	<p>"...That's right. We're already eternal <i>Earthlings</i> now."</p>
<p>石長姫が不尽の煙を吐いているという妖怪の山。</p>	<p>Youkai Mountain, said to give off the eternal smoke of Iwanagahime.</p>

<p>私が咲耶姫の指示通りあの山に不死の薬を供養していたら、いったいどうなっていたのだろうか？</p>	<p>Just what would have happened if I'd gone to dispose of the elixir of immortality in that mountain, just like Sakuyahime said?</p>
<p>罪業の深さに悩まされる事もなく、短い一生を終えたのだろうか。</p>	<p>I probably would have concluded my short life without having spent so much time consumed by my own sins.</p>
<p>輝夜に対する恨みを抱えたまま、暗い一生を終えたのだろうか。</p>	<p>I probably would've ended my miserable life consumed by my grudge for Kaguya.</p>
<p>ただ間違いなく言える事は、あれから千三百年以上経った今の時代を私が見る事は無かったという事。</p>	<p>But, I definitely wouldn't have lived to see these days, over thirteen hundred years later.</p>
<p>そして、同じく不死の人間が孤独な思いをしていたであろうという事。</p>	<p>And that means that another immortal human would have been lonely.</p>
<p>私は輝夜が月に帰るのではないかという心配をする事を止めた。帰りたいのだとしても私が何か言えた義理でもないし、何となく、輝夜はもう月の都に帰る事は無い様な気がしたからだ。</p>	<p>I stopped worrying about whether Kaguya would return to the moon. Even if she wanted to go back, she had no obligation to tell me, and it seemed like she didn't want to go back anymore, anyway.</p>
<p>それに、この幻想郷には他にも不死の仲間が居る事を思い出した。</p>	<p>Besides, I remembered that I had other undying friends here in Gensokyo.</p>
<p>——妖怪の山</p>	<p>...Like Youkai Mountain.</p>
<p>私はいつか妖怪の山に登ろうと思う。今は天狗や河童等の山の妖怪が占拠し、簡単には登れなくなってしまったが、あそこには不死を司る神様が居る。</p>	<p>I think I'll climb that mountain some day. The youkai of the mountain, like the tengu and the kappa, have made it their base now, so it probably isn't easy to climb anymore, but a goddess of immortality lives atop it.</p>

そこに登り、私が不死に至った経緯を彼女に打ち明け、千三百年も登頂が遅れてしまった事、また岩笠の事を詫びようと思う。	I think I'll climb up there and tell her all about how I became immortal, and apologize for what happened to Iwakasa, thirteen hundred years after we should have reached the top of that mountain.
私は何か清々い気分で永遠亭を後にした。	Feeling somewhat refreshed, I left Eientei.

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1. [Jump up](#) ↑ Genbu (玄武) is the name of a legendary tortoise, hence the name of the ravine.

# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Fifth Chapter

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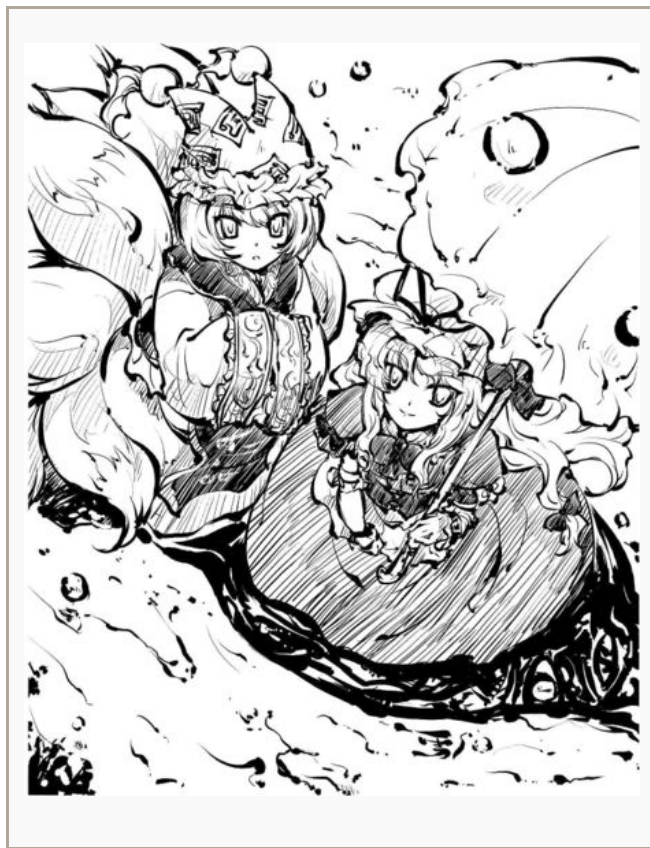
<p>第五話 果てしなく低い地上から</p>	<p><b>Chapter 5: From the Infinitely Low Earth</b></p>
<p>この地球に生きている者なら誰でも知っているように、月は常に同じ面を向けて地球の周りを回っている。地上ではいつ見ても何処から見ても月の姿に変化は無い。</p>	<p>As anybody living on this Earth knows, the moon always shows the same side as it orbits the planet. No matter where and when on the Earth, the moon does not appear to change.</p>
<p>この事から、昔は月は天蓋に描かれた絵と思われたりした。常に同じ模様が映し出されていたから、人間はその絵を様々な物に喩えた。兎もそのうちの一つである。</p>	<p>Because of this, the moon was thought of as a picture drawn on the roof of the heavens.<sup>[1]</sup> Because the patterns on the surface were consistent, people compared them to a number of different images. The rabbit is one of them.</p>
<p>何故月は同じ面を見せて回ることが出来るのか、その理由は単純で月の自転周期と公転周期が高い精度で同期しているからある。地球を一周するのと同じ期間で自分が一回転すれば月は決して裏側を見せる事なく地球の周りを回る事が出来るだろう。ハンマー投げのようにボールに紐を付けてグルグル回しているような物である。ボールが一回転（自転）するのと同時に、自分の周りをボールが一回転（公転）しているのが判る。</p>	<p>How can the moon show the same face and orbit at the same time? It is simply because the moon's rotation period and orbital period are highly synchronized. If the moon can rotate once at the same time it orbits the Earth once, it can orbit without showing its back. It's like a hammer throw or a ball in a net. In the same time it takes for the ball to revolve around the thrower, the ball itself makes a complete revolution.</p>



<p>しかし疑問は残る。果たして何故、月はそのような周期を持つようになったのだろうか、という事だ。</p>	<p>Yet there are still questions, such as why the moon came to possess such an orbital period.</p>
<p>月の民が地上から身を隠して絢爛豪華な生活を送られる様に月を改造したのだろうか。それとも、都を載せた裏側が重たくて遠心力で外側を向いてしまったのだろうか.....。</p>	<p>Did the residents of the moon make it so that they can live their luxurious lives while concealing themselves from the people of Earth? Or was the Lunar Capital so heavy that centrifugal force made it face the outside...?</p>
<p>だがしかし、その理由は極めて科学的で非常にくだらないものである彼女——八雲紫は知っていた。</p>	<p>However, she, Yukari Yakumo, knew that the reason was quite scientific yet foolish.</p>
<p>大きな天体に働く引力の性質により、簡単に説明出来てしまう。それは極めて論理的で幻想郷にそぐわない理由であった為、彼女は別の理由を考える事を余儀なくされた。</p>	<p>Since explaining the reason using physical properties of gravity and how it operates when large planets are present would be too easy, too scientific, and so unfitting for Gensokyo, she had to think up another reason.</p>
<p>幻想郷は外の世界と常識の結界により断絶され、非常識の内側に存在する。この結界を今のまま保持する為には全ての事柄に裏側が必要なのである。</p>	<p>Gensokyo was separated from the outside world by a border of common sense, and it existed within the borders of uncommon sense. To maintain the border as the way it was, everything needed a backside.</p>
<p>——新月の夜。</p>	<p>-The night of the new moon.</p>



<p>月が影に覆われ見えなくなる夜の月を新月という。しかし何故新月と呼ぶのか、新暦に慣れた私達には理解しにくい筈なのに誰も疑問に持たない。</p>	<p>When the moon is shrouded in shadow and becomes invisible, the moon on that night is called a "new moon". But why is it called that? People like us who are more accustomed to the solar year would not know this, yet we don't think of it as strange.</p>
<p>私は月を見る為によく幻想郷の湖に出かける。今夜も私は湖上で新月を眺めていた。当然、湖には何も映っていない。</p>	<p>I often make trips to the lake of Gensokyo to see the moon. Tonight is like any other, and I gazed at the new moon. Of course, there was nothing reflected on the lake.</p>
<p>しかし、私には見えていた。眩しい日の光に照らされている月の裏側が。</p>	<p>Yet I was able to see the bright backside of the moon that was bathed in sunlight.</p>
<p>「紫様」</p>	<p>"Lady Yukari."</p>
<p>目の前の狐が私を呼ぶ。目の前の狐——八雲藍は私の忠実な式神である。</p>	<p>The fox in front of me calls my name. This fox, Ran Yakumo, is my loyal shikigami.</p>
<p>「紫様。どうやら吸血鬼のロケットが完成した様子です。私も見てきましたが、あんなので飛んで大丈夫なのか心配になる代物でした」</p>	<p>"Lady Yukari. It appears the vampire's rocket is finished. I went to have a look myself, but I worry about their well-being if they are going to journey on such a thing."</p>
<p>藍はそう言うのと口元を少し歪ませた。それは吸血鬼のロケットに対する嘲笑か、それとも幾度となく報告を受けていたのにも関わらず何にも対策をしなかった私への不信の現れか。私としては後者であって欲しかった。</p>	<p>Saying that, Ran's mouth bent into a smile. Whether the smile was laughter at the vampire's rocket or an untrusting snicker at me, who had done nothing in response to the vampire's plans despite the information we had gathered. I wished it was the latter.</p>
<p>「へえ。それはそれはさぞかし賑やかな完成パーティだったでしょうね。でも、何故私を呼ばなかったの？」</p>	<p>"Ah, that must have been a rather busy party, then. But why was I not invited?"</p>



<p>藍が私に隠れてこっそりパーティに参加していた事くらい気付いている。</p>	<p>I already knew Ran had secretly attended the party.</p>
<p>「あ、いやまあ。好きで参加した訳じゃないんですけどね。偵察ですよ、偵察。ちょっと様子を見て感じて.....。もしかして紫様も誘った方が良かったですか？」</p>	<p>“Well, I wasn’t there because I wanted to be. I was just spying to see what it was like... Should I have called you as well?”</p>
<p>「ええ、誘われたら喜んで断ったのに。ところで、月の公転周期って何日でしたっけ？」</p>	<p>“Of course, although if you asked me, I would’ve gladly turned you down. Anyway, do you remember the orbital period of the moon?”</p>
<p>「へ？ 月の公転周期ですか.....？ えーと、一般に約二十八日と言われていますが、実際には二十七日と三分の一日程度しかありません。ただ、地球も公転していますので新月から満月を経て新月に戻るまでの周期で考えた場合、一般に三十日と言われてますがこれも実際には二十九日と半日くらいです。ってそう言う事は私より紫様の方が詳しいのではないですか？」</p>	<p>“Huh? The moon’s orbital period...? On average it’s said to be about twenty-eight days, but actually it’s only about twenty-seven and one-third days. But since the Earth is rotating around the sun as well, if one period is starting from a new moon, the time it takes to go from the full moon and back to the new moon is said to be thirty days, yet that, too, is actually shorter, being twenty-nine and one-half days. However, wouldn’t you be more knowledgeable about it?”</p>
<p>「そうよね、公転周期は二十八日ではなく、満ち欠けの周期も三十日ではないのよね。これは重要項目だわ」</p>	<p>“You’re right. The orbital period is not twenty-eight days, nor is the period of waxing and waning a full thirty days. This is an important fact.”</p>



<p>新月とは旧暦では一日である。月が生まれ変わるという意味でこの日の夜の月は新月と呼ばれているのだ。同様に、三日は三日月、十五夜は満月と旧暦では日付と月齢は一致していた。今よりも月の満ち欠け中心の生活だったのだ。</p>	<p>In the lunar calendar, the new moon is the first day, and as it was the rebirth of the moon, the moon on this night was called a “new moon.” In a similar manner the moon on the third night was called “mikazuki”<sup>[2]</sup> and the fifteenth night, “juu-goya”<sup>[3]</sup> was a full moon. In such ways the moon matched the dates. The lives of people back then was centered much more around the moon’s cycle.</p>
<p>「一日が新月であり、十五夜が必ず満月になる為には一月が三十日でなければならない」</p>	<p>“In order for there to be a new moon on the first night and a full moon on the fifteenth, a month would need to be thirty days.”</p>
<p>「ええそうなりますね」</p>	<p>“Yes, that would be so.”</p>
<p>「でも、月の周期は三十日ではない。そのお陰で実際は十五夜が満月になる事の方が少ないのです。不自然だと思わない？」</p>	<p>“But in reality, the moon’s orbital period is not thirty days. Because of that, the fifteenth night is rarely a full moon. Don’t you think that is unnatural?”</p>
<p>私がそう問うと、目の前の狐は少し考え込んだ。</p>	<p>With my question, the fox in front of me went into thought.</p>
<p>「十五日目の夜は完全な夜である筈なのに……そうですね、何者かが意図的にずらしたのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>“The night of the fifteenth should be a perfect night... True. Perhaps somebody moved it on purpose?”</p>
<p>「それだけではありません。判っていると思うけど、公転周期と同じく、自転周期も二十七日と三分の一日なのですが……貴方にはその理由を調べて来て貰いましょう」</p>	<p>“That’s not it. I think you know, but the rotation period as well as the orbital period is twenty-seven days and a third... I would like you to go look for the reason for me.”</p>

<p>調べてと言ったが実際には自分で考えて欲しいと思っている。ただ調べる<small>コンピュータ</small>だけなら式神でも出来る。外の世界では式神に帰依して抜け殻のような人間も多くなってしまった。私は式神に式神以上の仕事を与える事で毎日の退屈な生活を、ちょっとでも改善しようとしているのだ。</p>	<p>Although I said to look for the reason, I wanted her to think of it herself. If it's just research work a computer<sup>[4]</sup> would suffice. In the outside world there are increasingly more people who become devoted to their shikigami<sup>[5]</sup> and turn into empty shells. By asking for something more from a shikigami than their usual tasks, I am trying to improve the boredom of everyday life.</p>
<p>「はあ、まあ良いですけどね。それより吸血鬼のロケットの話ですけど……」</p>	<p>“*Sigh* Very well, I suppose. Anyway, back to the vampire’s rocket…”</p>
<p>——三日月の夜。</p>	<p>-The night of mikazuki.</p>
<p>三日月は月の剣とも呼ばれる。見た目の鋭さを剣に喩えたのだろう。</p>	<p>The moon of mikazuki is also called a sword. It probably comes from somebody picturing those sharp points as a sword.</p>
<p>その剣を持った月に抵抗するように空には一つの大きな流れ星が昇っていた。流れ星は大気の毒気で燃え尽きる宇宙の屑だと聞いているが、それが登るといのは地上の屑が燃え尽きているのだろうか。</p>	<p>As if to challenge this sword-shaped moon, a large shooting star was climbing into the night sky. I hear that a shooting star burns out because of poison in the atmosphere, but if that is shooting upwards, is the dust of the earth burning out?</p>
<p>「紫様。見えますか？」</p>	<p>“Lady Yukari, can you see?”</p>
<p>「見えますよ。そんなに近寄らなくても」</p>	<p>“I can see you. No need to come so close.”</p>
<p>「いや私じゃなくて……。空に一筋の光が昇っていますでしょう？ ついに吸血鬼のロケットが発射された様です。あの光はそのロケットなのです」</p>	<p>“No, not me... I mean the glint of light shooting into the sky. It appears the vampire’s rocket finally launched. That light is the rocket.”</p>

<p>「うふふ。だからそんなに近寄ってこなくても見えますわ」</p>	<p>"Mhmhm. Yes, I can see <b>without getting so close.</b>"</p>
<p>「そうですか。あのロケットですが、発射速度から見て満月の頃に月に辿り着く様に計算されていると思います」</p>	<p>"I see. As for the light, from its speed I'm guessing that it was calculated to reach the moon by the full moon."</p>
<p>「そう随分とのんびりした旅行ね。それじゃ私達の方が先に着いてしまうかも……」</p>	<p>"My, that's quite a leisurely voyage. If they're that slow maybe we'll arrive before them..."</p>
<p>藍は不思議そうな顔をした。</p>	<p>Ran had a puzzled look on her face.</p>
<p>「いや、私達も満月の日に出発する予定ですし、一瞬で月に着いてしまうのですから吸血鬼達とほぼ同時にあると思います……って、気になっていたのですが紫様は何故あの吸血鬼を月に向かわせたのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"But I believed we were meant to leave for the moon on the same day, and since we would arrive in an instant, we would reach the moon at the same time as the vampire and the others... And this has been bothering me, Lady Yukari, but why did you make the vampire go to the moon?"</p>
<p>「あら、私は吸血鬼を月に行かせたいなんて一言も言っていないわ」</p>	<p>"Oh, but I didn't say a word about wanting them to go to the moon, did I?"</p>
<p>「それはそうですが、止めさせようと思えばいつでもチャンスはありましたが、それもありませんでした。吸血鬼のロケットの肝は霊夢の力ですが、その力も紫様が修行させたもの。自分の力で月に行きたがっていた吸血鬼に話を持ちかけて、わざわざ時間を与えてやってその間、紫様はただ見ていただけ。これでどうしてそのような事が言えましょう」</p>	<p>"That's true, but if you wanted to stop them you had more than enough chances to do so. Yet you didn't. The heart of the rocket's power is Reimu's ability, but that's because you made Reimu train. On top of that you brought the topic up to the vampire and even gave them all that time. During all that time you just watched them. Knowing this, how can one say that you didn't want them to go to the moon?"</p>

<p>「……三日月は月の剣とも呼ばれます。あの鋭さを見ればそう呼ばれるのも頷けます。その剣の月を選んで弾丸<sup>ロケット</sup>を撃ち込むなんて粋じゃない？」</p>	<p>“...That crescent of the mikazuki is said to be a sword. Seeing that sharp look, it is very understandable. Wouldn't it be seen as sophisticated to shoot a bullet<sup>[6]</sup> at a sword-shaped moon?”</p>
<p>月の都には神の剣を扱う者がいる。地上には神の弾を撃つ者がいる。ただそれだけの事だ。</p>	<p>In the lunar capital, there is one that can wield the sword of the gods. On Earth, there is one that can shoot the bullet of the gods. It's as simple as that.</p>
<p>「藍。貴方は私の命令を聞いていればいいのです。私達は満月の日に湖に映った月から月面へ乗り込みます。その準備を怠らないように」</p>	<p>“Ran, you only need to listen to my orders. On the night of the full moon we will go to the moon through its reflection on this lake. Do not be negligent in your preparations.”</p>
<p>——半月の夜。</p>	<p>-The night of the half moon.</p>
<p>雪が舞っていた。今夜は天気が優れないが、満月の時には必ず晴れるだろう。</p>	<p>Snow fluttered to the ground. The weather was not optimal tonight, but by the time of the full moon it would surely be clear.</p>
<p>月は剣から弓へと姿を変えた。半月はその形を弓に喩え、弓張月ともいう。</p>	<p>The moon had changed from a sword to a bow. The half moon was also called the “yumihari-zuki”<sup>[7]</sup> for its bow-like shape.</p>
<p>剣の時は晴れていたのだが、あいにく弓の姿は見えない。弓を操る者は月には居ないのだろうか。</p>	<p>When it was a sword the weather had been fine, but unfortunately the bow was not visible. Are there none who wield a bow on the moon?</p>
<p>「紫様。お寒いのでお屋敷に戻ったら如何でしょう？今夜は月は見えないですし」</p>	<p>“Lady Yukari. It's cold, so why not go back to the mansion? It seems the moon is not visible tonight anyway.”</p>

<p>「あら、お月見は月が見えない方が楽しめるのよ。もしかしたら弓張月は紅魔館の地下にいるのかも知れないけど」</p>	<p>“Oh, but moon-watching is so much more fun when there is no moon. Maybe the bow-shaped moon is hidden in the basement of the Scarlet Devil Mansion.”</p>
<p>「はあ、そうですか。そういえば先日言っていた月の公転周期の話ですが――」</p>	<p>“Really? Anyway, the orbital period that we were talking about the other day-”</p>
<p>藍は話題を変えた。もう少し話させてくれれば藍にも理解できたのかも知れないのに。</p>	<p>Ran changed topics. If she let me talk a bit more maybe she would've understood it.<sup>[8]</sup></p>
<p>「どうやら公転周期が後から調整された可能性が強い事が判りました」</p>	<p>“It seems that it is highly likely that the orbital period was changed.”</p>
<p>「どういう意味かしら？」</p>	<p>“What do you mean by that?”</p>
<p>「元々は天の道の通り、月は丁度二十八日で一周する物でした。ですが、月の異常な自転運動が公転周期を僅かに狂わせた」</p>	<p>"Originally, the moon was meant to undergo a full rotation in exactly twenty-eight days. But the strange rotation period slightly interfered with the orbital period."</p>
<p>藍は大きな自転する物体にかかる引力の特性を説明し始めた。月は地上の引力と自分の引力の兼ね合いにより、自らの天体の形を僅かに楕円形に変形させる。その変形が自らに掛かる引力を歪ませ公転運動をブレーキないし、加速させる。自転周期が公転周期より短いと自転の速度を落とし、逆に長ければ自転の速度を速めようとするのだという。</p>	<p>Ran started to explain the properties of gravity as it works on a rotating planet. The moon changes itself to an oval shape due to Earth's gravity and its own gravity's work. That slight change in shape changes the gravity that works on it and accelerates the orbital period. When the rotation period is shorter than the orbital period, it slows its rotation period, and when the rotation period is longer, it speeds up the rotation period.</p>
<p>藍は回転する二点間の引力の計算を具体的な数値を示して説明してくれた。</p>	<p>Ran explained the work of gravity on two points using actual numbers.</p>

<p>「そういう理由ですから、自転を極端に狂わせて公転を遅らせた者が居る可能性が高いです。一日の三分の二も狂ったとすれば、誤差の範囲ではないですし」</p>	<p>"For such reasons, there is a high possibility that someone tampered with the rotation period and slowed down its orbital period. When its rate is changed by two thirds of a day, it is not within the usual margin of error."</p>
<p>「それで、貴方の結論は？」</p>	<p>"And your conclusion?"</p>
<p>「公転を速めた理由として考えられる事は、常に地上を観測出来るように同じ面を向け、完全な朔の日（*注）を消して、一年中地上を見張れるようにしたとか……。いずれにしても随分と昔の話になります」</p>	<p>"The only reason why one would do such a thing is to constantly observe the Earth by facing the same side towards it while removing days when it would be completely opposite.* In this way, one would be able to observe the Earth throughout the entire year... though, this would be quite some time ago."</p>
<p>式神は単純な計算なら右に出る者は居ない。しかし外の世界では引力の計算は三点以上から影響を受けただけで、計算が非常に困難になってしまうという。引力の計算は今の式神を持ってしても手に負えないと言われている。</p>	<p>When it comes to simple calculations, there would be nothing that can rival a shikigami. But in the outside world the calculation of gravity is said to be very difficult when there are more than three points affecting it. The calculation of gravity is said to be a trial even with the shikigami of today.</p>
<p>しかし実際は式神が手に負えないのではない。式<small>プログラム</small>神に命令する者の手に負えないのだ。命令さえすれば式神は必ず答えを出す。シンプルな計算方法によって正確な答えを出すだろう。</p>	<p>But in reality, it is not the shikigami themselves, but the programs of these shikigami that cannot process it. If one orders a shikigami, it will always give an answer with simple calculation methods.</p>
<p>言うまでもなく、私が欲しい答えはそんなつまらないものではなかった。</p>	<p>Needless to say, what I wanted was not something so boring.</p>
<p>「そう、有難うね。やっぱり式神の欠点はそこよね」</p>	<p>"Ah, thank you. But that's one of the faults of shikigami, isn't it?"</p>

「はい？」	“Excuse me?”
「調べるとすぐに答えが出てしまう」	“You get an answer instantly.”
「そうですね。紫様が私に何か別の物を調べさせたかっただと思ったのですが、私はあいにく式神なので命令された事以外の行動は出来ないのです」	“That’s true. I thought you wanted me to research something else, but unfortunately I’m a shikigami and can only do things under your command.”
「あーあ、つまらないわ。貴方にはがっかりさせられるし、吸血鬼には月に行かれるし」	“Oh, you’re depressing me and the vampire is going to the moon. How entirely dull.”
「……あと、満月まで一週間ほどですね。結局協力してくれる者は居ませんでしたねえ」	“...It’s about a week until a full moon, and there’s nobody who will lend us their hand.”
「あら、私が嫌われているみたいなの言いかね。でも、協力者は沢山居るじゃない。ざっと数えても七、八……九人は」	“You’re making it sound as if people don’t like me, but there are several who are willing to help out. About seven, eight... perhaps nine will, just counting who immediately comes to mind.”
「そんなに居ますか？ うーん、私の知らないところで何かあったのでしょうか」	“That many? Hmm... I wonder if something happened without me knowing?”
「貴方は天文学的な計算が出来るのに、一桁の足し算は出来ないのね」	“You can do calculations on astronomical levels and yet it seems like you can’t add single digits.”
——満月の前日。	-The day before the full moon.

<p>空には満月と見紛う程の大きな月が浮かんでいた。地上から見たら明るく見える月だが、満月は月の裏側にとっては夜の訪れを意味する。今頃月の裏側では夕焼けが見える頃かも知れない。</p>	<p>A moon that was almost as big as a full moon had risen in the night sky. Although on Earth the moon is very bright, on a full moon it means that night falls on the backside of the moon. Around now it's probably dusk on the moon's backside.</p>
<p>「いよいよ明日ね。記念すべき第二回目の月旅行」</p>	<p>“Our second trip to the moon is, at long last, tomorrow.”</p>
<p>「紫様。そろそろ月に行ってから段取りを教えてくださいませんか？ 紫様を信用してはおりますが、流石に何も判らないままですので心配です」</p>	<p>“Lady Yukari, although I trust you I can't help but be worried when I know nothing about the current plans. Shall you inform me of the plans once we're there?”</p>
<p>「うふふ。そうね、そろそろ貴方に命令して<sup>デバッグ</sup>検査しようかしら」</p>	<p>“Mhmhm, I guess I should inspect<sup>[9]</sup> the orders I gave you.”</p>
<p>「そうして頂けると助かります。それにしても、大昔に月に攻め入った時とは大違いですね。昔は最強の妖怪軍団を集めて意気揚々と攻め込んだと言ったじゃないですか。それでも敵わなかったというのに、それに比べて今回の.....言い方は悪いですが気の抜けよう.....人数も少ないし、何か無計画にも見えますし、失礼ですがとても敵うとは思えないのですが」</p>	<p>“That would be helpful. But it seems so different from the last time you made an attack on the moon. I hear that in the past you gathered an army of the strongest youkai around and they were full of zeal and enthusiasm. Even then you were not victorious yet this time... excuse me for the way I say this... but it seems very lax. We lack numbers, we have no plan and, forgive me for saying, but I doubt you're going to have any chance against them.”</p>
<p>「貴方には重要な事を教えてあげるわ」</p>	<p>“I'll tell you one very important thing.”</p>

<p>私は僅かに端がぼやけた月を見た。あのぼやけた部分が全て晴れた時、地上と月は行き来できるようになる。それを行えるようになったのはそれ程昔の話ではない。精々、千年前くらいだ。</p>	<p>I looked at the moon with its slightly dull edge. When that bit becomes lit the moon will be accessible from the Earth. It was not long ago that this became possible, only about a thousand years ago.</p>
<p>「地上の民は月の民には決して敵わないのよ」</p>	<p>“The residents of Earth can never beat the residents of the moon.”</p>
<p>藍は不思議そうな顔をした。</p>	<p>Ran had a puzzled look on her face.</p>
<p>「え？ 決して敵わない……？」</p>	<p>“Huh? We can never beat...?”</p>
<p>「遥かに進んだ科学力、強靱な生命力、妖怪には手に負えない未知の力。地上の民は月の民には決して敵わないわ、特に月の都では」</p>	<p>“The Lunarians possess highly advanced technology, unyielding stamina and abilities that are far outmatch those of youkai. The ones living on Earth can never beat those on the moon, especially in the lunar capital.”</p>
<p>「そ、それでは今になって何故、もう一度月に攻めようと思ったのです？ おかしいじゃないですか。本当はそんな事思っていないんですよね？」</p>	<p>“Th-Then why have you, now of all times, decided to attack the moon!? It's unreasonable, you really don't believe what you just said, right?”</p>
<p>「いいえ、やはり敵うとは思っていません」</p>	<p>“No, I really do not think that we stand a chance against them.”</p>
<p>「……では、明日は何をしに行くのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>“...Then what are we doing tomorrow?”</p>
<p>「月の都から新しい幻想郷の住人が現われたのよ？ それなりのお返しを頂かないと。そう、住民税みたいなもんね」</p>	<p>“A new resident of Gensokyo has arrived from the moon. We must receive something in return. Residential tax, so to speak.”</p>
<p>「はい？ なんですかそれは」</p>	<p>“Excuse me? What do you mean by that?”</p>

<p>皆、好き勝手に暮らし自由を謳歌している様な幻想郷だが、実際住んでいる者は決して自由を約束されている訳ではない。皆の最低限の自由を確保する為には、ある程度の決まりのようなものが必要となる。それが少なからず不自由を生む。しかしその不自由は、皆の自由の為には必要な事である。</p>	<p>Gensokyo is full of inhabitants that do as they like, but such freedom is not something that is promised. For everybody to live their lives with the least bit of freedom there needs to be a certain extent of rule. That rule will create a certain extent of hindrance to freedom, but that hindrance is necessary for freedom.</p>
<p>例えば、幻想郷の人間は常に妖怪に襲われる危険があるが、その恐怖を甘んじて受けなければならぬ。</p>	<p>For example, humans of Gensokyo are constantly under the threat of being attacked by youkai, but they need to live with that threat to live in Gensokyo.</p>
<p>人を襲う事を忘れてしまうと自らの存在は危うくなってしまふから、妖怪は人を襲う。</p>	<p>Youkai need to attack people because if they don't do so, their very existence will be at risk, so youkai will attack humans.</p>
<p>しかし幻想郷に住む者の生活は妖怪の手によって支えられているのである。妖怪が居なければ幻想郷は崩壊してしまうのだから、人間は妖怪に対する恐怖を完全に拭おうとはしない。人間が自分を襲う妖怪を全て退治してしまったら、その時は幻想郷は崩壊してしまうだろう。</p>	<p>The lives of those who live in Gensokyo are maintained by the youkai. If there were no youkai in Gensokyo, Gensokyo would collapse. Thus, humans will not forget the fear that they have for the youkai and yet will not exterminate the youkai that might attack them, since doing so would destroy Gensokyo.</p>
<p>逆の事も言える。妖怪が襲う人間が居なくなってしまうたら、妖怪も自らの存在意義を失ってしまう。だから、妖怪は人間を襲うが無闇に食べたりはしない。里の人間は基本的には食べてはいけない約束なのだ。</p>	<p>The opposite is also true, and if youkai didn't have any humans to attack, the youkai would lose the meaning of their existence. Thus, youkai may attack humans but do not eat them recklessly. Humans from the town are generally not for their eating under the contract.</p>

<p>「新しく住人となった月の民は、妖怪ではなく人間である事を選んだの。つまり、永遠亭のあの者達は人間を選んだのよ」</p>	<p>“The new residents that are from the moon chose to live as human and not as youkai. Thus the ones at Eientei chose to be humans.”</p>
<p>私は、兎を除いてね、と付け加えた。あれは人間になりすますには無理がある。</p>	<p>I added “save that rabbit” at the end, as that was not able to become human no matter how hard it tried.</p>
<p>「人間.....ですか？ あの宇宙人一家が？ うーん、私にはどう見ても人間には見えないのですが.....」</p>	<p>“Human...? That clan of aliens? ...Umm, I cannot see them as humans no matter how hard I try...”</p>
<p>「あら見た目の問題ではないわ？ あの者達は妖怪のルール下には入らず、人間の社会に入ろうとしているじゃない」</p>	<p>“Oh, but it’s not a matter of looks. They do not follow the rule of youkai and are trying to enter human society, are they not?”</p>
<p>薬を売って歩き病人が居れば診察する。それは人間の社会での営為であり、妖怪の社会のそれとは異なる。</p>	<p>They sell medicine and look after the sick. Such actions are “work” in human society and differ from those in youkai society.</p>
<p>「確かに、我々妖怪とはちょっと馴染めてないですね。里の人間にとっては変わった人間だと捉えられている様ですが.....」</p>	<p>“True, they have not adapted with youkai like us. The people of the town seem to think of them as strange humans, though...”</p>
<p>「しかし、幻想郷の人間の義務を果たしていない」</p>	<p>“Yet they do not fulfill the role of humans.”</p>
<p>外の世界の人間にもいくつかの義務がある。学ぶ事、働く事、そして社会に参加する事、つまり納税だ。幻想郷ではそれに妖怪との付き合い方の義務もある。</p>	<p>The humans in the outside world have roles they must fulfill, too: learning, working and being a part of society, including paying taxes. Gensokyo then adds dealing with youkai to the list.</p>

<p>「人間の義務……ですか。そう言われてみればそんな気もしますね。あの者達は妖怪を恐れなし、それどころか人間の力を強めパワーバランスを崩しかねない。ですがそれと今回の月侵略計画は何の繋がりが……」</p>	<p>“The roles of humans, you say? Come to think about it, that’s right. They do not fear youkai, and their existence can destroy the power balance between the humans and the youkai. …But what does that have to do with the invasion of the moon?”</p>
<p>「さっき言ったでしょう？ 私は住民税が欲しいと。人間の力を強めるといっても、怪我や病気を治したり、人間の護衛に付く程度ならなんて事もない。それよりは、納税の義務を果たして貰わないと、社会は参加できていない」</p>	<p>“I already told you that, didn’t I? I want residential tax. Even if it does strengthen the humans to the extent of healing and caring for their wounds, I don’t mind. But they are not fulfilling their roles in paying tax, and thus cannot be a part of human society.</p>
<p>「……もしかして、月の都に潜入して税金代わりに何か奪ってくるのですか？ 彼の者が月の民だから」</p>	<p>“…Then do you plan to steal something from the capital as tax payment, because they are immigrants from the moon?”</p>
<p>藍は疑問の晴れた様子で私に問うた。私は珍しく自分が言った事が理解してもらえたようで満足した。</p>	<p>Ran asked as if she realized the answer as she said it. I was content because my answer was understood for once.</p>
<p>「ええ、そういう事ですね。月の都なんて侵略できる筈ありません。ですが、忍び込む事ぐらいは容易でしょう？ 貴方にはその役目を負って貰います」</p>	<p>“Yes, that’s the idea. It would be impossible to invade the lunar capital, but wouldn’t it be easy enough to sneak in? I would like you to carry out that task.”</p>
<p>——ついに満月の夜が訪れた。</p>	<p>-The long awaited night of the full moon finally came.</p>
<p>三日月は剣、半月は弓とも呼ばれていた。では満月は何と呼ばれているか。</p>	<p>The crescent moon a sword, the half moon a bow. What can the full moon be called?</p>
<p>それは鏡である。</p>	<p>A mirror.</p>

<p>太陽光を反射させる大きな鏡。それと同時に地上の闇を照らす。月の光は闇を照らす為、一見妖怪は苦手なように見える。だが一般に妖怪が月の光の下で力を持つのは何故だろうか。</p>	<p>A large mirror that reflects the sunlight, and at the same time illuminates the darkness of the Earth. The most light comes from the full moon. While it may seem as if it were the worst night for youkai, why is it that they are the most powerful under the light of the moon?</p>
<p>その理由は光というものは照らすだけではなく、同時に陰も生むからである。</p>	<p>The reason for that is because the light not only illuminates, but gives rise to shadows as well.</p>
<p>薄明かりの月光の下では色んな場所に陰が出来る。草木、山、岩、建物、複雑な形状をした地上を月の明かりだけでは照らす事が出来ない。そして出来た陰が人間の恐怖を生み、場合によっては妖怪伝説となった。ある意味、月は妖怪の生みの親とも言える。</p>	<p>Under the dim light of the moon, all sorts of things blanket the Earth in shadows, such as grasses, trees, mountains, rocks and buildings. With light as weak as moonlight, it is impossible to eliminate these shadows. And they are the birthplace of humanity's fears, sometimes creating legends of youkai. In a manner of speaking, the moon gave birth to all youkai.</p>
<p>私は湖に映った満月を見ていた。湖上の満月は空に浮かぶそれよりも何かに浮かんでいるように見えた。そう思ってみると、空の満月はただの絵としか思えなくなってくる。</p>	<p>I gazed at the moon's reflection on the lake. It appeared to be floating on something rather than hanging in the sky. Thinking of it that way, the moon in the sky seemed as if it was just a picture.</p>
<p>水面に座っている私の脇に藍がやってきた。</p>	<p>As I was sitting on the surface of the lake, Ran came to my side.</p>
<p>「日が完全に落ちましたね」</p>	<p>"It seems that the sun has set completely."</p>
<p>「遅いじゃない、夜が明けるとまで来ないのかと思っちゃったわよ」</p>	<p>"You're late. I almost thought you weren't coming until the break of dawn."</p>

<p>「いやいや、まだ宵の口です。夜はこれからですよ」</p>	<p>“Oh no, it is still merely nightfall. The night is only beginning.”</p>
<p>湖に映った満月は手の届く幻。遠くに見える月は天蓋に描かれた絵。基本は同じものである。</p>	<p>The reflection of the moon was a tangible illusion. The far-off moon in the sky was a picture on the roof of the heavens. They were essentially the same.</p>
<p>私はその幻と絵の境界を弄る事で月と地上の通路を創り出す。</p>	<p>I modified the borders of the illusionary moon and its picture to create a passage between Earth and the moon.</p>
<p>「紫様。そろそろ、吸血鬼のロケットが月に辿り着いた頃じゃないでしょうか？」</p>	<p>“Lady Yukari, hasn't the vampire's rocket reached the moon by now?”</p>
<p>「さぞかし月は騒がしいでしょうね。今頃、良い勉強をしてる頃じゃないかしら？」</p>	<p>“They must surely be causing a racket, then. Perhaps they are even learning a very good lesson around now.”</p>
<p>「結局、あの吸血鬼は囷という理解で良いのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>“So the vampire was just a diversion?”</p>
<p>「ん。まあ……そうね。それは間違いではないわね」</p>	<p>“Well... I suppose you would not be mistaken in believing that.”</p>
<p>「？」</p>	<p>“?”</p>
<p>私は傘を閉じ水面に浮かんだ幻の月に傘を刺した。傘を手放しても何故か水の上に立ったままとなり、水の中に消えてしまうような事は無かった。</p>	<p>I closed my umbrella and thrust it into the illusionary moon floating on the lake. The umbrella remained standing on the water and showed no signs of sinking.</p>
<p>水面の月はゆがんで、一旦小さくなると今度はすぐに大きくなった。そして最も大きくなったところで傘を中心に月は割れ始めた。</p>	<p>The moon on the surface of the lake wavered and, after a brief contraction, expanded. By the time the moon reached its maximum size, it began to break apart from the point where the umbrella had been stabbed into it.</p>

<p>水面の月の真ん中に幅数センチほどの亀裂が入る。月は水ごと割れ、別の場所への入り口が見え始めていた。亀裂の向こう側から芳しい香りが漂ってくる。</p>	<p>The cracks in the center of the moon became several centimeters thick. As the moon broke apart on the water, an opening to another place was starting to appear. A crisp scent wafted from the other side.</p>
<p>この亀裂の向こう側は吸血鬼達が先に着いているだろう月面である。この亀裂に入るだけで一瞬で月に辿り着くのだ。</p>	<p>On the other side of this crack was the surface of the moon, where the vampire and the others had already arrived. By entering this fissure one could instantaneously arrive on the moon.</p>
<p>吸血鬼達は何ヶ月もかけて見窄らしいロケットを作り、十日以上も狭い空間で惨めな思いをして月に向かった筈である。</p>	<p>They had spent months to create their shabby rocket and spent more than ten days in a miserable, cramped space to go to the moon.</p>
<p>馬鹿馬鹿しい。月に行く事が目的ならば一瞬である。ここは幻想郷なのだから外の世界の魔法を真似る必要はない。</p>	<p>It was idiotic. If all that is needed to go to the moon, it is possible to do so in an instant. This is Gensokyo; one need not imitate the magic of the outside world here.</p>
<p>だが、私は吸血鬼達が私の案に乗ってこない事も予想済みだった。</p>	<p>But I already knew that the vampire and her cohorts would not agree with my plan.</p>
<p>あの吸血鬼は私が忘れた心を持っている。外の間人も忘れつつある感覚。そして式神に至っては、効率を最優先する為にその感情を良しとしない。</p>	<p>Those vampires have the spirit that I've forgotten. The feeling that the humans outside have begun to forget about and the feeling that shikigami whose thoughts centered around efficiency despised.</p>
<p>——見窄らしいロケットで、惨めな思いをして旅するから楽しいのだと。最短の方法で楽しんで手に入れた物にはなんの価値も無いと。苦勞を楽しもうとする余裕の心である。</p>	<p>-The fun that would come from travelling in a miserable, shabby rocket. Anything gained through the shortest method has no meaning to it. It was the spirit of enjoying hard work.</p>

人間も妖怪も長く生きて いるとその心は失われて いく物である。だが吸血 鬼達にはその心が強く 残っている。だから、私 の手を借りて月に行く事 を嫌がる事は判ってい た。暫く自分達の手で月 に行こうとしていたのだ から。	Long-living humans and youkai often forgot that mindset, but that vampire and the others still had a powerful desire for it. That was why they neglected to go to the moon using my powers and insisted on going to the moon by their own hand.
「いよいよですね。つい に月の民に反撃する時 が」	"It's almost time. Finally, the time to begin the counterattack the Lunarians."
「そうね、藍。地上との お別れに、貴方に月に 行ってからする事の命令 のヒントをあげるわ」	"Indeed. However, Ran, before we say goodbye to Earth, I'll give you a hint of what to do once we get there."
「え、ヒントですか？ 素直に命令していただい た方が有難いのですが」	"A hint? If you could order me, I would be much more grateful."
「命令も、自分で考えた 方が楽しめるでしょ う？」	"Even if it was an order, it's more fun to think about it by one's self, right?"
「まあ良いですけど」	"Well, I suppose."
「この間、月の公転周期 の話をしました。公転周 期は予定よりも短くなっ ています。あれの理由を 教えましょう」	"We spoke about the orbital period a few days ago. The orbital period is shorter than was expected. I'll tell you the reason for that."
「それは大変興味深いの ですが.....それがヒント なのですか？」	"That's very interesting... but that's the hint?"
「月の公転周期が二十八 日よりも短い理由は、大 昔に仕掛けたねずみ取り なのです」	"The reason why the moon's orbital period is shorter than twenty-eight days is because that is the mousetrap that was set a long, long time ago."
「？」	"?"

<p>「喩え話をします。もし、満月を頼りに日常と月を繋ぐ妖怪が居たしましょう」</p>	<p>“Here is a hypothetical situation. Let’s say there was a youkai that was able to connect the Earth and the moon using the full moon.”</p>
<p>「それって紫様の事ですよね？」</p>	<p>“That would be you, correct?”</p>
<p>「喩え話です。簡単に通路を繋げられると知った妖怪は、ちょっと月の都に忍び込んで遊んでやろうと考えても不思議じゃありません」</p>	<p>“I said it was hypothetical. Naturally, this youkai who knew that she could easily make such a pathway thought about sneaking into the Lunar Capital for sport.”</p>
<p>足下の通路は人が入るのに十分な大きさまで広がっていた。私はその月への通路に飛び込んだ。眩しいまでに明るい昼間の光。空には大きな星、何処までも続く水面。そこは月の海だった。</p>	<p>The pathway at our feet was just about big enough for a person to pass through. I jumped into the pathway and the first thing to come was the blinding light of the daytime moon. I could see a sky full of stars and an endlessly expansive body of water. It was the sea of the moon.</p>
<p>藍も私に続けて入ってきた。</p>	<p>Ran arrived after I did.</p>
<p>実はこの所、毎月、ここにやってきていたので藍も特に驚く事は無かった。ここから鴉に式神を憑けて地上の様子を見張っていたのだ。言うまでもなく、月の民の真似事をしてみただけだ。</p>	<p>We would come here every month, so Ran wasn’t surprised. From here, I kept watch over the state on Earth by turning a crow into a shikigami. Needless to say, I was mimicking the doings of the Lunarians.</p>
<p>「……その妖怪は、天道の通り十五夜に通路を開けて月に忍び込む事にしました。喩え話ですけどね」</p>	<p>“...That youkai opened a path to the moon through the heavens on the fifteenth night, and decided to sneak in. ...But this is still a hypothetical situation.”</p>
<p>「はあ」</p>	<p>“Right.”</p>

<p>「月の都に関する情報は少なく、取り敢えず行って見なければ始まらないといった感じでした。さあ、十五夜の日がやってきました。妖怪は意を決して湖に映った満月に飛び込んだのです。そこに見えたのはなんと……なんだと思う？」</p>	<p>“There was little information about the Lunar Capital and one couldn't start without going there first. The long awaited fifteenth night had come and that youkai jumped into the moon on the lake surface... What do you think she saw there?”</p>
<p>「一面の海、ですか？」</p>	<p>“A sea as far as the eye can see?”</p>
<p>「ご名答、よく判ったわね。月は非常に美しい海で覆われていたのです。で、その妖怪はすぐに理解しました。月から帰る方法も同じように海に映った星から帰れるのだと」</p>	<p>“Correct, well done. The moon was covered with a very beautiful sea and the youkai knew instantaneously that the way back would be to go through the planet that was reflected on its surface.”</p>
<p>私は今通ってきた通路が閉じないように、再び傘を差し込んだ。そして傘をこれから向かう方向へ折り曲げた。何度と折り曲げ、歪な形にした。</p>	<p>I jammed my umbrella into the cracks that we just took so it wouldn't close, and bent the umbrella into the way that we would take from here. The umbrella took on a deformed shape after being bent a few times.</p>
<p>「紫様、何をやっているのですか？ そんなに傘を折り曲げて……」</p>	<p>“Lady Yukari, what are you doing by bending your umbrella like that...?”</p>
<p>「内緒。お呪いのような物よ。で、さっきの喩え話の続き。帰り道もしっかりと用意した妖怪は安心して月の都を目指しました」</p>	<p>“A secret. It's like a good luck charm. Anyway, back to my hypothetical situation. After preparing a way back, the youkai felt assured and traveled to the Lunar Capital.”</p>
<p>「喩え……話ですよ？」</p>	<p>“And this is still... hypothetical, correct?”</p>

<p>「同じ事を何度も言いません。そしてその妖怪は月の都に張られた結界の破り方を探しました。それは思ったよりも複雑で時間のかかるものでした」</p>	<p>"I don't like to repeat myself too many times. That youkai looked for a way to break the barrier that surrounds the Lunar Capital. The barrier was more complex than she expected and would take her a long time."</p>
<p>私は目的地の方へ移動を始めた。藍も慌てて付いてきた。</p>	<p>I started on the way towards the moon's capital. Ran hurriedly followed.</p>
<p>「やっとの思いで結界を破る鍵を見つけて、月の都に進入しようと思ったのですが、月の民の防御は固く、到底今のままでは敵わないか攻めるのに時間が掛かりすぎると思ったのです。賢い妖怪は一先ず撤退し、次の策を練る事にしました」</p>	<p>"Finally, finding a key to breaking the barrier, the youkai tried to enter the capital. However, the capital was well protected and the youkai came to the conclusion that she didn't have enough power at the moment, or it would take too much time. The smart youkai thought to retreat for the moment being and think of a plan."</p>
<p>「.....」</p>	<p>"..."</p>
<p>「月の民の追っ手を難なくかわし、地上から月にやってきた時に使った通路の所まで戻ってきました。そこで妖怪は衝撃の事実を見る事になります」</p>	<p>"Easily brushing off the Lunarian pursuers, the youkai made her way back to the path that she'd taken to come to the moon. Only to be shocked at what she saw."</p>
<p>藍は黙っていた。私の話に夢中なのだろう。</p>	<p>Ran remained silent. She was probably too wrapped up in my story.</p>
<p>「そう、通路は少しずつ閉じ始めていました。もう妖怪が入れるような大きさでは無かったので。妖怪は驚きました『一体何故通路が閉じているのだろう。今夜が十五夜である限り閉じる筈がない』と」</p>	<p>"The path had slowly started to close and was no longer a size that the youkai could go through. The youkai was shocked, 'Why was the pathway closing? If it is the fifteenth night there should be no way that it would close.'"</p>
<p>「それで、どうなったのでしょうか。あ、いや喩え話でしたよね？ どうなるのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"And then what happened? Oh, I mean, what happened in the hypothetical situation?"</p>

<p>「退路を断たれた妖怪は大人しく降参するしかありません。何せ敵う相手では無いのですから」</p>	<p>“The youkai who had no way to return had to surrender. Since she was up against those that she could not defeat.”</p>
<p>「そ、そうですか……。えーと、なんでそんな喩え話を聞く羽目になったんですしたっけ？」</p>	<p>“I-Is that so... Um, and why did that hypothetical situation end so poorly?”</p>
<p>「何言ってるのよ、月の公転周期が何故二十八日では無く、二十七日と三分の一日なのか？ の話でしょ？」</p>	<p>“What are you saying? The question was why the moon’s orbital period is not twenty-eight days, but twenty-seven and a third of a day. Correct?”</p>
<p>「あ、そうでしたね」</p>	<p>“Oh, right.”</p>
<p>「そこまで話せば判るよね？ 昔は十五夜は完全な満月であった。しかし何者かの手、恐らくは月の賢者の手によって自転周期を狂わされ、それによって公転周期は早められ、気が付かないうちに十五夜は満月とは限らない夜になってしまった。予想よりも早く満月が閉じてしまう様になった」</p>	<p>“By telling you that much, you should understand, right? The fifteenth night used to be a perfect full moon, but by somebody’s doing, probably a Lunarian sage, the rotational period was changed and orbital period was altered. Before you knew it the fifteenth night was no longer a night of the perfect full moon. Thus the full moon would close quicker than expected.”</p>
<p>「つまり、満月を頼りに月に忍び込む妖怪を月に閉じ込める為に、月の賢者が仕掛けた罠、と言う事でしょうか？」</p>	<p>“So what you’re saying is that it was a trap that a Lunarian sage thought of to trap the youkai that would find its way into the moon using the full moon?”</p>
<p>「そう、もう遙か昔に罠を仕込まれていたというお話。憎き賢者に」</p>	<p>“Exactly, a trap that was set for a very long time by the much-despised Lunarian sage.”</p>

<p>それからだった、一ヶ月を一律に三十日にする訳にいかず、地上の暦は混乱した。月の民は地上の暦などどうでもよく、ただ十五夜と満月を完全に一致させない為だけに月の公転を狂わせたのだ。月の民にとって地上とは、見下す為だけの場所ではない。そこでの生活の利便性など、一切考える気もしなかったのだろう。</p>	<p>It was from that time that one could not make a month thirty days and Earth's calendar was in confusion. The Lunarians did not care about how the Earth would be affected, only about not letting the full moon exactly coincide with the fifteenth night, and altered the orbit of the moon. To those on the moon, Earth only existed to look down upon, so they never took their case into account.</p>
<p>月の海は静かであった。波の音だけが控えめに聞こえてくる。その波の音は母なる海の音ではない。水分子がぶつかり合う音だ。月の海では何も生命は育まれていないのだから。</p>	<p>The sea of the moon was very quiet and only the slight sound of the waves could be heard. The sound of the waves was not of a sea filled with nature but only the sound made by the water molecules bumping into each other. That was because there was no life in the seas of the moon.</p>
<p>「喩え話でしたが、参考になりました。ですが.....そのヒントから察するに」</p>	<p>“Although it was a hypothetical situation, it was very helpful. But thinking from the hint...”</p>
<p>「何かしら？」</p>	<p>“What is it?”</p>
<p>藍は答え難そうにしていた。色々と言葉を選んでいくようだった。計算能力は高くても、文章処理能力はまだまだなのかも知れない。</p>	<p>Ran seemed to be choosing her words carefully, not being able to respond. Although her calculation abilities were high, her language abilities might not be sufficient.</p>

<p>「今……私達はその月の賢者が仕掛けたという罠にまんまと嵌っている事になりませんか？ 月の都に辿り着くのに時間がかかれば、戻ってきた頃には満月では無くなっていると思います。そうしたらやはり帰れなくなってしまう。実際、月の都の結界を破るのに時間が掛かるんですよね？」</p>	<p>“Wouldn’t... it mean that right now we’re right in the trap that the Lunarian sage had set? If it would take time to get to the Lunar Capital, by the time we come back it wouldn’t be a full moon any more. Not to mention breaking the barrier around the Capital itself would also take some time, right?”</p>
<p>「あらいやだ、気が付かなかったわ」</p>	<p>“Oh my, I didn’t notice that.”</p>
<p>「いやお願いですから巫山戯ないでくださいよ。今は敵地にいるのです、ちょっとした判断ミスが致命的な事に繋がらないとも限りません。勿論、何か策があつての事だと思いますが……」</p>	<p>“No, please don’t joke around. We’re in enemy territory and the slightest of mistakes can lead to disaster. Of course I believe that you have some kind of plan...”</p>
<p>「そうねえ、もし帰り道が無くなって月に閉じ込められたら、吸血鬼のロケットにでも相乗りをお願いしましょうか？ もうそろそろ、月に着いている筈ですから。それとも私達の方が早く着いたかな？」</p>	<p>“Well, if we no longer have a way back, we can ask for a ride on the vampire’s rocket. She should be on the moon by now. Or did we arrive first?”</p>
<p>「もー、何処まで本気なのか判断に苦みます。吸血鬼のロケットなんて、今頃海に打ち付けられて大破しちゃったりしてるかも知れないじゃないですか。紫様は見えてないかも知れませんが、驚くほどにオンボロだったんですから」</p>	<p>“Honestly, I can never tell when you are serious or not. That rocket might have fallen apart on impact with the sea for all we know. Although you probably never saw it, it was really a poorly built piece of junk.”</p>
<p>藍は怒っている振りを見せた。何だかんだ言って、私の命令通りにしか動く事は出来ないのだから、私を絶対に信用するしかない。</p>	<p>Ran acted as if she was upset but she had to do exactly as I said so she had to trust me.</p>

<p>「へえ、そんなに言うほどオンボロだったのなら、もしかしたら月に行く前に燃え尽きてるかも知れないわね。何か仕掛けでも無い限り……」</p>	<p>“So, it was that poorly built? If so, it might have even burned up en route... unless it had a trick up its sleeve.”</p>
<p>私と藍が辿り着いた月は、いつも陽気な妖怪と人間達の喧騒が絶えない幻想郷では考えられないくらい静かであった。</p>	<p>The moon was unthinkablely silent compared to the Gensokyo that was constantly noisy from bickering between humans and youkai.</p>
<p>人間は都会の華やかさを求め、いつの間にか地上から静けさは失われていた様だ。辺境の幻想郷ですら騒がしい位だから外の世界は言うまでもない。</p>	<p>Humans sought the bustle and glamour of urban life, and before they knew it, the Earth was rid of silence. If even Gensokyo being a rural area was noisy, the outside world was even more so.</p>
<p>だがしかし、月の都の方が文明は進んでいる筈である。月の裏側に存在する月の都はさぞかし騒がしいに違いない。もし落ち着いた繁栄を築いているのであれば、それは衰退の証か、それとも地上とは比べものにならない高貴な文明だと言えるだろう。</p>	<p>Yet the Lunar Capital was even more technologically advanced. That means this city on the other side of the moon should be very noisy. If they are living in peaceful prosperity, that would only be a sign of decay. Or perhaps it could mean an incomparably advanced civilization.</p>
<p>衰退か極楽浄土か。どちらにしても私は嫌である。私には都会の喧騒が必要なのだ。</p>	<p>Whether it was decay or pure heaven, I hated it. I needed the noise of the city.</p>
<p>そう思うと、この静かな月の何処かで吸血鬼達が騒いでいると思うと何だか懐かしく思えた。</p>	<p>With that in mind, thinking that the vampire and the others were somewhere on this quiet moon causing a racket made me feel nostalgic.</p>
<p>pg. 102 * 注 新月の日</p>	<p>• Nights of the new moon</p>

## Notes

• *Translation and references by Sabino, proofreading/formatting by Furienify and N-Forza.*

1. [Jump up](#) ↑ Originally written 天蓋. Originates from a sunshade or canopy but for easier understanding was changed to "roof of the heavens".
2. [Jump up](#) ↑ Mikazuki (三日月) Literally means "moon of the third day." A crescent moon.
3. [Jump up](#) ↑ Juu-goya (十五夜) Literally means "fifteenth night." The shape of the moon on this day is a perfect full moon. The impact that these events had in ancient Japan can be seen in many songs. (A famous one is the song Usagi (うさぎ))
4. [Jump up](#) ↑ In the original text it is written as shikigami labeled to be read as "Computer"
5. [Jump up](#) ↑ Read as "computer"
6. [Jump up](#) ↑ Read as "rocket"
7. [Jump up](#) ↑ Yumihari-zuki(弓張月) means drawn bow moon.
8. [Jump up](#) ↑ Star "Bow" Break. Flandre's signature spell card.
9. [Jump up](#) ↑ Written to be read as "debug"

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# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Sixth Chapter

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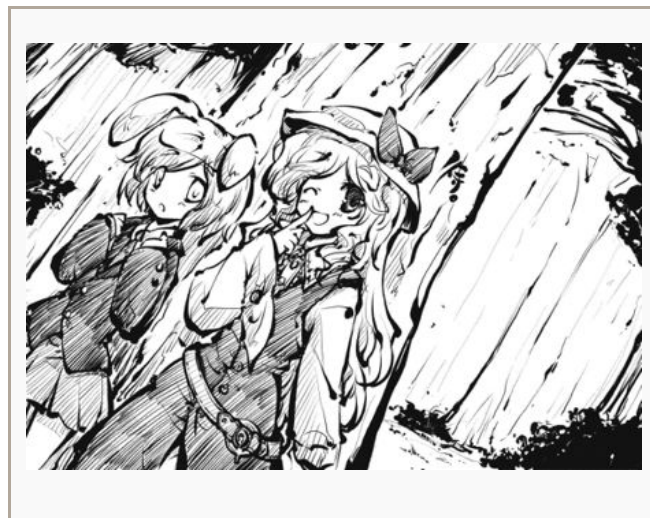
第六話 愚者の封書	Chapter 6: The Fool's Sealed Letter
月の都の空は昼間でも暗い。永遠に夜が明けないのではないかと思う。いや明かりを点けなくても見えるのだから、暗いというのは正確ではないかも知れない。空が黒いと言うべきだろう。	The sky of the Lunar Capital is dark even during the day. It makes me wonder if dawn will never come. Since it's possible to see without any lights, "dark" may not be appropriate. It would be better to say the sky is just "black."
そもそも、宇宙とは暗いものなのだ。その宇宙空間に浮かんだ天体の空も、本来ならば暗くて当然である。	Space is dark in the first place. So it's only natural for the skies of the planets that float within space to be dark, too.
太陽の光を受けている全ての星で、昼間の空が青く明るい訳ではない。太陽の光は青くないし、勿論地上を覆う大気も青くはない。	Just because a planet is bathed in sunlight doesn't mean that it's daytime skies are blue, either. The sun's light is not blue and neither are the atmospheres surrounding those planets.
では何故地上の空はあそこまで青いのだろうか？	Then why is Earth's sky so blue?



<p>それは大気が屈折しやすい波長の短い可視光線、つまり紫から青色の光を拡散させ、空を青く見せるのである。大気が丁度、空を青く見せる程度の厚みを持っていたからそう見えるだけなのだ。もう少し大気が厚ければ青色の光は拡散しきってしまい空は赤くなる。地上でも空が赤くなる事もあるが、人間は空が見られる時間帯から、夕焼け、朝焼けと呼んでいる。</p>	<p>That's because the atmosphere bends the rays of light most prone to refraction (violet and blue in the visible light spectrum) and diffuses them, making the sky look blue. Earth's atmosphere has just the right thickness to make the sky look blue. If the atmosphere was a bit thicker, the blue light would've completely dispersed and a red sky would result. There is a point in time where the sky on Earth turns red. Depending on the time this occurs, people call it "sunrise" or "sunset."</p>
<p>さらに大気が分厚くなると赤い光も拡散し、ついには地上に光の届かない夜の星となるだろう。反対に大気が薄ければ光は真っ直ぐ届き、光源以外の空は黒いままとなるのだ。</p>	<p>If the atmosphere was to become even thicker, then even the red light would completely disperse and Earth would become a planet of constant night, since no light would reach its surface. Conversely, if the atmosphere was to be much thinner, the light would come in without bending and the sky would be dark except in the spot where the light shines.</p>
<p>月の空は後者であった。その黒い昼間の空が今日は色鮮やかな星空を見せていた。</p>	<p>The moon was the latter. The dark daytime sky was now covered in colourful stars.</p>
<p>「——『スターダストレヴァリエ』」</p>	<p>“-'Stardust Reverie!'”</p>
<p>目の前の黒い人間は宙に飛び上がり何かを叫んだ。</p>	<p>The human in black flew into the air and shouted something.</p>
<p>何で出来ているのか判らない星形の物体は、依姫様の動きとは関係無く無造作に宙を舞った。</p>	<p>Through some incomprehensible process, star-shaped objects rained down indiscriminately in Princess Yorihome's direction.</p>



<p>相手を見ないでばらまく攻撃など怖くはない筈だ。言うなれば子供が腕を振り回しながら相手に突進している様なものである。</p>	<p>There shouldn't be anything to fear from such a scattered, blind attack. It was almost like a child swinging its arms in circles while running towards its opponent.</p>
<p>「ねえ、あの星って当たっても痛く無さそうだけど……」</p>	<p>"Hey, it doesn't look like those stars will hurt if one hits..."</p>
<p>「痛くなくても当たればミスみたい。だから華麗にかわすのよ」</p>	<p>"Even if it doesn't hurt, you can't get hit by them. That's why you need to gracefully evade them."</p>
<p>「へえ。なら弾数が多い方が有利なんじゃない？」</p>	<p>"Hmm, then wouldn't the one who can shoot more projectiles be at an advantage?"</p>
<p>「多分、同時に出せる弾数に限界があるのよ。エネルギー保存の法則だか、エントロピー増大だかなんだか知らないけど……」</p>	<p>"There may be limits to how many it is possible to fire at once. I don't know if it's because of the law of conservation of energy, or depending on entropy limits though..."</p>
<p>月の兎達が他愛のない会話を繰り返している。段数に限りがあるのはエコロジー対策の為なんじゃないかと思う。それにしても一発でも当たれば良いというには十分すぎるほど大量にばらまいているが……。</p>	<p>The moon rabbits chattered as if it had nothing to do with them. I think the reason was to minimize the effect on the ecosystem. Anyway, I thought shooting far too many when a single hit was enough was a little...</p>
<p>依姫様はカラフルな銀河を何の問題もなくかわしていた。まるで雨の中を泳ぐ天女のように身軽に、地上を駆ける兎のように機敏に身をこなしていた。</p>	<p>Princess Yorihiame dodged the colorful galaxy without any problem. She was agile like a celestial swimming through the rain and nimble as a rabbit that ran on earth.</p>



<p>月の兎達は見事な依姫様の戦いぶりに勝利を確信し、興奮して騒いでいた。誰も自分が表に出て自分が目立ちたいと思っている様だった。さっきまでは吸血鬼に怯えて逃げていた月の兎達も、圧倒的な強さを見せる依姫様の神気に当てられて、自分でも勝てるに違いないと思いついでいるのだろう。</p>	<p>The moon rabbits became excited, positive of their victory watching Princess Yorihime's fight. Everyone seemed to want to stand on the front lines and show off when it was only a while before that they were all fleeing in fright of the vampire. They all seemed to thinking that they were able to win as well, witnessing Princess Yorihime's strength and feeling her godly presence.</p>
<p>しかし私にあの攻撃をかわす事が出来るだろうか？</p>	<p>But would I have been able to dodge that attack?</p>
<p>地上の人間は脆く弱いと聞いていたが、はてさて目の前の人間は自分には手に負えない程、強そうに見える。依姫様は余裕を見せているが、万が一何かあった時は私が矢面に立つ事になるのだろうか？ そんな事があれば月の都は侵略されてしまうのだろうか？</p>	<p>I had heard that the humans of Earth were frail and weak, but the human in front of us looked way too strong for me to handle. Princess Yorihime looked confident but if by some small chance something were to happen, would I be able to take the full force of their attack? And if not, would they invade the Lunar Capital?</p>
<p>「流れ弾に気を付いな！」</p>	<p>“Watch out for stray bullets!”</p>
<p>人間が何かを叫んだと思った次の瞬間、大きな星形の物体が耳を掠めていった。髪がそよぐ。</p>	<p>The moment that I thought I heard the human shout something, a huge star-shaped object grazed my ear and ruffled my hair.</p>
<p>遠くで見ていた時は光か熱の塊かと思っていた星だが、想像と違い質量を感じた。背筋に冷たい汗が流れた。</p>	<p>Watching from far away, I thought the stars were made of clusters of light or heat. Differing from my perception, the star felt solid. A cold sweat ran down my back.</p>
<p>そもそも、何故私がこんな殺伐とした戦いの前線にいるのだろう。</p>	<p>What was I doing in the front lines of this raging battle in the first place?</p>



<p>私は元々歌を歌い、餅を搗いて毎日暮らしていた。退屈だが平和な毎日だった。昼間は餅を搗き続け、夜はお酒を呑みながら将棋をしたりしていた。あの頃が懐かしい。</p>	<p>I originally sang songs and lived every day pounding rice cakes. Every day was boring, yet peaceful. During the day we'd continuously pound rice cakes and at the night we'd play shogi while drinking sake. Those days now feel like so long ago.</p>
<p>ちなみに餅搗きというのが実際に臼の中で捏ねられている物は、餅ではなく薬である。蓬莱の薬と呼ばれる不老不死の薬を作ろうとしているのだ。</p>	<p>Although we call them “rice cakes” what was actually in the mortar was not rice but medicine. We were trying to make a medicine called the “Hourai Elixir” that would provide eternal youth and everlasting life.</p>
<p>その真意はよく判らない。私達月の兎にはただ薬を搗き続ける事しか教えられていない。</p>	<p>We do not know the intentions behind this since we rabbits were taught only to pound the medicine.</p>
<p>その餅搗きは捕らえられている<small>じょうが</small>嫦娥様の贖罪の為だと教えられている。つまり、我々月の兎は自分に何の利点もない餅搗きを毎日やらされていたのだ。しかもいつ終わるとも判らないのである。既に何千年か続いている餅搗きだが、何も進展した感じはしない。もう周りの仲間にとっても餅搗きはただの意味のないルーチンワークと化していた。</p>	<p>We were taught that the pounding of the rice cakes was for the atonement of <a href="#">Lady Jouga</a><sup>[1]</sup>. You could say that all of the work that we moon rabbits do does not benefit us in any way, yet we are made to do it every single day and we have no idea when it may end. Despite pounding away for thousands of years, it feels as if no progress has been made. To others of my kind, this rice cake pounding has become a mere routine that has no meaning behind it.</p>
<p>私は他人の罪の為に永遠と搗き続けるのが嫌だった。何の達成感もなく、頭を使う事も許されずただ体を動かすだけの仕事。生活に困る事は無いが建設的ではないし、頭を使う事も無い。そんなのは最下層の仕事だと思っていた。</p>	<p>I didn't want to pound rice cakes for eternity to atone for the sins of someone else. This job did not permit using my head and offered no feelings of accomplishment, only manual labor. I never had to worry about surviving, but it wasn't productive and required no thought. I thought it was a job only suitable for the lowest class.</p>
<p>だから、私は逃げ出した。</p>	<p>And that is why I ran away.</p>

<p>兎にだってもっと自由があつてしかるべきだと。自分達はもっと高い能力を持っている筈だと、そう考えていた。今から思えば、自分は高い能力を持っているが環境がそうさせないと思つている者は、大抵何も出来ない奴である。私は典型的な愚か者だったのだろう。</p>	<p>I thought that rabbits should have more freedom, that we were more capable than menial labor. Now that I think of it, ones who are skilled but think they can't use their skills in that environment will never amount to anything. I was your garden-variety fool.</p>
<p>愚かな私は建設的な仕事じゃなければ、逃げ出す事の方が善だと言ひ聞かせていた。自分を上手く使えない社会の方が間違っているんだと考えていた。勿論、逃げ出している間、心の平穩を保つ為の言い訳である。</p>	<p>Being a fool, I told myself that if my job was not constructive, running away from it was justifiable and society was at fault for being unable to utilize me to the best of my ability. Of course, that was an excuse I told myself to maintain my cool while I was running away.</p>
<p>しかし、逃げ出してもそのまま狭い月の都に居てはすぐに捕まってしまうだろう。</p>	<p>However, the Lunar Capital was too small and even if I ran, I would be caught right away.</p>
<p>私は逃げ出すのは仕事だけではなく、月の都からも逃げなければならなかった。私は迷わず穢れた地上へ逃げる事にした。前に地上に逃げ出した同胞が居たので、その後を追おうと思ったのだ。</p>	<p>So I fled not only from my job, but also from the capital. I decided without hesitation on escaping to the impure Earth. I heard that one of us moon rabbits had once escaped to Earth so I planned on pursuing her.</p>
<p>——大きな歓声が上がった。</p>	<p>-There was a huge roar.</p>
<p>どうやら、人間が大技を使ったが依姫様が余裕で返し、依姫様の勝利が確定したらしい。依姫様は大きな神の鏡を掲げ、文字通り神々しく光を反射していた。</p>	<p>It seemed that the human used a grand technique but was easily overpowered by Princess Yori-hime so she was declared the victor. Princess Yori-hime held out a large divine mirror which as its name implies reflected light in a godly manner.</p>

<p>「あーあ。依姫様ももう少し手加減してくれればいいのにねえ」</p>	<p>“Aww, it would’ve been better if Princess Yorihime had held back a bit.”</p>
<p>隣の兎が話しかけてきた。私が状況を理解できずに慌てていると「このままじゃ私達の出番が無いもんねえ」と付け加えた。</p>	<p>The rabbit to my side tried to talk to me. I was still in a panic, not understanding the situation completely, when she added “At this rate, we won’t get a turn at all.”</p>
<p>私は溜め息を吐いた。さっきは地上の吸血鬼に怖じ気づいて逃げたくせによく言ったもんだ、と呆れながら「ほんとだわ。私も折角訓練した意味が無いわ」と返しておいた。でも多分負ける。</p>	<p>I sighed as I thought of how just moments ago everybody was running scared of the vampire. “I know, at this rate all the training I did will be for nothing,” I replied, although I'd probably lose.</p>
<p>恐らく私以外の兎も口では強気だが、同じ様に考えているのだと思う。そう、やれば出来るがやるチャンスが無いと思っている輩は、チャンスが来ても出来ない。チャンスを呼び寄せる力も無いのだろう。</p>	<p>The other rabbits were also talking tough, but they were probably thinking the same thing I was. They all thought they could do it if given the chance, but when the time came, they wouldn't be able to do a thing. They likely don't have the power to make their own chances.</p>
<p>「貴方達、流れ弾に当たらなかった？」</p>	<p>“Did any of you get hit by stray bullets?”</p>
<p>依姫様が涼しい顔をして戻ってきた。</p>	<p>Princess Yorihime came back with a cool expression.</p>
<p>「お見事でした、まだまだ余裕そうですね」</p>	<p>“That was wonderful. It seemed like you handled her easily.”</p>
<p>「油断はしてはなりません、余裕が無いと戦いは危険です。貴方達は余裕が無いのに油断しているように見えますがね」</p>	<p>“It’s dangerous to be overconfident, but one must retain their composure. You all seem overconfident despite having none.”</p>
<p>「またまたあ、あの位の人間だったら一瞬でけちょんけちょんですよお」</p>	<p>“Oh, come on, if it's a human of that level, we can beat her up in a flash.”</p>

「全く、それが油断なのです」	“Precisely, you are overconfident.”
依姫様は呆れた顔をした。	A disgusted look appeared on the princess's face.
「さて、次はあの吸血鬼みたいね。ま、一番簡単に勝てそうですが.....ところで貴方」	“Well, it seems that vampire is up next. Well, she will probably be the easiest to beat... but by the way, you there.”
依姫様が私の方を向いた。私は緊張した。もしかして、次の吸血鬼戦は私にやれと言うつもりなのだろうか？	Princess Yorihime looked towards me. I tensed up with the thought that she might tell me to fight the vampire.
「いやいや、私にはとてもとても」	“M-Me? No, no... I don't think that I can...”
「何の話？ まあ良いわ。貴方にはやって欲しい事があります」	“What are you talking about? I want you to run an errand for me.”
そう言って、私に耳打ちした。	She whispered it into my ear.
「え？ そのような重要な役を私にですか？」	“Huh? You're entrusting me with such an important task?”
「血の気の少ない貴方にぴったりでしょう？ さあ、お行きなさい、時間も余りないかも知れません。本当は私がやろうと思ったのですが、思ったより地上の者達が強かったので間に合いそうにないで.....」	“I think it's the perfect task for you since you look so reserved. I really meant to do this myself but the ones from Earth are stronger than I expected. Now go, there might not be too much time left.”
三、四ヶ月ほど前になるだろうか、私が餅搗きが嫌になり月の都を飛び出し地上へ逃げたのは。	I think it was about 3 or 4 months ago that I grew tired of pounding rice cakes, ran from the Lunar Capital and fled to Earth.
地上には我々の仲間が居る筈であった。それと指名手配された罪人も.....。	There was supposed to be one of us down on Earth as well as some wanted fugitives...

<p>月の都に住んでいる時は余り用のない月の羽衣。それは空を自由に飛べる様になる不思議な羽衣なのだが、付けると同時に心を失わせる力を持っている。つまり、自由が利かなくなってしまうのだ。</p>	<p>The lunar veil [2] was a mysterious robe that allowed one to fly through the skies. At the same time it made one lose their spirit when they wore it, so the wearer would have no control over themselves. I had little use for it while I lived on the moon.</p>
<p>私はそれを取り出し、地上に向けて飛び出した。地上に辿り着くまでの数日間、記憶が曖昧である。</p>	<p>I took the veil and flew towards the earth. My memories of the journey to Earth are vague.</p>
<p>この羽衣は、地上から月人を呼び戻す時、未練が残らぬように着せる物だという。その昔、地上に幽閉されたかぐやという姫がいた。その姫を月に呼び戻そうとした時にその月の羽衣が使用される……筈だった。</p>	<p>This veil was made so when a Lunarian on Earth was called back to the moon, they would have no lingering attachments to Earth. In the past there was a certain princess by the name of Kaguya that was imprisoned on Earth. This robe was for when she was to return... supposedly.</p>
<p>詳細は判らないが何故かかぐや姫は月に戻る事を拒絶し、それと同時に月の賢者が一人地上に取り残される事となった。姫と賢者の消息は千年以上も不明だが現在もお指名手配されている……という事になっている。</p>	<p>Although I do not know the details, Princess Kaguya refused to return to the moon and at the same time a sage of the moon decided to remain with her. Although the whereabouts of the sage and the princess have been unknown for more than 1000 years, they are still wanted criminals.</p>
<p>というのも、搜索隊のリーダーである豊姫様と依姫様に捕まえる気が無いからである。その事は月の都の者達もうすうすう感じていた。しかし、特に月の都に害を為すという訳ではなかったので暫くすると皆から忘れ去られる様になった。</p>	<p>The reason for that is because the leaders of the search party, Princesses Toyohime and Yori-hime, have no intention of capturing them. The people of the Lunar Capital vaguely know about this but since it was nothing that could possibly harm them in the short term, everybody forgot about it.</p>

<p>しかし私が逃げ出す少し前から、何やら不穏な噂が流れる様になった。それは、月の都で謀反を企んでいる者が居るのではないか、という噂である。その容疑者として地上にいる罪人、八意様の名が上がってきたのだ。</p>	<p>It was just before I made my escape that a strange rumor began to spread. It was said there was someone planning a coup in the Lunar Capital, the suspect being Lady Yagokoro, who was a criminal on Earth.</p>
<p>何故、その様な噂が流れ出したのであろう。後から依姫様に聞いたところ、何処かに月に住む神々を正式な手順を踏まず呼び出す者がいるからだという。</p>	<p>I later asked Princess Yorihime why such a rumor was spreading and apparently there was someone who had been summoning the gods of the moon without taking proper measures to do so.</p>
<p>実は一番疑われていたのは神様を自由に呼び出せる依姫様本人であり、それと同時に指名手配されているのに何故か捕まえない八意様も疑われたという訳である。</p>	<p>Apparently Princess Yorihime, who had the power to call upon the gods at will, was top on the list of suspects and Lady Yagokoro, who had been a wanted yet uncaptured for so long, was also suspicious.</p>
<p>その疑いは漸く晴れそうである。地上から攻めてきた吸血鬼一味の中に居た一人の巫女。その巫女が神様を呼び出していた犯人である事が判ったからだ。</p>	<p>Thankfully, it appeared that the suspicion had cleared up. This was because a shrine maiden that the vampire brought with her was found to be the one who had been summoning the gods.</p>
<p>地上と月を結ぶ箱船に住吉三神を呼び出す。どうやらそれが月の都で流れた不穏な噂の元だったのだろう。</p>	<p>She called the Sumiyoshi Sanjin<sup>[3]</sup> to carry a flying box from Earth to the moon. Apparently that was the cause of the rumor that had spread in the Lunar Capital.</p>
<p>実は、その巫女と私は初対面ではない。噂が流れ始めた頃に一度だけ、地上で会った事があるのである。</p>	<p>Actually, this wasn't the first time I had met the shrine maiden. We had met once on Earth around the same time the rumor had started.</p>
<p>初めて辿り着いた地上は噂で聞くほど荒廃した場所でもなく、美しい木々に囲まれた優しい場所であった。</p>	<p>When I first came to Earth, it was not the ruinous wasteland I had heard about. It was a peaceful place with many beautiful trees.</p>

<p>長旅の疲れか、それとも途中でスペースデブリに一撃を喰らったからか判らないが、私は辿り着くなり気を失ってしまった。その時介抱してくれたのがその巫女である。</p>	<p>I don't know if I was tired from the long journey or if I had hit some space debris, but I fainted as soon as I landed on Earth. That shrine maiden was the one who took care of me after that.</p>
<p>その時は月侵略を企む張本人だなんて事は思いもよらなかった。</p>	<p>I had no idea that she was one of the ones who planned on invading the moon.</p>
<p>神社で寝ていると、どこからともなく私を呼ぶ声がした。地上では使わない筈の言葉を使い、私を呼ぶ声。私は同胞であると確信し、神社を出た。</p>	<p>When I was asleep in the shrine, I heard a voice calling me. A voice calling for me using words that no Earthling should be able to pronounce. I was positive that this was the comrade that I'd heard of and left the shrine.</p>
<p>同胞、つまり私と同じく月から逃げた月の兎である。しかし、その声の主は予想と違った。指名手配されている賢者、八意様であった。</p>	<p>This comrade was the fellow rabbit that had fled from the moon. However, the voice was actually that of the wanted sage, Lady Yagokoro.</p>
<p>その瞬間から私の旅の行く末は予想もしていなかった方へ動き始めたのだ。</p>	<p>From that very moment, my journey had started in a direction that I had never imagined.</p>
<p>私は再び月の都へ戻ることを余儀なくされた。しかし再び餅搗きの職に戻る事はなかった。自分の我が儘で逃げ出したのだから仕方が無い。餅搗きの代わりに私に課せられた仕事は、月の防衛隊員であった。</p>	<p>I was to return to the Lunar Capital once again but I could not return to the task of pounding rice cakes. It was something that I did out of my own selfishness so I could not protest. In exchange, the task that was placed on me was to be a member of the lunar defense squad.</p>
<p>月の使者と呼ばれ、月を守り、地上を見張る防衛隊。綿月姉妹はそのリーダーであった。私は依姫様の元で戦闘の仕方から、作法、常識など様々な事柄を学んだ。</p>	<p>The defense squad, called the lunar emissaries, was to guard the moon and keep watch over the Earth. The Watatsuki Sisters were the leaders of the defense squad and I learned from Princess Yorihiime the ways of battles, etiquette, common knowledge and many other things.</p>

<p>妹の依姫様は私の他の兎にも稽古をつけている。と言っても、兎の人数は十にも満たない位の少人数である。みんな実戦の経験が浅く、強さを見ても私と大差ないと思う。</p>	<p>The younger sister of the two, Princess Yorihome was also in command of training the other rabbits. The squad was quite small with fewer than ten members. All of them were inexperienced and probably not that different from me in terms of strength.</p>
<p>実際に戦う事は殆ど無いのだが、依姫様の稽古は厳しく、怠けたりするときついお仕置きが待っている。依姫様は常に危機感を持ち、八意様の意思を継いで月の都で役に立とうと考えているようである。</p>	<p>None of us had actually experienced warfare, yet Princess Yorihome's training was harsh and if one were to slack off they would receive a severe punishment. This was probably because she thought to continue Lady Yagokoro's will and devote herself to the Lunar Capital, yet she always had a sense of some impending threat.</p>
<p>対照的に姉の豊姫様は普段は本を読んだり散歩をしたり、一人で自由に生活しているようだ。稽古の休みの日だけ、私達兎の前に現れて『一緒に稽古しましょう』と言って、今日の稽古は休みだと言うと残念そうに去っていくのである。恐らく稽古する気は無いのだろう。</p>	<p>In sharp contrast to her younger sister, Princess Toyohime usually read books and took strolls, living her days to do as she alone felt. She will come to us on our days off from training and says, "Let's train together." When we tell her that it's our day off, she walks off looking disappointed. Since she only does this on rest days, she probably has no intention to actually train.</p>
<p>そんな豊姫様だが、兎達の中では人気が高い。特に厳しい事を言う訳でも無いし、頭の回転が速く、学があるから話が面白い。なにより、稽古中に内緒で桃やお菓子など差し入れしてくれるのだ。</p>	<p>Princess Toyohime was quite popular amongst us rabbits. Nothing stern ever came from her mouth, and since she was a quick thinker who was very knowledgeable, she was very interesting to talk to. What made her even more popular was the fact that she'd sneak some treats like peaches to us during our training.</p>

<p>結局、吸血鬼部隊と戦いに出たのも依姫様と兎達だけだった。今頃、豊姫様は何をしているのだろうか。こんな一大事でも本を読んだり歌を歌ったりしていそうなお方である。戦闘は依姫様に任せれば大丈夫という事なのだろう。</p>	<p>As one would guess, the ones who came to fend off the vampire's group was Princess Yorihime and us rabbits. I wonder what Princess Toyohime is doing now? Knowing her, she's probably reading books and singing songs at such an important time. I guess she thought it all right to leave the fighting to Princess Yorihime.</p>
<p>「——ただいま帰りました！」</p>	<p>"I have returned, Princess!"</p>
<p>依姫様に重要な仕事を授かった私は、地上からの侵略者との戦線を離脱し、月の都の綿月の屋敷に戻った。</p>	<p>Given the important task from Princess Yorihime, I immediately left the battle ground and returned to the residence of the Watatsuki Sisters in the Lunar Capital.</p>
<p>当然、屋敷はガランとしており、いつもは訓練している兎達の姿も無かった。当然、全員依姫様と共に出陣しているのである。</p>	<p>As expected, the mansion was empty and not even the rabbits that were always training were there. Obviously, everyone had left to battle along with Princess Yorihime.</p>
<p>館を一通り探してみたが豊姫様の姿も見当たらない。何処に行っているのだろうか？ 最初はてっきり、依姫様と一緒に行動するものだと思っていたのだが、依姫様は豊姫様に声を掛ける事もなく出陣した。</p>	<p>I went through a brief search through the mansion, but Princess Toyohime was nowhere to be seen. Where could she be? At first, I thought that she would've gone with Princess Yorihime, but Princess Yorihime departed for battle without giving any notice to Princess Toyohime.</p>
<p>兎達の戦闘や、勉強、作法の稽古はいつも依姫様がつけてくれる。侵略者が現れた今回みたいな一大事だということなのに、一体何をしているのだろうか。依姫様もみんなも何も言わない所を見ると、それがいつもの事なのだろうか。</p>	<p>Princess Yorihime was the one who always taught us about warfare, general studies and manners, but I wonder what she was thinking not giving her sister any word at a time of such crisis? Judging from the fact that nobody mentioned anything to Princess Yorihime about it, I guess it must be how it always is.</p>

依姫様の部屋の前に着いた。	Upon arriving in front of Princess Yorihiime's room,
「し、失礼します」	I stuttered "P-Pardon me,"
誰も居ないと判っていたが、一応声を掛けて戸を開けた。いつもは緊張して入りにくい依姫様の部屋である。個別に呼ばれる事があるとしたら、大抵は辛い話だからだ。	and opened the door when I knew that there would be nobody there. I was tense probably because it was Princess Yorihiime's room, and the only times anyone was called there personally, it was almost nothing but bad news.
依姫様の部屋に辿り着くとすぐさま紙と筆を取り出した。	After entering the room I quickly pulled out a pen and paper and began to write.
「えっと.....『お久しぶりです。元気しますか？』いや、そんな軽いノリで良いのかなあ」	"Um... 'Long time, no see. How are you doing?' ...or is this too casual?"
依姫様から頼まれた仕事とは、八意様に向けての手紙の代筆であった。	The task that Princess Yorihiime had requested of me was to write a letter to Lady Yagokoro.
「流石に依姫様の代わりに私が書くのは無理があるわ。字だって上手くないし.....しょうがない、依姫様がお忙しいので代わりに私が書いたと最初から書いておこうっと」	"I knew that me writing in place of Princess Yorihiime would be impossible when I'm not even good at handwriting... I guess I should explain first that she was too busy so I'm writing for her."
私は、自分の言葉で八意様にお礼と経過と現状を報告する事にした。	I decided to inform Lady Yagokoro of how things had gone and to thank her in my own words.
地上でお会いした時に思った事、八意様の手紙は無時に綿月様の元へ届ける事が出来た事、そのお陰で月の都から逃げ出した事を問われる事もなく、綿月家に住み込みで働いている事.....。	What I thought when I first met her on Earth, how I was able to deliver the letter safely to my masters, my return to the Lunar Capital without being questioned about why I had fled, and how I ended up living in the house of the Watatsukis...

<p>「『それから、地上から侵略者が現れました。吸血鬼一匹と人間三人、妖精三匹のおとぼけチームです。八意様はその侵略者を予期していたようですが、そのチームについて何か知っていたのでしょうか?』……つと、あと何を書いておこうかしら? うーん」</p>	<p>“Also, there was a group of invaders from Earth. It’s a silly team consisting of one vampire, three humans and three fairies. You seemed to have expected some form of invasion, but did you know something about this little team?... Hmm, what else should I write?”</p>
<p>私は、私を介抱してくれた巫女の事を思い出した。結局、さっきの戦いの場では巫女は私に気づく事は無かった。それはそうだろう。地上に降りた時は地上の兎に見えるように変装していたのだから。</p>	<p>I remembered about the shrine maiden that had nursed me back to health on Earth, although she didn’t notice me during the battle earlier. Well, I guess it was only natural because when I was down on Earth, I was disguised to look like an Earth rabbit.</p>
<p>巫女は不正な手順で神様を呼び出していたという、月での騒動の発端となった人物である。私はちょっと複雑な気持ちであったが『地上にいる巫女に有難うと伝えてください』と書き加えておいた。</p>	<p>The shrine maiden was the central person who had caused the clamor on the moon by calling the gods without permission. Although I had mixed feelings about it, I wrote in the letter, “Please give my thanks to the shrine maiden on Earth.”</p>
<p>墨が乾くまで何度も読み返した。我ながら大人っぽい文章を書けたと思う。これなら依姫様が書いた物としても良かったのかも知れない。</p>	<p>I read over it many times until the ink dried. I thought it looked very mature for something I'd written. Maybe I could have passed this off as something that Princess Yori-hime wrote.</p>
<p>十分墨が乾いたのを確認し、丸めて紐で縛った。</p>	<p>After making sure that the ink was dry, I rolled the paper up and tied it with a cord.</p>
<p>それを持って再び屋敷を飛び出した。</p>	<p>I quickly ran out of the mansion again with the letter.</p>
<p>今度は依姫さまの元ではなく、正反対の方向へ向かった。</p>	<p>But this time it was not back to Princess Yori-hime's side in battle, but in the completely opposite direction.</p>

<p>目的地まで大して時間は掛からないだろう。その間、地上に逃げた時の事を思い出していた。</p>	<p>I knew it wouldn't take long for me to reach my destination. As I ran, I recalled what happened when I fled from the moon.</p>
<p>地上は、月とは違い欺瞞に満ちた穢い世界だと聞かされていた。常に嘘を警戒し、他人を信用せず、自分だけを信じなければ生きる事すら難しい。そんな世界だと思っていた。依姫様から本当の穢れとは何なのかを教えて貰うまでは。</p>	<p>I had been told that Earth, unlike the moon, was a world full of impurity and deceit. So I had thought that it would be difficult to even survive unless I constantly kept my guard up, doubted everyone and only trusted myself. That was until Princess Yori-hime told me the true meaning of "impurity."</p>
<p>月の都が嫌った穢れとは、生きる事と死ぬ事。特に生きる事が死を招く世界が穢れた世界なのだと。生きる為に競争しなければならぬ地上を穢れた土地、穢土と呼び、月の都を穢れの浄化された土地、浄土と呼ぶ者もいる。</p>	<p>The "impurity" that the Lunar Capital detested was life and death. They believed Earth was a world where simply living invites death. There were even those who called Earth a land of impurity, where every being had to compete to live, and the Moon a "pure land"<sup>[4]</sup> where that filth had been purified.</p>
<p>生も死も無い世界が限りなく美しい。だが何も無い世界が理想というのとも違う。生きる為に他人から搾取したりせず、自分達が生み出した物だけで全ての者の生活が賄える世界が理想なのだという。</p>	<p>A world without life or death is the most beautiful thing, but it's still different from a world which had nothing in it. A world where one did not need to take from others to live and could live by what they had made themselves. That was said to be an ideal world.</p>
<p>地上は生きる事が最善であるが故に、死の匂いが強くなるのだと言う。その死の匂いが生き物に寿命をもたらす。だから地上の生き物には全て寿命があるのだと言う。</p>	<p>On Earth, life was the greatest thing possible so the fragrance of death became stronger. It was said to be that fragrance of death that brought such a thing as a lifespan. Therefore all that live on the Earth have a lifespan.</p>

<p>最初に介抱してくれた巫女は、私の事を妖怪兎だと呼んでいた。妖怪とは人間を捕食する怪異の産物だと聞いている。それなのに地上の人間は妖怪でも介抱してくれるものなのかと感心した。穢れの多い地上の生き物なのだから、自分の命を脅かす妖怪が弱った姿で現れたら、その場で始末するものだと思っていた。その後、月の羽衣を奪われそうになったが……。</p>	<p>The shrine maiden that had nursed me called me a youkai rabbit. I'd heard that a youkai was a supernatural being which was a predator to humans. I was impressed that a human on Earth would even nurse a youkai. I would've thought that on the impure Earth, one would kill something that might harm them, especially if it was already injured... Although my veil was confiscated after that...</p>
<p>それどころかその巫女は別の妖怪と行動を共にし、月に攻め込んできた。</p>	<p>As much as I found that surprising, that shrine maiden went with the youkai to invade the moon.</p>
<p>もしかしたら、月の都に伝わる地上と現状の地上では、何か大きな差異があるのではないか。地上では妖怪と人間は共存しているのではないか、そんな気がした。</p>	<p>Maybe the stories told about Earth and how Earth actually is are quite different. The impression that I got was that humans and youkai probably coexist on Earth.</p>
<p>しかも、月に攻めてきた吸血鬼部隊。一見リーダーは吸血鬼なのだが、見た感じあの部隊を操っているのは巫女である。つまり人間が神を呼び出し、妖怪を支配していると考えられる。月の都が考えている地上のパワーバランスの地図を書き換える必要があるのかも知れない。</p>	<p>Moreover, the vampire seemed to be the leader of the group that attacked the moon, but the one who had control over the group seemed to be the shrine maiden. So, I believe that humans can call forth gods and control youkai. Maybe the Lunar Capital had better redraw its power balance chart of Earth.</p>

<p>だとすると私が再び地上を訪れる時は、あの巫女を頼りにしても良いのかも知れない。月の都の者で固まって地上の人間や妖怪と敵対するよりは、巫女の味方になれば簡単に地上に遊びに行ける、そう考えた。</p>	<p>That was the reason that I thought it would be wise to trust the shrine maiden if I ever I go back to Earth. I thought that rather than everyone from the Lunar Capital stubbornly acting antagonistic towards the humans and youkai of Earth, it may be better to be an ally of the shrine maiden. Then I would be able to easily play on Earth.</p>
<p>「——あら、もしかしてレイセン？ また逃げ出してきたの？」</p>	<p>“-Oh, is that you, Rei'sen? Are you running away again?”</p>
<p>何か聞き覚えのある声 がした。豊姫様の声 だ。</p>	<p>I heard a familiar voice. Princess Toyohime's voice.</p>
<p>「え？ 豊姫様？ 何処にいらっしやいますか？ いや、逃げ出したのではなくて依姫様に仕事を任せられました。って、あれ？」</p>	<p>“Huh? Princess Toyohime? Where are you? And no, I'm not trying to escape again; I've been given an errand by Princess Yorihome... but, what just happened?”</p>
<p>真っ直ぐ伸びた木。辺りは暗くてよく見えないが何やら不気味な動物の鳴き声が聞こえてくる。周りの景色に見覚えがない。一体ここは何処だろう？</p>	<p>I was staring at a tall tree. I couldn't see anything since it was so dark. Eerie voices of animals sounded. I could not recognize any of my surroundings. Just where was I?</p>
<p>「あの一、ここは何処ですか？」</p>	<p>“Um, where are we?”</p>
<p>「しっ！ もうすぐ面白い事が起こるのよ」</p>	<p>“Shh! Something really interesting is about to happen.”</p>
<p>何者かに襟元を掴まれ木の陰に引っ張り込まれた。</p>	<p>Someone grabbed my collar and I was pulled in the tree's shadow.</p>

そこにいたのは豊姫様だった。他には誰の姿も無い。豊姫様は木陰に隠れ何者かの来訪を待っている様である。しかし、目の前の森に何の動きも見られなかった。	It was Princess Toyohime. Nobody else was with her. It looked as if she was hiding behind the tree in wait for someone to arrive. There was only stillness in the forests that surrounded us.
「ふあ～あ、遅いわねえ、私は退屈してきたわ。何かお酒でも持ってくれば良かったわ、うちで漬けてある千年物のお酒が.....」	“Ahh, it’s taking so long I’m beginning to become bored. I should’ve brought some sake with me. That sake that’s been maturing for a thousand years now...”
「は、はあ。豊姫様は一体何を待っているのでしょうか？」	“Er... Princess Toyohime, what exactly are you waiting for?”
「大したもんじゃないわ。でも、依姫は楽しくやってるんでしょうねえ」	“Nothing special. Yorihime’s having her fun now, right?”
「今、吸血鬼と人間の小部隊と決闘しています」	“Right now, she’s having duels with the vampire’s group.”
「決闘？」	“Duels?”
「ええ、ルール付きの対一の決闘だそうです。人間の方から持ちかけてきた話ですが、依姫様も無駄な血を流さなくて済むのならそれで、と」	“Yes, a one on one match with a special rule. It was something that was suggested by the humans and Princess Yorihime agreed that it was a way to avoid meaningless bloodshed.”
「ふーん。良いわねえ楽しそうで。でも、ルール付きの決闘って何？」	“Hmm, that sounds fun. But what rule would that be?”
「美しく相手を制した方が勝ちだそうですよ」	“Apparently, the one who defeats the opponent gracefully is the winner.”
「へ？ 美しく？」	“Huh? Gracefully?”
豊姫様は何を想像したのか吹き出した。	I don’t know what Princess Toyohime imagined but she burst out in laughter.

<p>「どうかなされました？」</p>	<p>“Whatever is the matter?”</p>
<p>「美しくって誰が判定するの？ というか人間が思う美しさって何？ 美人コンテストでもやってるのかしら、面白そうだわ」</p>	<p>“Who's deciding what's "graceful" or not? And what do the humans think is "grace" is, for that matter? Are they having a beauty contest or something? It sounds like so much fun.”</p>
<p>「い、いや、言い方悪かったですかね。美しさというか穢い手を使わないで戦うというか」</p>	<p>“Er, I think my explanation was a little poor. Gracefully, as in not using dirty tricks and such...”</p>
<p>「ふふふ、判るわ。人間も月の民みたいな事を言うようになったのね.....それも誰かの入れ知恵なのかな」</p>	<p>“Hmhmhm... No, I understand what you want to say. Hmm, those humans are talking like Lunarians now... Or perhaps this too is a teaching of a certain someone.”</p>
<p>「それも.....ですか？」</p>	<p>“This... too?”</p>
<p>豊姫様は、今回の騒動の発端に疑問を感じていたという。</p>	<p>Princess Toyohime had said that she had her doubts about what had been happening.</p>
<p>月の都に不穏な噂が流れたのは、依姫とは別の者が勝手に神々を呼び出していたからである。しかし、正式な手順を踏まずに勝手に呼び出す事が出来るなんて誰にでも出来る事ではない。</p>	<p>The reason why there was a stir in the Lunar Capital was that someone other than Princess Yoriyoshi had been calling forth the gods without following the proper procedure, but this is not something that anybody can do.</p>
<p>「あ、そうそう。神様を呼んでいたのは地上の巫女でした。どうやらロケットを飛ばす為に住吉三神を呼んでいたらしいです」</p>	<p>“Oh, that's right. It looks like a shrine maiden of Earth was the one calling the gods. It seems that she was calling Sumiyoshi Sanjin to fly the rocket.”</p>
<p>「へえ、巫女ねえ.....」</p>	<p>“Oh, so it was a shrine maiden...”</p>
<p>「何か引っかかる事でもありました？ 豊姫様」</p>	<p>“Is there something on your mind, Princess Toyohime?”</p>

<p>「神をその身に降ろす事を生業としている巫女であろうと、正式な儀式を行わずに神を呼ぶ手段は持っていないはず……。誰かに間違った方法を教えられたか、それとも悪意を持って……。ふむ、やっぱり私の役より依姫の役の方が面白そうね、ってそう言えば貴方は何故ここに？逃げてきたの？」</p>	<p>“Even if it was a shrine maiden that could acquire the power of the gods for a living, they shouldn't be able to call them while skipping the proper rituals... Perhaps somebody taught her the wrong way, or maybe that was on purpose... Hmm, it looks like Yorihime got the better part after all. Oh, and why are you here? To run away?”</p>
<p>「さっきも言いましたが、依姫様に仕事を任されまして」</p>	<p>“I think I told you a while ago, but I am here on an errand given by Princess Yorihime.”</p>
<p>「仕事？」</p>	<p>“An errand?”</p>
<p>私は慌てて手紙を取り出した。</p>	<p>I quickly pulled out the letter.</p>
<p>「八意様に封書を託された私に、今度は私が八意様に手紙を書いて渡せと。その後、賢者の海に行けと言われて来たのですが……。まさか賢者の海に豊姫様がいらっしゃるとは思ってもいませんでしたか」</p>	<p>“I, who had been given the letter to Princess Yagokoro, was to write a reply to Lady Yagokoro. After that I was told to go to the Sea of Ingenuity... but to think that I would see you in the Sea of Ingenuity...”</p>
<p>「え？ 八意様に手紙ですって？」</p>	<p>“Oh? A letter to Lady Yagokoro?”</p>
<p>豊姫様は私の手から手紙を奪うと、さっと目を通した。笑顔を見せたり苦い顔をしたりしながら読んでいた。私は作文を添削される気持ちで何やら恥ずかしかった。</p>	<p>Princess Toyohime snatched the letter from my hand and skimmed through it. While she was reading through her expressions ranged all the way from laughter to anguish. I felt like she was mentally correcting it and I felt embarrassed.</p>
<p>「ふう、何という稚拙な文章でしょう。まあ兎は学が無いから仕方無いですが」</p>	<p>“Hmm, what a childish composition. Well, I won't blame you since rabbits have no knowledge.”</p>
<p>私は顔が熱くなった。</p>	<p>My face flushed red.</p>

<p>「この様な恥ずかしい手紙では、私がお師匠様に渡す訳には行きません。恥ずかしいからね。レイセン、貴方の手で直接お渡ししなさい。」</p>	<p>"I can't give such an embarrassing letter to the master. It would be too embarrassing. Rei'sen, you are to give the letter to her directly."</p>
<p>「あ、はい。でもどうやって……、というかここは一体」</p>	<p>"Oh, yes, ma'am, but how would I? ...I mean, I don't even know where we are."</p>
<p>簡単に月と地上を行き来出来る者は殆どいない。月の羽衣があれば誰でも行き来出来るが、多少時間と危険を伴う。だが豊姫様は特別だった。</p>	<p>There are very few that can easily travel between Earth and the moon. Anybody would be able to go to and fro using the Lunar Veil, but it comes with a considerable amount of time and danger. However, Princess Toyohime is special.</p>
<p>豊姫様は海と山を同一視できる能力を持つ。その能力は月の海と地上の山を結び、同じ場所とする事も出来るのだ。つまり大部隊を連れて一瞬にして地上に行く事が出来る数少ない月の民である。月の使者のリーダーとして相応しい人物であった。性格はともかく。</p>	<p>Princess Toyohime had the ability to see the sea and the mountain as the same. That ability would tie the seas of the Moon and the mountains of Earth together and make them one and the same place. In other words, that ability made her able to take a great army with her to Earth in a single second, and she was one of the very few Lunarians who had that sort of ability. That sort of ability made her a suitable leader of the lunar emissaries... despite her personality.</p>
<p>「この私と一緒に、これから起こる事を見ていけば良いのですよ。さ、ワクワクして」</p>	<p>"Now that you're with me, all you need to do is watch what is about to happen! Come now, be a little more excited!"</p>
<p>「何が起こるのか非常にドキドキしますが」</p>	<p>"I'm more nervous than excited, though..."</p>
<p>辺りは驚くほど暗く、視界は悪い。何やら不気味な遠吠えのような声も聞こえてくる。それに何故か酷く冷える。</p>	<p>The landscape around me was astonishingly dark and visibility was low. I heard eerie howling, too. I also noticed that it was very chilly.</p>

<p>美しさと派手さを競っている、依姫様と吸血鬼一行とは正反対のおどろおどろしさに、私は酷く緊張した。依姫様が戦っていた場所は、一見華やかで騒がしい雰囲気であったが、今考えると相当静かであったのかも知れない。そう思うほど、今いる場所は木々がざわついている。音量だけで比べれば今の方が断然静かだと思うのだが……。</p>	<p>It was the exact opposite of the graceful and showy battles fought by the vampire's team and Princess Yorihome, and for that reason I felt very tense. Where Princess Yorihome was fighting may have been very noisy and gaudy at first glance, but now that I compare it to the place I was in, it may have been very quiet. It was a strange feeling since the whisper of the trees felt very loud, although the volume may have been quiet.</p>
<p>これから一体何が起るといえるのだろうか。</p>	<p>Just what was about to happen?</p>
<p>豊姫様に訊いてもはぐらかされてしまうだろう。それに今はとても訊ける雰囲気ではない。</p>	<p>I couldn't ask Princess Toyohime since she would cleverly avoid the question, and in the first place it wasn't the right time to ask such a question.</p>
<p>ただ餅を搗いて歌を歌って暮らしていた数ヶ月前のあの頃が懐かしい。</p>	<p>I suddenly missed my old life from a few months ago, merely pounding rice cakes and singing every day.</p>
<p>あの頃はこんな吐き気がする様な緊張をする事も、自分の身を守らなければならない恐怖を覚える事も無かったのに。今頃は餅を搗き終わって、仲間とお酒を呑みながら、くだらない愚痴を言ったりしてぐっすり暖かい布団で寝られただろう。</p>	<p>Back then, I never had to deal with this nauseous tension. Nor did I feel any fear where I needed to protect myself. I probably would have finished my pounding for the day and gone to drink sake with my friends, complaining about silly things and then going to sleep in a warm futon.</p>
<p>愚痴を言い合う事はただの不満を吐き出す事ではなく、本当は幸せな事だったのである。</p>	<p>Complaining was just something to get rid of my stress. I was actually happy with that life.</p>

<p>やはり自分の仕事から逃げ出した事が全ての元凶だったのか。逃げ出した事で私の運命は大きく変わった。刺激を求めない私としては、この変化は有り難くなかった。</p>	<p>Running away from it all may have been the turning point of my life. I'm not one to seek out change, so this turn of events was not quite welcome.</p>
<p>しかし、もし地上で八意様に出会って月に送り返されなかったとしたら、私は何をするつもりだったのだろう。何が出来たのだろうか。</p>	<p>But I think of what would I be doing, and what I would have done, had I not met Lady Yagokoro on Earth and been sent back to the moon.</p>
<p>レイセン。今は私の名前だが、これは元々綿月家に使っていた兎の名前だという。</p>	<p>Rei'sen is my current name, but I hear that this was originally the name of the rabbit that had served the Watatsuki family.</p>
<p>そのレイセンは地上へ逃げ出し、そして消息が不明になったと言われている。</p>	<p>I was told that Reisen had fled to Earth and her whereabouts were unknown after that.</p>
<p>しかし、我々月の兎には特殊な能力がある。月の兎同士、どんなに離れていても簡単な意思疎通なら出来るのだ。大きな耳は別の兎の念を受信する為にあるのである。勿論、正確な会話が出来る訳ではなく、どちらかと言うとみんなが普段考えている事が風の噂で耳に入ってくる、というレベルであるが。</p>	<p>But we rabbits have a little ability that lets us communicate with each other no matter how far we are. Our large ears are to catch what other rabbits are thinking. Of course, this not a true means of communication, and it's mostly used to gauge what the others are normally thinking about and to catch rumors floating on the wind.</p>
<p>その風の噂では、レイセンは八意様に捕らえられて自由を失っているという事らしい。</p>	<p>Through these rumors, it seemed Reisen was captured by Lady Yagokoro and had lost her freedom.</p>
<p>しかし、私は確信している。</p>	<p>But I know the truth.</p>

あの八意様は逃げてきた月の兎を捕らえたのではなく、手厚く保護しているのだと。	Lady Yagokoro did not capture the rabbit that escaped from the moon. She is taking care of it very kindly.
浅慮な私ですら無事に月の都に戻り、こうやって仕事を頂けたのは全て八意様のお陰である。	Even me for all my thoughtlessness was able to return to the Lunar Capital and take this job thanks to Lady Yagokoro.
そう考えた時、もう一度手紙を書き直したくなった。レイセンの事をよろしくお願い致します、と。	Thinking of that I felt like rewriting the letter that I had written, and adding a line. "Please take care of Reisen, thank you."
風が止み、冷えた空気が凍り付いた。	The wind stopped and the cold air froze.
「来たわ」	"Here it comes,"
豊姫様の小さいが、嬉しそうな声が聞こえた。	Princess Toyohime said in a small but elated voice.
豊姫様の目の先を見た。	As I looked in the direction Princess Toyohime was looking in,
そこには月では見慣れぬ一匹の獣の姿があった。	I saw a beast that I had never seen on the moon before...

## Notes

- Translation and references by Sabino, proofreading/formatting by Furienify and N-Forza.

1. [Jump up ↑](#) Jouga (嫦娥), also read as Couga, is known as Chang'e / Ch'ang-O, the Chinese goddess of the moon. Some similarities that can be seen in the original Chinese legend of Chang'e are: the existence of a medicine to provide immortality without aging, and the rabbits of the moon create an elixir of sorts. Rabbits on the moon is something that also appears very frequently in Japanese mythology, but in their case, they make rice cakes.

2. [Jump up ↑](#) 月の羽衣 (Tsuki no hagaromo): In the original Taketori Monogatari, Princess Kaguya sent a robe of the heavens and the medicine of eternal life without aging (elixir of immortality) to the emperor. (Although he refused a life without her and ordered for the gifts to be burnt on top of Mt. Fuji). Also, about the return of Princess Kaguya, there are two versions. One that more people are accustomed to is the version where the moon's emissaries come to get the princess (This is the version that Touhou is based off of). Another is the version where Kaguya wears the robe and flies off to the moon. Also, in the original story, there is a scene where it hints that the one that wears it “shall lose the soul of a human”. For that reason, it is also thought to be an item that changes one to a higher being than humanity. The archetype of this is said to be the various stories where a celestial maiden descends to Earth and has her robe stolen. Later on in the story, the celestial recovers her robe and, even after bearing a child on Earth, says that she shall go back to the heavens. The better known equivalent of this is probably the Swan Maiden (Although the ending is much different.). Also, in the Touhou world, it is told that Eirin made it and she weaved it out of moonlight (thus it has no mass). The property of making the wearer lose their spirit might have been for the benefit of Kaguya.
3. [Jump up ↑](#) Sumiyoshi Sanjin (住吉三神) is the name that refers to the trio of Shinto gods: Sokotsutsuno-no-mikoto, Nakatsutsu-no-mikoto and Uwatsutsuno-no-mikoto. These three gods were originally three stars in the Orion constellation and were made to be gods for the significance that they had to those sailing the night sea.
4. [Jump up ↑](#) The word used is "浄土", as in the word "極楽浄土", and can be interpreted as either “pure land”/“land of purity” or “paradise”.

# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Seventh Chapter

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第七話 半身半義	Chapter 7: Half-body Half-honor
海水が不思議な力により上下している。波だ。	A mysterious force created oscillations in the seawater. Waves.
水が海岸に押し寄せている様に見えるが、実際の水の流れと波の方向は無関係であるという。	Although water appears as if it surges towards the shore, in reality the flow of the water is unaffected by the direction of the wave.
音もまた、空気を伝わる波である。勿論、風上にも音は伝わる。空気の流れとは関係無く音を伝える事が出来るのだ。	Sound is also a wave that is transmitted through air. Of course, sound can be carried against the wind as well. It can propagate regardless of the direction of airflow.
では、波とは何なのだろうか。物体を移動させないで、一体何を伝えているのだろうか。	Then, what are waves? What are they conveying without displacing matter?
考えれば考えるほど判らなくなる。ここ半年くらい、波長の違う人達に振り回されっぱなしで頭が痛いというのに。	The more that I pondered about it, the more confused I became. It did not help the headache I had from dealing with people of many different wavelengths for the past half a year.
ここは月の海の上。海面は静かに揺れている。	Here above the moon's sea, the water surface silently wavers.



<p>音は殆ど無い。自然の音も人工的な音も殆ど聞こえない。まるで彼岸の様に穏やかで優しくかった。</p>	<p>Almost no sound, natural or artificial, can be heard. It is as peaceful and gentle as Higan was.</p>
<p>死後の世界と言っても色々あるが、死んで三途の川を渡り、最初に訪れる場所は此岸である。彼岸は閻魔様に現世での罪を裁かれるのを待つ場所である。そこは昼も夜も、夏も冬もない世界で、ただ静かに花が咲き生気のない風が吹くだけの場所である。</p>	<p>There are many worlds that come after death, but the first one to be visited after crossing the Sanzu river is Higan. Higan is the place one will wait until their sins are judged by the Enma. In Higan, there is neither night nor day, winter nor summer. Higan was just a quiet place where flowers bloom beautifully in the lifeless winds.</p>
<p>何故か月の海はそこを彷彿させた。</p>	<p>For some reason, the moon's sea closely resembled it.</p>
<p>生の匂いが感じられない。この海から生きとし生ける者全ての業因、業果が感じられない。その意味するところは何も棲んでいないか、もしくは死なない者しか棲んでいないという事である。</p>	<p>There was no scent of life. This sea didn't have any trace of karma nor its effects that all life had. What that meant was either nothing lives in these waters, or only whose who never died live here.</p>
<p>何故私がこんな所に居るのかというと、実はよく判らない。私と波長の異なる者に流されてきただけである。今年の夏から周りで起きている事が理解できなくなっていたのだ。</p>	<p>I didn't really understand why I was here. I was only carried here by people of different wavelengths. I never understood what was happening around me since summer.</p>
<p>——夏の冥界。</p>	<p>--Summer in the Netherworld.</p>



<p>冥界は転生待ちの霊達が住まう場所である。転生が許されているという事は、比較的善良な霊達ばかりであるが、転生先は人間とは限らない。獣や猛禽ならまだマシな方である。百足とか下賤な虫に転生するかも知れない。</p>	<p>It was where spirits dwell as they await reincarnation. Since they were spirits that were allowed to reincarnate, most of them were good-natured, but they weren't assured to reincarnate into humans again. However, even birds or beasts would be preferable, since there was the possibility of reincarnating as a caterpillar or other lowly insect.</p>
<p>そんな転生先の心配も感じられない幽霊達は、今日も暢気に冥界観光をしている。暢気なもんだ。</p>	<p>As spirits never seemed to worry about their next life, they just relaxed and took in the sights of the Netherworld as usual, being carefree by nature.</p>
<p>本来なら白玉楼の庭で手入れや警備をしている私だが、今はお屋敷の座敷で接客をしている。かしこまった席で話を聞くのは苦手だ。</p>	<p>I was usually in charge of Hakugyokurou's garden and security, but right now I'm handling the reception of a guest. Listening to conversations while remaining seated attentive and upright is still one of my weak points.</p>
<p>「話聞いてますでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"Were you listening to me?"</p>
<p>「え、ああ。えーと……」</p>	<p>"Er, yes. Ummm..."</p>
<p>急に質問されたので戸惑っていると私の隣にいる私の主人、西行寺幽々子様が代わりに返答してくれた。</p>	<p>While I was baffled by the abrupt question, my mistress, Lady Yuyuko Saigyouji, seated right beside me, answered in my place.</p>
<p>「勿論聞いてなかったわ。私も、妖夢も」</p>	<p>"Of course, we weren't. Neither I nor Youmu."</p>
<p>「そうですか……そんな気がしてましたが。ま、細かいいきさつとか割とどうでも良いという事ですね？」</p>	<p>"Is that so...? Well, I sort of assumed that. I'm guessing that means you don't care about the fine details, correct?"</p>



<p>実際に聞いていなかったが、そう解釈して貰った方が格好がつく気がする。幽々子様は恐らく本当に聞いていない。</p>	<p>I really wasn't paying any attention at all, but I wondered why our guest accepted that answer so easily. Perhaps Lady Yuyuko truly wasn't listening in the first place.</p>
<p>「端的に言うと、あなた方には吸血鬼達の監視をして頂きたいのです」</p>	<p>"To get to the point, I would like for you to keep the vampire and her underlings under surveillance."</p>
<p>「監視……？」</p>	<p>"Surveillance...?"</p>
<p>私達は冥界の管理、監視は行っているが、顕界の妖怪の監視を生業とはしていない。当然、今まで誰からもそういう依頼を受けた事など無い。</p>	<p>All that we are supposed to survey is the Netherworld, and what the youkai do in the world of the living is none of our concern. It was the first time we'd received such a request.</p>
<p>私達の元に不可解な依頼を持ちかけてきたのは妖狐、八雲藍である。</p>	<p>The one to bring up such a strange request to us was the fox, Ran Yakumo.</p>
<p>「……監視って何故ですか？ 月に行きたいのなら勝手に行かせればいいじゃないですか。前から行きたがっていたみたいですし」</p>	<p>"...Why do you want us keep them under surveillance? If they want to go to the moon that badly, why not just let them do as they please?"</p>
<p>「そういう訳にも行かないのです。これは紫様の命令なのですが……」</p>	<p>"We cannot allow that to happen. This is Lady Yukari's request, and...."</p>
<p>藍はそういってお茶を飲んだ。言葉を選んでいるようだ。</p>	<p>Ran sipped her tea. She seemed to be choosing her words.</p>
<p>「……知っての通り。紫様は一度月の都に攻め入って敗北しています。それでいつか月の都に復讐しようとその時が来るのを待っています」</p>	<p>"...As you know, she has attacked the Lunar Capital once, but it ended in defeat. Ever since then, she has been awaiting her chance of revenge."</p>



<p>紫様とは、藍の飼い主、八雲紫様の事である。幽々子様の古い友人で、幽々子様と同じくらい理解できないお方だ。私と波長がずれているのだ。</p>	<p>'Lady Yukari' was Ran's owner, Lady Yukari Yakumo. She is Lady Yuyuko's old acquaintance, and is just as incomprehensible in her doings as she was. They were on completely different wavelengths to me.</p>
<p>紫様はその昔月に攻め入った事があるという。何百年も前の話で、当然私はまだ生まれていない。藍が「知っての通り」と言ったのは、幽々子様はその出来事を生で見た事があるからであり、その事からこの台詞は、私に向けて語られていない事が判る。</p>	<p>Lady Yukari once tried to invade the moon a long time ago. As it was several centuries ago, I had naturally not been born at the time. When Ran said "as you know," she was referring to when Lady Yuyuko witnessed this event herself. From that line, I knew that this conversation was not directed at me.</p>
<p>「次は吸血鬼達の力も借りて戦力を磐石なものにしようと言ったのですが、やはり、自分たちの力だけで月に行こうと考えているようです。現状では、紫様の協力無しでは月に行く願いは叶わないと紫様は仰ってますが——」</p>	<p>"We had sought out the vampire's strength to solidify our own, but as we suspected, they were planning to go to the moon under their own power. Lady Yukari spoke of not wanting to go without any sort of cooperation, however, under the current conditions..."</p>
<p>おかしい。紫様の考えている事は大体判らないが、吸血鬼の力を借りてという所に違和感を覚えた。しかも幽々子様に相談する前に、である。</p>	<p>That was odd. I normally do not understand Lady Yukari, but something seemed unusual about her asking for the vampire's cooperation. And before requesting help from Lady Yuyuko, at that.</p>
<p>「無策では吸血鬼達に勝ち目はないでしょう。それほど月の民達は強力なのです。地上からの侵略者があれば月の都は再び警戒します。それが紫様にとっては喜ばしくない事なのです——」</p>	<p>"Lacking any sort of strategy, the vampire's house has no hope of success. That is the extent of the Lunarians' strength. And once they attack the Lunar Capital, the Lunarians will be all the more vigilant against further intrusions. That is most inconvenient for Lady Yukari."</p>



<p>思えばこの妖狐の訪問 辺りからだった。私の 周りで起こっている事 が理解できなくなった のは。</p>	<p>Now that I think of it, it was around the time when that fox came calling when the circumstances starting to bewilder me.</p>
<p>私は理解できない事は すぐ訊く癖がついてい た。訊くは一時の恥聞 かぬは一生の恥、と教 えられてきたからであ る。</p>	<p>Whenever I cannot understand something, I tend to ask for an explanation as soon as I can. I was taught to live by the adage "Asking makes one appear foolish, but not asking makes one foolish indeed."</p>
<p>だが、それが理解を阻 害している様な気もし た。何でもかんでも誰 かが教えてくれると 思ってしまい、真剣に 自分で考えようという 気を失わせるからだ。</p>	<p>However, I was beginning to feel it was inhibiting my comprehensive ability. If I am merely taught everything, I may eventually lose the ability to think for myself altogether.</p>
<p>私がいつものように 幽々子様に質問をして いると、こんな教えを 頂いた事があった。</p>	<p>Once, I asked Lady Yuyuko as I usually do, and she replied...</p>
<p>『妖夢は口を開けば、 それは何ですか？ ど ういう意味ですか？っ て。その辺の喋らない 幽霊の方が含蓄ある話 をするわ』</p>	<p>"Whenever you open your mouth, it's to ask "What is that?" or "What does that mean?". Conversations with you are less meaningful than those with the mute spirits around here."</p>
<p>『すみません。です が、訊くは一時の恥聞 かぬは一生の恥、と』</p>	<p>"My apologies. However, what about the saying, 'Asking makes one appear foolish, but not asking makes one foolish indeed.'?"</p>
<p>『ふふふ。妖夢、貴方 は訊く事を一時の恥だ と感じているの？』</p>	<p>"Hmhmhm. Youmu, do you ever feel foolish when you ask a question?"</p>
<p>『えっ？』</p>	<p>"Huh?"</p>

<p>『恥を感じる様な質問というのは、知っている当然な事を知らない時だけです。そのような質問は大いにしなさい。知ったかぶりは大きな損をします』</p>	<p>"Foolish questions are only to those you should already know the answer, and normally about very important matters where pretending to know can bring great loss."</p>
<p>『……』</p>	<p>"……"</p>
<p>『しかし、自分がただ知りたい事を訊くという事は恥ではありません。恥を感じない質問は、必ずしも答えを得られると限らないのです。自分が知りたい事は自分で考えなさい。いつでも知りたい事を聞く事が出来る環境は、知りたい事を減らしてしまうのよ。知りたい事を失った人生は、不幸以外の何物でもないわ。そう……長く生きてると特にね』</p>	<p>"However, there is no shame in asking about something you simply want to know. Shameless questions may not have a definite answer either. If you want to know something, think about it for yourself. If you ask a question every time you want to know something, the things you want to know will gradually lessen. A life without anything to learn can only bring unhappiness. Especially to those who have long lifespans."</p>
<p>言うまでもないが、幽々子様はとうの昔に亡くなって、亡霊として冥界に留まっているのである。しかし、幽々様は『生きている』という表現を多用する。</p>	<p>Needless to say, Lady Yuyuko died a very long time ago. She remains in the Netherworld as a ghost. However, she uses the expression "life" quite a bit.</p>
<p>私は幽々様の言っている事をどれだけ理解できているのか自信がない。判っている事なのに教えてくれないのは、ただ意地悪しているだけなのではないかとさえ思う。</p>	<p>I did not have any self-confidence in how much I could comprehend what Lady Yuyuko told me. If she knew yet did not tell me, I thought it was nothing more than her teasing me.</p>
<p>しかし、最近は何に訊いてもまともに教えてくれない事が増えた。もしかしたら、質問に答える事を面倒に思っているのかもしれない。そう考えるとやはり恐縮してしまう。</p>	<p>But lately there the number of people who would not answer my questions increased. Perhaps they thought answering questions was a bother. In that case, I am sorry to have caused them trouble.</p>

<p>「……そうですか。幽々子様は月面戦争を見たことがあるからすぐに理解するはず、と紫様は仰ってましたが」</p>	<p>"I see. So Lady Yukari said that since Lady Yuyuko saw that lunar invasion, she should be able to understand the situation immediately, am I right?"</p>
<p>藍は「紫様の言っている事と違う」とぶつくさ言いながら帰っていった。</p>	<p>Ran muttered, "This is not how Lady Yukari said it would be," as she left.</p>
<p>私が考え事をしている間に、幽々様は依頼を断ったようだ。</p>	<p>While I was thinking, it appeared that Lady Yuyuko had already declined her request.</p>
<p>私には紫様が吸血鬼の監視の話を持ちかしてきた理由も、幽々様様が断った理由も判らなかった。判らない事だらけだった。</p>	<p>I could not understand the reason why Lady Yukari wanted us to keep the vampire under surveillance, nor the reason why Lady Yuyuko turned it down. I could not understand any of it.</p>
<p>「紫様は何故、あのような話を幽々様様に持ちかしてきたのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>"Why did Lady Yukari bring a request like that to you?"</p>
<p>何気なくそう質問してしまって後悔した。もっと自分で考えろと言われてしまうのではないか。</p>	<p>I instantly regretted asking that question, nonchalant as it was. Had I not been told to think for myself?</p>
<p>「聞いての通りじゃないの？ 紫は困っているのよ」</p>	<p>"Is it not as you heard? It seems to be troubling her."</p>
<p>「そ、そうですかね」</p>	<p>"Y-Yes, I suppose."</p>

<p>私は決めた。ここ白玉楼の庭師、魂魄妖夢として単独で行動する事を。吸血鬼達の監視、及び何が起きようとしているのか調べる事を。勿論、誰にも訊かずに、自分で理解する事を。出来るだけ……。</p>	<p>I, Youmu Kompaku, gardener of Hakugyokurou, have decided to act independently. I would survey the doings of the vampire and her servants while investigating the underlying scheme they were plotting. Of course, I would not be asking anyone for help nor answers, and understand things on my own. As much as I could, at least...</p>
<p>「——これでさらにロケットは完成に近づく。咲夜、ご苦労様。下がって良いわ」</p>	<p>"...With this, the rocket is even closer to completion. Splendid work, Sakuya. That will be enough for now."</p>
<p>「はい」</p>	<p>"Yes, ma'am."</p>
<p>本棚の後ろに隠れていた私の脇をメイドが通っていった。</p>	<p>The maid passed the bookshelf behind I had hidden myself.</p>
<p>私は紅魔館の地下にある大図書館に忍び込んでいた。月に向かうためのロケットはここで製作されているからだ。</p>	<p>I sneaked into the underground library at the Scarlet Devil Mansion. A rocket built for moon travel had been in production here.</p>
<p>目立たないように未完成ロケットに近づき、じっくりと観察した。</p>	<p>I was able to familiarize myself with the incomplete rocket without drawing attention to myself.</p>
<p>外壁は木製で、強度面は難あり。</p>	<p>The outer wall was made of wood, and there were issues with its strength.</p>
<p>形状は桶を適当に三段積み重ねた様な物であり、連結部分はどうなっているのか不明。</p>	<p>Its shape was like that of three buckets stacked on top of each other, but their exact connection to each other was unclear.</p>

<p>外壁に取り付けられた窓は外開きの普通の窓だ。その窓から覗く内装は、レースのカーテンに三日月形のテーブル、無駄に華やかである。</p>	<p>The windows fitted into the outer walls were normal windows. I could see the interior through them, pointlessly gaudy furnishings such as lace curtains and a table shaped like a crescent moon.</p>
<p>気になる事は、このロケットはただの小さな変わった家の様で、飛ぶ為の機能が一切見当たらないという事だった。</p>	<p>What I was most concerned about was as the rocket looked more like a small, odd house, I could not determine its means of flight.</p>
<p>.....これでは、ただの別荘ではないのだろうか。</p>	<p>...Maybe this was nothing more than a summer house or the like.</p>
<p>ロケットを造って独自に月に行く、というのはただのはったりで、実際はロケット型の別荘でお月見をすとかそんなオチなのではないだろうか。</p>	<p>This business of building a rocket to go to the moon independently was nothing more than a bluff. Maybe they were actually just building a special house for moon-viewing parties.</p>
<p>「.....ロケットの外観は出来つつあるが、今すぐに月に行ける状態とはとても思えない。メモメモ」</p>	<p>"...While it appears they are building a rocket, I do not believe it is in any condition to leave for the moon anytime soon. I should make a memo of this."</p>
<p>「で、その侵入者はいつまで見つからないかと思っているのかねえ」</p>	<p>"I wonder how long our little spy will continue to believe she has not been spotted."</p>
<p>「およ？」</p>	<p>"Oh?"</p>
<p>「——それで、ロケットはいつ完成するのですか？」</p>	<p>"So then, how long will it be until the rocket is complete?"</p>
<p>「ふん。何で私がコソ泥のあんたにそんな事教えなければいけないのよ」</p>	<p>"Hmph, why should I tell an intruder like you anything?"</p>

「あ、そうだ。訊かないで自分で考えるんだった」	"Oh, that's right. I wasn't going to ask questions for now. I was going to think about things myself."
「？」	"?"
私は図書館の中央にある三日月形のテーブルに着いていた。図書館の主、パチュリー・ノーレッジと対峙していた。ロケットに近づきすぎたのか、見つかってしまったのだ。	I was seated at a table shaped like a crescent moon in the center of the library. There I was being confronted by the owner, Patchouli Knowledge. It seems I had approached the rocket a little too closely and had been discovered.
「忍び込んだ最初からバレバレだったわよ。面倒だから無視していたのに、声に出してメモを取り始めたから……」	"I knew you were here from the moment you entered. I decided to ignore you since making you leave would have been too much trouble, but you kept muttering something about memos..."
「あれ？ 声に出してました？」	"Huh? I was muttering?"
「ま、別に良いけどね。何か持っていったり壊したりしなければ」	"Well, I do not particularly mind, so long as you are not intent on stealing or breaking anything."
そう言って、机の上に置いてあった鈴を揺らした。	As she spoke, she rang a bell placed on the table.
「!? 捕まえる気？」	"?! Are you going to imprison me?"
「ふん。捕まえるなら最初から捕まえているわよ」	"Hmph, if I was going to do anything of the sort, I would have done it a while ago."
「じゃあ今の鈴は……」	"So why did you ring that..."
「咲夜にお茶を持ってきて貰うのよ。私の分の一つ。で、何よ」	"I called Sakuya to bring some tea. Only for me though. Now, what is it?"
「はい？」	"Excuse me?"

<p>「あんたの用事。ロケットの事で何か気になる事でもあるの？」</p>	<p>"What brought you here? Was it something about the rocket?"</p>
<p>特に私を捕まえる気は無い様子である。思えば、吸血鬼達は自分達でロケットを造って月に行きたいと前々から公言していたし、紫様から私達に監視の依頼があった事など知らないのである。むしろ、自分達が行っている大事業を誰かに伝えたいとすら思っている様である。</p>	<p>It seemed as if she had no intention of making me leave right now. When I thought about it, the vampire had made the fact that she was making a rocket to go to the moon public quite a while ago, and they had no idea that Lady Yukari had asked us to keep them under surveillance. In fact, it seemed as if they wanted everyone else to know they were in the middle of a huge undertaking.</p>
<p>この際だから色々訊いてしまおう.....と思ったのだが、やはり自分で考えた方が良いだろうか。</p>	<p>I should take this opportunity to ask them as much as I wanted, but then I reconsidered as I thought it was best for me to think about everything for myself.</p>
<p>「先ほど、ロケットを拝見したのですが.....どうしても気になる事があるのです」</p>	<p>"Earlier, when I was looking at the rocket... there is something I could not quite figure out."</p>
<p>「何よ」</p>	<p>"What is it?"</p>
<p>「このロケットの動力って、一体何なんですか？ あ、これは独り言で」</p>	<p>"Just how is this rocket supposed to fly? Oh, that was just me speaking to myself."</p>
<p>「独り言？」</p>	<p>"Speaking to yourself?"</p>
<p>「ああ、独り言で質問では無いのですが、答えて頂いて構いません」</p>	<p>"Right, meaning it was not a question, so you do not have to answer if you prefer."</p>
<p>「あー？ 何を言っているのかよく判らないが、ロケットの動力は——」</p>	<p>"Huh? I am not sure what you are talking about, but this rocket moves though..."</p>

<p>その時、メイドの咲夜が図書館に入ってきた。手にはお茶を持っている。さっき鳴らした鈴で呼ばれたのだ。</p>	<p>Just then, Sakuya the maid entered the library holding a cup of tea. She must have been called by the bell.</p>
<p>「お茶をお持ちしました……ってあら」</p>	<p>"Here is your tea, ma'am... Oh my, who have we here?"</p>
<p>「お邪魔してます」一応挨拶をした。</p>	<p>I thought it best to greet her for now. "Sorry to intrude."</p>
<p>「まだ帰っていなかったのね？ でも良かったわ」</p>	<p>"You had yet to leave? But I am so relieved."</p>
<p>「良かったって何がですか？」</p>	<p>"How are you relieved?"</p>
<p>「パチュリー様と一緒にテーブルに着いて。まさか、あんなにバレバレで隠れているつもりだったらどうしようかと……」</p>	<p>"To see you seated with Miss Patchouli. If not, I was wondering what you were doing by hiding in plain sight like that..."</p>
<p>「ふん。こいつは最初から私を訪ねて来たみたいだから心配無い」</p>	<p>"Hmph, she came here to see me in the first place so there was nothing to worry about."</p>
<p>今更、実は隠れていましたとは言えない。</p>	<p>I never did actually hide myself, late as it is to mention it.</p>
<p>「一応、お茶を二つ用意してきた。まだ帰っていないと思ひまして」</p>	<p>"I decided to bring tea for two. I did not believe you had left yet."</p>
<p>「あ、ありがとうございます」</p>	<p>"Th-Thank you very much."</p>
<p>メイドはお茶を二つ置くと、一礼して下がっていった。このお茶の香りは、うちのお茶より香りに品が無いような気がする。うちのお茶は、香りは細く長く続くのに対して、この紅茶は香りが強すぎるのだ。</p>	<p>I bowed as the maid placed two cups of tea of the table. Judging from its scent, I felt the quality of the tea here cannot begin to compare to the tea at Hakugyokurou. The scent of our green tea was so delicate yet long-lasting. It was in sharp contrast to the overpowering scent of the black tea that sat before me.</p>

パチュリーが口を開いた。	Patchouli opened her mouth.
「で、何の話だったわけ？」	"So, where was I?"
「ロケットの動力です」	"About how the rocket moves."
「ああ、ロケットの動力ね。それが未だに判らないのよね」	"Ah, the propulsion. At the moment, I do not understand it works yet."
判らない……？ なーんだ、紫様が心配する程の事でも無いじゃない。	She doesn't understand? Well, it looks like they're nothing for Lady Yukari to worry about after all.
「どうやら、動力は三段の筒状のエネルギーらしいの。今、咲夜に探させているけど、貴方も何か思い当たる物があったら教えて欲しい」	"It seems we need some form of energy source that comes in a three-stage tube. I had Sakuya search for more information just now, but if you know anything about it, I want you to tell me."
「……何故、私にそんな話を？ 私が協力するかどうか判らないでしょ？」	"...Why would you ask me? And how do you know if I would cooperate with you?"
「あら、貴方だって月を見てみたいと思っっているでしょう？ 月の民達に一泡吹かせたいと思っっているでしょう？」	"Oh, but did you not want to see the moon? Do you not want to help with the surprise attack on the Lunarians?"
月の民……。二、三年ほど前から月の民と名乗る者達が竹林に住み着いている。	The Lunarians... About two or three years ago some others who called themselves that took up residence in the bamboo forest.
私は、あの者達が幻想郷では異質な者であるようにしか思えない。	I could only think of them as not entirely suited to Gensokyo.

<p>吸血鬼の監視をしよう      と思っているが、それは      紫様の真意を知る為      である。決して、月の      民の味方になりたい訳      ではないのだが.....吸      血鬼のロケットの完成      を邪魔する事は、結果      としてあの者たちの味      方になってしまうのだ      ろうか。</p>	<p>I had thought to survey the      vampire doings, but that was      so I could understand Lady      Yukari's motives. I would      never want to be branded as      an ally to the Lunarians, but      if I did interfere with the      rocket's completion, that just      might happen as a result.</p>
<p>ひとまず、何か思いつ      いたら協力するとだけ      言って、紅魔館を後に      した。</p>	<p>For the time being, I merely      told her I would let her know      if I came across anything,      and left the mansion.</p>
<p>——博麗神社へ続く      道。</p>	<p>-The road that leads to      Hakurei Shrine.</p>
<p>夜も更け、夜目が利か      ない人間の姿は殆ど見      あたらない。</p>	<p>The night had only      deepened, humans, whose      eyes were poorly suited for      seeing in the dark, were      scarce to be seen here.</p>
<p>この辺りは住んでいる      人間も無く、適度に生      えた木が不気味な陰影      を作り、格好の肝試し      スポットだ。</p>	<p>As no humans lived in this      area and the trees that grew      here created ominous      shadow, it was a popular      spot for tests of courage.</p>
<p>私は幽霊には慣れてい      るが（そもそも半分幽      霊だが）、暗いところ      は苦手である。</p>	<p>While I am used to ghosts      (being half-ghost myself), I      do not handle dark places      very well.</p>
<p>そんな私が何故、夜道      を歩いているかと言      うとそれには訳がある。</p>	<p>So for those who are      wondering why I am walking      this dark path, there is a      reason.</p>
<p>紅魔館近辺にてロケッ      トの監視を行っていたら、      メイドの咲夜が出て      きたのだ。</p>	<p>It is part of my surveillance      of the rocket being      constructed at the Scarlet      Devil Mansion. The maid      Sakuya has left on an errand      concerning it.</p>
<p>私は後を追った。</p>	<p>I am following after her.</p>
<p>尾行である。捜査の基      本らしい。</p>	<p>In other words, tailing. It      seems to be among the      basics of investigation.</p>

<p>自慢じゃないが尾行は得意である。半分人間半分幽霊だから、それぞれの気配が薄いのだ。</p>	<p>I don't mean to boast, but I am skilled in tailing. As I am half-human and half-ghost, the presences of both are less noticeable than a full one.</p>
<p>パチュリーは「ロケットの動力は、咲夜に探させている」と言っていた。咲夜の後を追えば、何か掴めるかも知れない。</p>	<p>Patchouli said that she had Sakuya search for more information on the rocket's propulsion system, so if I follow her, I might be able to learn something myself.</p>
<p>なぜ、紫様は吸血鬼達の監視を依頼してきたのか。</p>	<p>Why did Lady Yukari request the surveillance of the vampire's house?</p>
<p>「——で、そのストーカーはいつまで見つからないかと思っているの？」</p>	<p>"I wonder how long our little stalker will continue to believe she has not been spotted."</p>
<p>「およ？」</p>	<p>"Oh?"</p>
<p>見つかってしまったので尾行は中断せざるを得ない。捜査内容を尾行から聞き込みに変更する事にした。聞き込みも捜査の基本らしい。</p>	<p>If I've been spotted, I have no choice but to stop tailing. I will have to change my methods of investigation from tailing to interrogation. Interrogation also seems to be among the basics of investigation.</p>
<p>「へえ、なんで貴方がロケットの事を知っているの？ .....もしかして」</p>	<p>"Oh, so how do you know about our rocket? Perhaps..."</p>
<p>「監視.....じゃなくて、ええっと.....」</p>	<p>"Surveillan... oh, wait. I mean..."</p>
<p>「貴方達もあの狐に月侵略の話を持ちかけられたのね？」</p>	<p>"Did that fox come to you with a story of invading the moon as well?"</p>
<p>「はい？」</p>	<p>"Excuse me?"</p>
<p>「うちにも来たのよ。一緒に月を侵略しないかって」</p>	<p>"Because she came to us, too. She suggested we invade the moon together."</p>
<p>「そ、それは.....」</p>	<p>"W-Well, that is..."</p>

<p>そういえば、狐は吸血鬼に共同作戦を持ちかけたと言っていた。</p>	<p>Now I remembered. The fox mentioned wanting to form an alliance with the vampire and her servants.</p>
<p>そこも何か違和感を覚える。</p>	<p>There seemed something strange about that.</p>
<p>何故、吸血鬼に持ちかけたのだろうか。</p>	<p>Why would she ask the vampire?</p>
<p>何故、最初に幽々子様の方に持ちかけなかったのだろうか。</p>	<p>Why wouldn't she ask Lady Yuyuko first?</p>
<p>「でも、残念ね。うちほうちで別途月の都に侵略することになったの。オリジナルのロケットを造ってね。貴方達も月に行くと言うのなら、ロケット完成よりも早く行かないと、月の都はお嬢様の物よ」</p>	<p>"Regrettable as you may see it, we have already formed our own plans for invading the moon. We are even making an original rocket. If you say you wish to go as well, please refrain from going before we complete it, as Milady has already laid claim to the Lunar Capital."</p>
<p>「いや、私達は月に行くつもりはありませんが.....それでロケットはいつ完成するんです？」</p>	<p>"No, we weren't planning on going to the moon, but when will your rocket be finished?"</p>
<p>「うーん。ロケットに必要な重要な物が見つかっていないのよ.....って、何で貴方にそんな事教えなければいけないのかしら」</p>	<p>"Hmmm... There is something important that we have been unable to find. But why should I have to tell you?"</p>
<p>「重要な物が見つかっていない.....」</p>	<p>"Something important you have not been able to find..."</p>
<p>「そんな事メモしてどうするのよ」</p>	<p>"Why are you making a memo of it? What are you going to do with it?"</p>
<p>「いやまあ、何となく」</p>	<p>"Ah, um, nothing really."</p>

<p>咲夜は神社の方へ消えてしまった。夜道は怖いので深追いは避ける事にした。</p>	<p>Sakuya disappeared toward the direction of the shrine. I was scared of travelling at night so I followed quickly to avoid being left too far behind.</p>
<p>——香霖堂。</p>	<p>-Kourindo.</p>
<p>人里から離れた所にある古物屋である。</p>	<p>An antique store separated from the human village.</p>
<p>古物と言っても売っている物が古いとは限らない。その辺で拾った物を何でも取り扱っている店である。</p>	<p>While it is an antique store, it sells more than antiques. It deals in anything its owner has been able to scavenge.</p>
<p>拾った物とは建前で、本当は故買屋なんじゃないかと思う。</p>	<p>The scavenged articles lay in front of the building, making one think it might be more a place that buys stolen goods.</p>
<p>「え？ 咲夜さんが買っていった物が何か知りたいだって？」</p>	<p>"Huh? You want to know what Miss Sakuya bought from here?"</p>
<p>「ええ。最近ちよくちよく訪れているのは知っています。そこで、何を買っていったのか出来るだけ詳細も」</p>	<p>"Yes. I know she has been frequenting this store as of late. I want as many details as possible."</p>
<p>「生憎だけど、このような店でも顧客のプライバシーは守らないといけないのでね」</p>	<p>"I'm sorry to say this, but a store like this must respect the privacy of our customers."</p>
<p>「……ううむ。自分で探すしかないのね」</p>	<p>"...Hmm. I guess I will have to search for myself."</p>
<p>店内を見回した。</p>	<p>I looked around the inside of the store.</p>
<p>無機質な鉄の箱、ガラスの輪、緑色の薄い板。</p>	<p>Cold, iron boxes, glass rings and thin, green plates.</p>

およそ商品とは思えない物ばかりである。	This store was filled with such things that could not be thought as desirable for purchase.
「……この店でロケットに関する物って何だろう……」	"...What could be related to rockets in this store...?"
「おや、君もロケットについて調べているのかい？ それならアポロ計画の本が一番良いんだけど」	"Oh, so you're looking for research about rockets, too? In that case, a book about the Apollo program would be just what you need."
「アポロ計画……？」	"The Apollo program...?"
「アポロ計画とは、ロケットを月まで飛ばす計画の事だよ」	"It was a project that aimed to fly a rocket to the moon."
「そ、その本を見せてください！」	"P-Please show me that book!"
「それがねえ。残念だが、今は切らしているんだ。全部買われてしまってるね」	"Well, sorry to say, but we're sold out right now. They've all been bought up."
誰が買っていったかなんて、火を見るより明らかだ。	Whoever it was that bought these books was clearer than glass.
「そ、そうですか……」	"I-I see..."
吸血鬼のロケットはその本を元にしているに違いない。	The vampire's rocket must be based on what is written in those books. I was certain of it.
なるほど、何故月ロケットが急激に進行したのか判った気がする。吸血鬼達は、外の世界のロケット計画を手本に月ロケットを完成させ、月を目指しているのだ。	I felt I was beginning to understand reason for the sudden progress on the rocket. The vampire and her cohorts had obtained those books about this project from the outside world and used them for their own rocket.
とすると、紫様の懸念は外のロケットにあると考えられないだろうか。	This means that Lady Yukari is probably worried if there were rockets in the outside world, too.

<p>外のロケットを完成させられては困る何かがあるのではないか。</p>	<p>If they've completed a rocket that can go to the moon in the outside world, that might cause trouble for her.</p>
<p>うーん。ここでロケットの本が手に入らないのが悔やまれる。</p>	<p>Hmm, it was truly a shame I was unable to find any of these books for myself.</p>
<p>後もう一息で何が起きているのか判るかも知れないというのに。</p>	<p>Just a little more effort and I might have even been to figure out what was about to happen.</p>
<p>「ま、アポロ計画の本は殆ど無くなっちゃったけど、代わりに似たような本ならあるよ。内容はさほど変わらないと思う」</p>	<p>"Well, even though all the books about the Apollo program are gone, I have some books that have almost the same contents. I don't think there's much of a difference at all."</p>
<p>「え？ そ、それください」</p>	<p>"Huh? Th-Then let me have one of those, please."</p>
<p>——白玉楼。</p>	<p>-Hakugyokurou.</p>
<p>「で、妖夢。何の本を読んでいるのかしら？」</p>	<p>"And what would that book you are reading happen to be about, Youmu?"</p>
<p>「あ、幽々子様。き、今日は雨が降っていますので、少し勉強にいきましょうと」</p>	<p>"Ah, Lady Yuyuko. S-Since it was raining today, I thought I would study a little."</p>
<p>そう言って、読んでいた本を隠した。幽々様は監視しなくていいと言っていたのに、私は内緒で吸血鬼達の監視を行っていたのだ。この本を読んでいる事は不自然である。</p>	<p>I hid the book while I told her. While she did not tell me I should not investigate the doings of the vampire, I still did it in secret. If she noticed what book I was reading, it would be unnatural.</p>
<p>「勉強！ 呆れたわ。つまんないの。そんな事より、今日は中秋の名月だからお団子捏ねておいてね」</p>	<p>"Studying? I'm shocked! Do not bother with such dull things, and instead busy yourself with preparing the dumplings for tonight's viewing of the harvest moon."</p>

<p>私は頷くと、幽々子様は部屋から出て行った。</p>	<p>I nodded and she left the room.</p>
<p>再び本に目を落とした。</p>	<p>Then my eyes returned to the book.</p>
<p>「——ソユーズ計画。アポロ計画に敗れ、ついに月到達計画は幻となる。技術的にはアポロ計画より優れていたとも言われている。もし、アポロより先に月に到達していれば、世界は大きく変わっていたかもしれない」</p>	<p>"The Soyuz spacecraft. After the end of the Apollo program, any further plans to reach the moon also became nothing more than fantasy. However, rockets used for the Soyuz spacecraft was said to have been even more technologically advanced than the rockets used in the Apollo program. If it had reached the moon before the Apollo program, it might have had a significant effect on history."</p>
<p>香霖堂で手に入れた本には、アポロ計画とは別のロケット計画の事が書かれていた。</p>	<p>The book I bought from Kourindo was about the Apollo program as well as another kind of rocket.</p>
<p>ソユーズとアポロのロケットの形状には余り大きな差は無いらしい。</p>	<p>It appeared that there were no major differences in shape between the Soyuz and Apollo rockets.</p>
<p>上段になるほど小さくなる、三段の筒。間違いない、吸血鬼は外のロケットを参考している。</p>	<p>It was a three-stage tube that became thinner as it reached the tip. This confirmed my belief that the vampire had used the rockets from the outside world as a reference for hers.</p>
<p>つまり、仕組みもこれと大差は無いだろう。</p>	<p>This meant that the construction must be more or less the same.</p>
<p>専門用語が多く理解に苦しんだが、私が一番気になっていた動力が書かれている部分を探し出した。</p>	<p>I was worried that the abundance of technical terms would make it difficult to understand, but I was able to find the section about which I was most curious, the propulsion system.</p>

<p>どうやら、使い捨ての燃料を取り付け、火を付けて飛ばすらしい。花火のような物だろう。</p>	<p>It seemed to be furnished with disposable fuel that flew when ignited. Much like fireworks.</p>
<p>月に行くという魔術的な行為に不釣り合いな、しかし驚くほどシンプルな答えだった。</p>	<p>Going to the moon seemed to be something that would be difficult to do with magic, but the answer was surprisingly simple.</p>
<p>「そんなんで良ければ、火薬でも積み込めばすぐにでも飛ばせるんじゃないのかなあ。余り乗り心地は良く無さそうだけど」</p>	<p>"If it's like that, then wouldn't filling it with gunpowder get them there soon enough? It might be rather uncomfortable though."</p>
<p>花火の上に家を載せて空を飛ぶ妄想を、私を呼ぶ声が切り裂いた。</p>	<p>While I pictured a house placed on fireworks flying through the air, my thoughts were interrupted by a voice calling for me.</p>
<p>「妖夢一。お団子まだなの一？」</p>	<p>"Youmuuuu! Are the dumplings ready yeeeeet?"</p>
<p>「はいはい。今行きますよ」</p>	<p>"Yes, ma'am. I am coming."</p>
<p>今宵は中秋の名月である。曆上は。</p>	<p>Tonight was the night of the harvest moon. According to the calendar, at least.</p>
<p>しかし、このままでは名月は楽しめないだろう。雨は小降りになったが未だ止まない。たとえ止んだとしても、雲が晴れるかどうか。</p>	<p>However, it likely wouldn't be possible to enjoy its glow if this poor weather continued. It had been drizzling for quite some time and had yet to stop falling. Even if the rain stopped, it was unsure if the clouds would also break up.</p>
<p>ちなみに団子を捏ねるのは好きだ。</p>	<p>But regardless, I enjoy rolling the dumplings.</p>
<p>蒸した後のつるつるな触感を捏ねるのは気持ちが良い。触っているだけで幸せになる。</p>	<p>Feeling the slippery smoothness after they had been steamed felt good. Just touching them made me happy.</p>

<p>「ねえ、そろそろお供え物の準備は出来た？」</p>	<p>"Hey, is tonight's offering ready yet?"</p>
<p>「あ、幽々子様。いらしたのですか？ あともう少しだけ掛かりそうです」</p>	<p>"Oh, Lady Yuyuko. How long have you been there? It will only take a little while longer."</p>
<p>幽々様様が急かして来た。</p>	<p>She rushed over to me.</p>
<p>「早くしないと始まっちゃうわよ？ 今日は中秋の名月なんだから」</p>	<p>"Don't we have to start soon? It's the night of the harvest moon, after all."</p>
<p>月見が始まると言うより、お腹が空いているだけの様な気がする。</p>	<p>I had the feeling she was not as anxious to see the moon as she was hungry.</p>
<p>「暦上ではそうですが.....。最近の天気を見ていると、今夜も雨になると思いますよ」</p>	<p>"Yes, according to the calendar, but seeing how the weather has been lately, I believe it will be raining tonight, too."</p>
<p>私は窓の外を指した。二、三日前から続いている秋雨にお月見は絶望的だと思われた。</p>	<p>I pointed to the window. As the rain had continued for the past two or three days, I felt having a moon-viewing ceremony tonight was hopeless.</p>
<p>「そんなこと判っているわよ。大体、中秋の名月って言うけど、この時期って昔から天気が悪いのが普通なのよ。十年のうち九年は雨が降って見られない、と言われる程なの。つまり、実際は殆ど見られないのも名月たる所以.....」</p>	<p>"Yes, I realize that. It is normal for the weather to be poor around the time of the harvest moon, and has been for many, many years. In fact, it has been said that for nine years out of ten, the moon would be hidden by the clouds. The way it would rarely show itself has made it all the more worthy of being special..."</p>
<p>幽々様様がいつになく饒舌である。お腹が空いているのだろうか。「じゃあ今、私は何の為に団子を捏ねているのでしょうか？」</p>	<p>Lady Yuyuko had become unusually talkative, likely because of her hunger. "So, why am I rolling these dumplings?"</p>

<p>幽々子様はさも当然と いった様子で「お団子 に食べる以外の用途が あるのかしら？」と 言った。</p>	<p>She told me matter-of-factly, "For what else are dumplings other than being eaten?"</p>
<p>——夜になって雨は小 降りになってきたよう だが、やはり月は見え なかった。</p>	<p>-As night came and the rain continued, the moon remained concealed behind the clouds, as I expected.</p>
<p>枯山水の中庭が見える 縁側に、団子をお供え した。</p>	<p>We placed the dumplings to be offered on the porch facing the stone garden courtyard.</p>
<p>幽々子様は団子の隣に 腰掛けると、早速一つ 手で摘まんで口に入れ た。</p>	<p>Lady Yuyuko sat beside the dumplings, immediately took one and placed it in her mouth.</p>
<p>「雨月と言ってね。特 に雨が長引きやすい中 秋の名月は雨が降って 月が隠れても、雲の上 の名月を想像してお月 見を楽しんだのよ」</p>	<p>"This is what is known as 'ugetsu', or 'rainy moon', particularly when the harvest moon has been obscured due to the rain. But even in times like this, we can enjoy imagining what the moon looks like above the clouds."</p>
<p>「苦し紛れの楽しみ方 ですね」</p>	<p>"That seems rather desperate to me."</p>
<p>お月見の時に月が見え なかったら私はがっかり する。それが普通で はないだろうか。</p>	<p>Not being able to see the moon during moon-viewing ceremonies leaves me disappointed. Isn't it normal?</p>
<p>「いやいや、その方が 風流なのよ。昔から、 名月そのものを見るよ り、丸い物を見て名月 を想像する事が風流と されたの。昔の人は、 実物より想像の方が何 倍も大きく、何倍も美 しい事を経験から知っ ていたのね。料理にお 団子一つ付いているだ けで名月を想像できた んだから、簡単で良い でしょう？」</p>	<p>"Not at all. It is more refined that way. Since long ago, it has been much more cultured to look at round objects to inspire the imagination and envision the harvest moon rather than see it directly. People would imagine the harvest moon to be many times bigger and beautiful than any they had ever witnessed before. All it takes is a single dumpling, so the simplest method is best, am I right?"</p>

<p>月見うどん、と言えば卵を月に見立てた料理だ。里芋の白煮なんかも、月に見立てて添えられる事がある。</p>	<p>Tsukimi udon, udon noodles with an egg to resemble the moon also comes to mind. Satoimo shironi, also resembling the moon, is a common side dish.</p>
<p>卵うどんの方が美味しいそうではあるのだが、わざわざ月見に変えている辺りが風流なのかも知れない。</p>	<p>I enjoy udon with egg, so maybe preparing that instead of having a moon-viewing ceremony might be more refined.</p>
<p>「そして、その究極の形が——そこのある筈の名月を想像する、雨月と言うわけ」</p>	<p>"And then, being able to imagine the most breathtakingly beautiful harvest moon, the one that should be just beyond the clouds, came to be called 'ugetsu'."</p>
<p>幽々子様は指で摘んだお団子を空にかざした。本来なら満月が見える筈の場所である。</p>	<p>Lady Yuyuko took a dumpling between her fingers and held it over her head, placing it where the full moon should have been visible.</p>
<p>雲で隠れて見えない雨月も堪能したところで、お座敷に戻った。</p>	<p>Being satisfied with the ugetsu I couldn't see behind the clouds, we returned inside.</p>
<p>幽々様様が月見酒をしたいと言ったのでその準備をした。</p>	<p>Lady Yuyuko said she wanted to drink the moon-viewing ceremonial sake, so I went to prepare it.</p>
<p>私は、吸血鬼のロケットの進捗状況について、幽々様様に報告した方が良いのか悩んでいた。</p>	<p>As I walked, I thought about the best way to report to her the information I had gathered about the progress the vampire had made with her rocket.</p>
<p>あと一息で、紫様が私達に監視を依頼してきた意図が判りそうなのだが、私一人だけではどうしても考えが纏まらない。</p>	<p>I felt I was very close to understanding Lady Yukari's intention on having us monitor the vampire, but I was unable to put my thoughts in order just on my own.</p>

<p>お酒が入ったところで、私はもう一度、ふた月前の狐が訪問に来た事について話を振った。</p>	<p>After pouring the sake, I once again brought up subject of the fox's visit from two months ago.</p>
<p>「紫は念を入れ過ぎよ。いくら地上にスパイがいるからって」</p>	<p>"Yukari's just being overly worried. She thinks there could be some untold number of spies on Earth or something."</p>
<p>「何か、腑に落ちない依頼でしたね。紫様が直々に吸血鬼達を見張れば良いのに……」</p>	<p>"It was quite an incomprehensible request, was it not? I do not see why she could not have monitored the vampire herself..."</p>
<p>幽々子様は笑っていた。私は鎌をかけて幽々子様の考えを遠回しに探ろうとしたが、全て空振りに終わってしまった。</p>	<p>Lady Yuyuko laughed. I had tried to determine what she was thinking through indirect questions, but it seemed I was being too indirect to elicit any substantial response.</p>
<p>いつもの事だった。幽々子様は何か判っている様に見えるが、実際はただその時の気分で行動を決めているだけなのだ。このままでは何か大変な事になってしまうのではないだろうか。</p>	<p>It was the same as usual. Lady Yuyuko always seems like she knows something, but in actuality, she is merely acting on whatever strikes her fancy. I wondered if anything serious would happen if we left things as they were.</p>
<p>私は意を決して、自分のしてきた事を告白した。</p>	<p>So I resolved my will and confessed about what I had been doing.</p>
<p>ここ二ヶ月、自分でロケットの調査を行い、吸血鬼達の監視を行ってきた事。</p>	<p>I spoke of my investigation of the rocket and the surveillance of the vampire's house for the past two months.</p>
<p>まだロケットは未完成で、飛ぶ為の動力が見つかっていないとの事。</p>	<p>I spoke of how the rocket was incomplete as they were missing a method of propulsion.</p>

しかし、三段の筒状の推進力さえあればロケットは完成し、いつでも飛びだせるとの事。	And I spoke of once they completed a cylindrical, three-stage rocket, they would be able to launch at any time.
幽々子様は目を丸くして聞いていた。私は怒られる覚悟で報告を続けた。	Lady Yuyuko listened to me with her eyes wide open. I continued my report, prepared for her wrath.
怒られても良い。今起こっている事が私に理解できるレベルまで落ちてくれればそれで良い。	I don't mind if she is upset. As long as I am able to bring everything down to my level of comprehension, that will be acceptable.
しかし、幽々子様から飛び出した言葉は、私の想像を遥かに超えた物だった。	But the words that came from her mouth were far beyond my wildest expectations.
「——吸血鬼のロケットを完成させなさい。貴方は、私が言った事を巫女に伝えるだけで、後は自動的に事は進むでしょう」	"...The vampire will not finish her rocket. If you give that message to the shrine maiden, everything will progress on its own."
理解は絶望的になった。	I despaired of ever understanding what was happening.
そして、自分で考えて行動する事は諦めた。	And then, I abandoned the notion of thinking on my own.
幽々子様の希望通り、吸血鬼はロケットを完成させ、紫様より先に月へと向かっていった。	What Lady Yuyuko desired was for the vampire to complete her rocket and leave for the moon before Lady Yukari did.
これで良かったのだろうか。	Would that be wise?
——流されるがまま。私は今、月にいる。	-I surrendered to the flow. Now, I am on the moon.

月の地表は水で満たされ、四方から様々な波を受け複雑な凹凸を見せしている。	The surface of the moon is covered in water. I could see waves coming from all directions, interfering with each other and making complex patterns on the surface.
これが海というものか。何という広さだろうか。視界が良好な分、三途の河よりも広く感じた。	Is this the sea? It is so wide. It even seems wider than the Sanzu River, likely because the visibility is better.
何より、想像より月は美しい場所ではない。	But most of all, the moon was more beautiful than I had imagined it to be.
幽々子様が言っていた雨月の事を思い出した。	I remember what Lady Yuyuko said about the ugetsu.
『実物より想像の方が何倍も大きく、何倍も美しい事を経験から知っていたのね』	"People would imagine the harvest moon to be many times bigger and beautiful than any they had ever witnessed before."
「幽々子様……」	"Lady Yuyuko...?"
「ううん？ 月の都への行き方が判らないのね？」	"Hmm? Do you not know the way to the Lunar Capital?"
「まあ、判らないですが。それより何故……」	"Not really, but what I wanted to ask was why did..."
「月の都へは簡単には入れないわ。ある特別なルートを通らないと行けないの」	"It will not be easy to enter the Lunar Capital. We need to take a special route."
「幽々子様は、最初から月に来るつもりだったのですか？」	"Did you plan on coming to the moon from the beginning?"
「紫にそう頼まれちゃったからねえ……。でもここから先が問題なのよー」	"Yukari had asked me to come. But the real problem lies just ahead."

私達は、紅魔館近くの湖に映った月に飛び込みこちら側に来たのだ。どうやら、その月は紫様が用意した入口であった。	We had sneaked into the moon from its reflection in the lake near the Scarlet Devil Mansion. It appeared to be an entrance Lady Yukari had prepared through some method."
幽々子様の行動には不明な点が多く、どうも信頼しきれなかったが、ここまで来たら幽々子様に付いていくしかなかった。	There was still much that was unclear about Lady Yuyuko's actions and I did not place too much confidence in them, but coming this far, I had no choice but to remain by her side."
だが、月に来られた事は少しだけ嬉しかった。	However, I was a little happy to have been able to come here.
私が吸血鬼の監視を独自で行ったのは、心の何処かで羨ましく思っていたのだろう。	As I conducted my independent surveillance on the vampire, I must have started to feel jealous for some reason.
私も自分の目で月を見てみたいと。	It was like a small voice in my head saying, "I want to see the moon, too."
むしろ、自分を置いて吸血鬼達だけが月に行く、という事が悔しかったのかも知れない。	In fact, if the vampire and her entourage were the only ones to go to the moon, I might have felt frustrated.
この時ばかりは幽々子様の自由な行動に感謝した。	In times like this, I was grateful for my mistress's whimsy.
しかし、その感謝した事が後悔に変わったのは、それから数刻経った後の事だった。	However, that gratitude turned into regret as my experience here began to erode my enthusiasm.
私は徹底的に自分と波長の異なる者達に振り回されただけなのだ、強く感じたのであった。	I had been thoroughly tossed about by others on different wavelengths from myself, and the interference felt stronger than ever.

## Notes

- The Title "Hanshin Hangi" is spelled as 半身半義 (*Half-body, Half-honor*), which is a pun to the Japanese idiom 半信半疑 (*Half trusting, Half doubting*).
- It probably relates to the Half Body's (or Youmu's) hesitance to remain honorable to her mistress and trust in her.

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# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Last Chapter

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最終話 二つの望郷	Last Chapter: Two Kinds of Homesickness
<p>いつもなら年老いた自称棋士達の社交場となっている往来に人だかりが出来ていた。仕事の休憩に往来に出てきた兎も、対戦相手を捕まえる事が出来ずに苛立っている。</p>	<p>As always, there was a throng of people passing through the commons known as a meeting place for aged shogi and go players. Even rabbits would come here during their break times, but those who were unable to find an opponent would become irritated.</p>
<p>「何事だいこの人だかりは。喧嘩だとしたら余り穏やかじゃないねえ」</p>	<p>"What's with that crowd? It seems like there's a fight going on, but it isn't nearly noisy enough for that."</p>
<p>年老いた兎は人だかりに群がっていた兎に声を掛けた。いつもの碁仲間だ。</p>	<p>An elder rabbit was talking to a group of other rabbits in the crowd. The usual group of go players.</p>
<p>「喧嘩？ 違う違うそんなんじゃないよ。何でも見せたい物があるって話だ」</p>	<p>"Fight? No, no. That's not it at all. They're just wanting to see something."</p>
<p>「大道芸かい？ 若えもんがあんまり騒がしくしてると、綿月の姐さんにしょっ引かれても知らねえぞ？」</p>	<p>"So are they street performers? The younger-looking ones are yelling loudly about 'Can't the older Watatsuki sister catch that crook?'"</p>



<p>綿月と言えば、千年近くも月の都の警備を任されている由緒正しい家である。元々戦闘に向かない月の兎達を訓練し、月の都を守ってきた者達だ。</p>	<p>The Watatsukis are a prestigious family tasked with the security and policing of the lunar capital for nearly 1,000 years. They are in charge of training the moon rabbits who are by nature unsuited to warfare and protect the capital.</p>
<p>特に妹の綿月依姫は、神々の力をその身に宿し敵に合わせて柔軟に対応できる力を持っている。</p>	<p>The younger sister, Yorihome, is particularly important to the cause, possessing the power to easily call on the power of the gods to deal with any situation.</p>
<p>基本的には外敵から都を守る事を生業としているが、素行の悪い兎を連れて行き、兵士として教育する事もやっている。兎の殆どが兵士になる事を嫌がっており、兎達にとって綿月の屋敷はさながら再教育の場といったイメージであった。</p>	<p>Their basic operative is to protect the capital from outside enemies, but they also take rabbits of poor behavior and train them into soldiers. Very few rabbits want to become soldiers, and they see the Watatsuki manor as more of a boot camp.</p>
<p>「いやそれが、綿月様ご本人が見せたい物があるってさ」</p>	<p>"No, what they want to see are the Watatsuki princesses in person."</p>
<p>「何だって？ 綿月様が？」</p>	<p>"What? They want to see the princesses?"</p>
<p>人だかりをかき分け、好奇の目の向けられた対象を見た。兎ではない人間が何やら不思議な踊りを踊っている。その脇には綿月依姫と豊姫が立っていた。</p>	<p>Heads turned to look at something trying to make its way through the crowd. There, a human was doing a strange dance. Standing next to the human were the Watatsuki sisters, Yorihome and Toyohime.</p>
<p>「何でも、あそこで踊っているのが月に攻めてきた地上の人間だそうさ。謀反の噂の真犯人だって話だよ」</p>	<p>"That dancing human looks like one from Earth who tried to attack the moon. She's the real criminal behind those rumors about a rebellion."</p>



<p>謀反の噂とは、月の都の転覆を謀る者が居るといふ不穏な噂であった。</p>	<p>The rumors about a rebellion caused great unrest, as whispers circulated about someone in the lunar capital plotting to overturn the government.</p>
<p>誰が流した噂なのか判らないが、噂が出始めた頃から身の回りで不思議な事が続いていた。</p>	<p>No one knows who started it, but around the same time it did start, strange occurrences began to happen regularly.</p>
<p>まず、表の月に刺さっていた人間の旗が抜かれて、跡形もなく消えてしまった。これは、地上から何者かが侵入してやった事を表している。</p>	<p>First, the flag that the humans planted on the near side of the moon was removed, vanished without a trace. This was seen as a sign that someone from Earth had invaded the moon.</p>
<p>そして、月に住む神々達が何者かに喚ばれ、使役されているとの事。これが出来るのは依姫くらいである。</p>	<p>Then, someone was invoking the gods that live on the moon, using them for their own ends. Something like what Princess Yorihime could do.</p>
<p>それ以外にも綿月家が疑われるのには理由があった。</p>	<p>And there were other reasons why everyone suspected the Watatsuki family.</p>
<p>綿月姉妹の役目は元々別の人間が行っていた。その者とは月の賢者とも呼ばれた八意様である。</p>	<p>The Watatsuki sisters' roles were initially performed by someone else. This person was called the sage of the moon, Lady Eirin Yagokoro.</p>
<p>八意様はありとあらゆる薬を作る事が出来、信頼も厚かった。その八意様が月の都を裏切り、地上にお隠れになってしまったのである。</p>	<p>Lady Yagokoro could make any and all kinds of medicine and was highly dependable. But she turned her back on the moon and went into hiding on Earth.</p>
<p>空席となった月の使者の座に急遽選ばれたのは、弟子である綿月姉妹であった。</p>	<p>There was an emergency election to fill the vacant position in the lunar emissaries, and her pupils, the Watatsuki sisters, were chosen.</p>



その綿月姉妹に命じられた最初の使命とは、八意様の搜索と連れ戻すことである。しかし、千年近く経った今もその使命は果たされていない。その理由は、表向きは八意様の罪が晴れていない事

(月の都にとって地上は監獄である為、罪人は罪が晴れるまで地上に幽閉されるのである。つまり八意様は月に戻ってくる資格がまだ無いと見なしている)だが、本当のところは綿月姉妹が未だ八意様の事を信頼していて、自分の手で捕らえたくないのである。

Once appointed, their first order was the search and retrieval of Lady Yagokoro. However, after nearly a thousand years, they have nothing to show for their efforts. They claim that she has not yet earned the right to return to the moon (As the moon sees Earth as a prison, criminals are incarcerated on Earth until they have served their sentence. Therefore, it appeared that Lady Yagokoro had yet to atone for her crime.), but the reality is that the Watatsuki sisters still had trust in their mentor, and did not want to be the ones to bring her back.



その地上の罪人との繋がりが原因なのか、綿月姉妹は余り月の都では信頼されていない。

Possibly because of this connection, the Watatsuki sisters were not entirely trusted by the rest of the lunar capital.

地上から何者かが侵入してきた痕跡、それと不可解な神々の召還。こういった出来事で綿月姉妹が疑われるのは当然であった。

Traces of an invader from Earth and the inexplicable manipulation of the gods. It was only natural to suspect the Watatsukis.



「——さあ、このぐらいで良いでしょう。貴方が神々を召還していた事が十分伝わったでしょうし」

"All right, that's enough. You've demonstrated well enough that you can summon the gods."

依姫は群がる兎達の前で不思議な踊りを見せている霊夢に向かって言った。

Yorihime spoke to Reimu who was performing a mysterious dance in front of a crowd of rabbits.

霊夢は「こんなんの良いの?」と言うと、何故か兎達から拍手がわき起こる。さらに小銭が投げ込まれた。まるで正月のお賽銭のようだ。霊夢は微妙な面持ちで兎達に手を振る。

Reimu said "That's enough?", and the rabbits broke out into applause for some reason. Some even threw coins. They must have truly thought it was a street performance. Reimu waved to the rabbits with a befuddled expression.



「他にも廻る所が沢山ありますからね」	"You still need to exhibit your talents in many other places."
「えー、他の場所でもこんな事をしないといけないの?」	"What? Why do I have to keep doing this?"
「貴方は私に文句を言える立場じゃありません」	"You are in no situation to complain."
「というか何か意味あるの? この踊り」	"And what's the point of doing that dance anyway?"
「貴方が神様を呼び出していたという事を判らせられればそれで良いのです。月の都では殺生は余り好まれないから貴方を気軽に罰する訳に行かないのです。それが終わったら地上に帰って貰いますから」	"It's the best way to show that you are able to summon the gods. We don't like killing here so it's the most serious punishment you will receive. Once you've finished, you may return to Earth."
「ふーん。月の都じゃ踊って神を呼ぶのねー」	"Hmm, so you dance to summon the gods here?"
霊夢は投げ込まれた小銭を拾いながら言った。気が付くと人だかりはまばらになっていた。依姫は霊夢に「お金なんて拾わなくても良いの」とたしなめ、手を引っ張った。	Reimu spoke as she collected the thrown coins, then she noticed that the crowd was beginning to disperse. Yorihime pulled Reimu's hand back and chided her. "I wouldn't worry about money right now."
「ああもう、何で私だけ月の都に残ってなきゃいけないのよ。みんなはお咎め無しで帰っていったのに、私だけ損をしている気がする」	"This is silly. How come I'm the only one who has to stay here? You let the others go back without so much as a slap on the wrist, but I'm being punished like this."
「お咎め無し? そうではありませんよ。地上に落ちる事、それが最大の罰なのですから」	"Without a slap on the wrist? You are mistaken. Living on Earth is the worst punishment you can receive."



「私からみれば帰るだけなのに」	"The way I see it, they just left for home."
霊夢は口を尖らせて言った。	Reimu retorted.
——大きな東洋の屋敷の円い窓から桃の木が見えている。	She looked at the peach trees through a round window from the large Oriental-style manor.
窓にはガラスのような物をはめ込まれていない。開けっ放しの状態なのだが、虫が入ってきたりはしない。そもそも虫のような蒙昧な生き物は月の都には存在しないのか。それに気温も常に適温を保っている。	The window was not made of anything like glass. It appeared to be wide open, but bugs aren't able to enter, likely because such uncivilized beings such as bugs did not exist on the moon to begin with, but it also kept the room at a comfortable temperature.
研究者は自分の研究に没頭し、存在しうる理想について論じ合う事も出来る。食に不自由することなく、死を恐れることなく永遠に研究が出来るのだ。	Researchers immerse themselves in their research and debate about what can or cannot possibly exist with others. If they did not have to worry about food or other things to remain alive, they would conduct research for eternity.
月の都はなんて快適な所なのだろう。	Maybe the lunar capital is something like that.
ここに住んでいたら、地上が監獄に見えるのも当然かも知れない。	If one lived here, maybe it would be natural to see Earth as a prison.
アンティークなテーブルに上品な料理が並んでいた。	A gourmet spread was laid out on an antique table.
テーブルには霊夢と、綿月姉妹が座っている。	At this table, Reimu and the Watatsuki sisters were seated.
霊夢は見たこともないような見事な料理を前にして、機嫌が良くなっているようだ。	When presented with splendid dishes the likes of which she had never seen before, her mood improved considerably.

「さ、今日はお疲れ様」	"This is in return for your efforts today."
豊姫が労いの言葉をかけた。霊夢は早速料理に手を付ける。味は見た目ほどではないようだ。	Toyohime gave her words of gratitude, and Reimu immediately set into the food. Its taste was even better than how it looked.
「でさあ、私はいつまで月の都に残っていればいいの？」	"I was wondering, how long am I going to have to stay here?"
「そうですねえ。依姫の疑いが完全に晴れるまではいて貰わないと……ま、その間のんびりして」	"That's a good question. At least not until you've helped prove Yorihome innocent, but for now, just make yourself at home."
「何か調子狂うわねえ。月の都ってもっと都会で忙しいところかと思ってたわ。もぐもぐ」	"Something seems kind of weird though. I thought it'd be a lot busier here. *chomp, smack*"
「口に物を入れたまま喋らない。これだから地上の人間は」	"Refrain from speaking with food in your mouth. Your Earthling manners are a disgrace here."
依姫が厳しく叱ると、霊夢は恥ずかしそうに黙って食べ物を飲み込んだ。	Yorihome rebuked her, and Reimu abashedly swallowed her food.
「で、貴方に残って貰ったのにはもう一つ理由があるの」	"And there's one more reason why we need you to remain here."
「あん？」	"Huh?"
よく見ると依姫は食事に手を付けていない。霊夢はそれを見て一瞬警戒したが、豊姫は同じ物を食べていたので安心した。	She noticed that Yorihome had yet to touch her food. She was nervous for a moment, but relaxed when she saw Toyohime had eaten the same things she had.
「貴方が何故住吉三神を使役して月を目指すようになったのか。そのいきさつを教えて欲しい」	"You called upon the power of Sumiyoshi Sanjin to take you to the moon. I want you to tell me how this came out."

<p>「ん？ んー、そう言 えば何でこんな事に なっちゃったんだっ け？」</p>	<p>"Huh? Hmm, now that I think about it, what exactly happened again?"</p>
<p>霊夢は箸を置いて月に 至るまでの出来事を思 い返した。</p>	<p>Reimu put down her chopsticks and tried to remember the chain of events leading to their arrival on the moon.</p>
<p>まず、月に行きたがっ ていたのはレミリアで ある。始まりは竹林に 住んでいた月の民に出 会った事だった。そこ で月にある都に興味を 持ち、自分でも月に行 こうと考えたのだ。そ れから一年以上も月を 目指すロケットを作成 していたらしい。</p>	<p>The one who wanted to go the moon in the first place was Remilia. It was after they first met the people from the moon who lived in the bamboo forest. She took an interest to the city on the moon, and thought to go there herself. That's why she worked on building the rocket for over a year.</p>
<p>霊夢はそれについて特 に興味はなかった。ど うせ月の都なんて行く 事は出来っこないと 思っていたからだ。だ が、もし行けるのであ れば話は別である。や はり一目見てみたいと も思っていた。</p>	<p>Reimu wasn't nearly as interested, mostly because she didn't believe it would be possible to go at all. However, if there was some method available, that was a different story. She wanted to go see it at least once.</p>
<p>レミリアから何かと協 力を求められる事も多 かった。レミリアとい うか咲夜からだが、ロ ケットの材料となる物 を求められた。</p>	<p>Remilia had come calling often, asking for her cooperation in doing something or another, although it was Sakuya rather than Remilia. One day, she asked about something that could be used as rocket fuel.</p>
<p>「ロケットの材料って 訳の判らない物ばかり でねえ。何か<small>かめ</small>の乾い たものとか持って踊っ てたりさあ。あんなん で月に行けるとか思わ ないでしょ？ 吸血鬼 も五百年生きたって いっても頭は悪いんだ から」</p>	<p>"I don't know the first thing about rocket fuel. Something about doing a dance with while holding a dried turtle. How would that get you to you moon? That vampire's brain must have gone crazy from being alive for 500 years."</p>

<p>霊夢は調子に乗ってきた様子で二人に同意を求めた。</p>	<p>Reimu, starting to get caught up in her recollection, asked the sisters if they agreed.</p>
<p>「地上と月を行き来するには様々な方法があります。まず、空間を移動して行き来する方法。貴方達みたいな地上の人間が乗るロケットや、月の兎が使う月の羽衣がこれに当たります。」</p>	<p>"There are many ways to go between Earth and the moon. First, by travelling through space, like in the rockets you and those other Earthlings did, or the lunar veils the rabbits use."</p>
<p>依姫の言葉が求めていた返答と異なり、霊夢は言葉に窮した。</p>	<p>Reimu was disappointed at Yoriyime's answer, being different than what she expected.</p>
<p>「月の民はそれとは異なり、地上と月の間の距離を縮めて扉を開けるように移動します。三途の川を隔てたこの世とあの世の様に、常に隣り合わせなのですよ」</p>	<p>"But the people of the moon are different. We can move through a door that greatly decreases the distance between Earth and the moon. It's just as how the Sanzu River separates yet connects the world of the living to Higan."</p>
<p>「あの世.....それはそれで遠いような気もするけど。でも死ねば一発だからやっぱり近いのかな」</p>	<p>"Higan... That certainly does seem far away, but if you die, you go there in a flash so it must be close, too."</p>
<p>「月の民にとっては地上は監獄のような所。月の都の一部と考えていますから。行き来も意外と簡単なのですよ」</p>	<p>"And the people of the moon see Earth just as you see Higan, because the nobility here sees it as that. It is unexpectedly simple to go between the two places."</p>
<p>「ふーん。でもさ、私達が居る幻想郷はちっちゃいけど地上はもっと何倍も大きいんだってよ？月の都なんて幻想郷より小さい位じゃない。それを一部なんて傲慢じゃないの？」</p>	<p>"Hmm, but you know, Gensokyo is pretty tiny. Earth is much, much bigger. But it seems like this place is even smaller than Gensokyo. Just where does that arrogance come from?"</p>

<p>「大ききなんて問題の内には入りません。月の都の方が優れている、それだけで十分です。それで話を戻しますが、貴方達のロケットは空間を移動する方法と距離を縮める方法の両方を使っていたね」</p>	<p>"Size has nothing to do with it. We are simply superior, that is all. Now, returning to the subject at hand, it seems you used both methods of moving through space and contracting distance."</p>
<p>そういえば、霊夢は月までの距離が想像してたより短く感じていた事を思い出した。</p>	<p>When she said that, Reimu remembered that the distance from Earth to the moon felt shorter than she had imagined.</p>
<p>「それがどうしたっていうの？」</p>	<p>"How did that happen?"</p>
<p>「そんなロケット、地上の人間が作れるとは思いません。誰かの入れ知恵があったんじゃないかしら？」</p>	<p>"We don't think that rocket was built by Earthlings. Maybe there was someone else who lended their knowledge?"</p>
<p>——</p>	<p>——</p>
<p>——ロケットの完成には幾つかの偶然があったと霊夢は言う。</p>	<p>Reimu said that it took a few coincidences for the rocket's completion.</p>
<p>まず、暫くなりやを潜めていた吸血鬼のロケット計画が急激に動き出したこと。</p>	<p>First, someone who had been hiding their knowledge for some time helped greatly advance the progress of the vampire's rocket project.</p>
<p>幽霊である妖夢がロケットの原動力を教えてくれたこと。</p>	<p>It was the half-phantom Youmu who had told them about the rocket's driving force.</p>
<p>そして、何故か霊夢が神々の力を身に付けられるように修行していたこと。</p>	<p>And then, there was the matter of Reimu training to call upon the power of the gods for some reason.</p>
<p>これらが並列して同時期に起こったことで、吸血鬼のロケットは完成した。</p>	<p>With these happening almost simultaneously, the vampire's rocket was able to reach completion.</p>
<p>これらは全て本当に偶然だったのだろうか？</p>	<p>But was this all mere coincidence?</p>

<p>いや、偶然ではなかった事は誰の目にも明白であるだろう。全てある妖怪が裏で動いていた筈だ。</p>	<p>Of course, it wasn't. That was likely clear to everyone. It all had to have been the doings of that youkai, behind the scenes.</p>
<p>だとすると、月の都で流れた謀反の噂も、月の旗が抜かれたのも偶然ではないのだろうか。</p>	<p>This made one wonder if the rumors circulating around the Lunar Capital about someone staging a coup were also a coincidence.</p>
<p>「入れ知恵.....？ うーん、住吉三神の事を思いついたのは私だしー」</p>	<p>"Lending their knowledge...? Hmmm, but I was the one who came up with the idea of using the Sumiyoshi Sanjin."</p>
<p>「では、その住吉三神をどうやって呼び出したのですか？」</p>	<p>"So how were you able to call them?"</p>
<p>「それは、たまたま神様の力を降ろす稽古を付けていて——あれ？ なんでそんな稽古をしていたんだっけ？」</p>	<p>"Well, I just happened to be training to call upon the powers of the gods and... wait a minute, why was I training for that anyway?"</p>
<p>依姫は地上の人間の曖昧模糊とした記憶に軽い苛立ちを覚えた。</p>	<p>Yorihime was becoming slightly agitated with the Earthling's vague memory.</p>
<p>「誰かに稽古を付けて貰ったとかじゃないですか？」</p>	<p>"Weren't you training at the request of someone?"</p>
<p>「あ、ああ、そうだったわ。確かに紫が私に稽古を付けてたのよね。何故かは知らないけど」</p>	<p>"Oh, that's right. It was Yukari who told me I needed to train. I really don't know why, though."</p>
<p>「紫、八雲紫ね」豊姫は会話に参加してきた。その名前を聞いて何か納得したようだ。</p>	<p>"Yukari... Yakumo, am I right?" Toyohime joined in the conversation. It seemed she understood something upon hearing that name.</p>
<p>「知ってるの？ あの幻想郷一駄目な妖怪を」</p>	<p>"Do you know her? She's the worst youkai in Gensokyo."</p>

<p>「知ってるも何も、月の都に住んでいて知らない者はいないわ。地上にいて自由に月の都と行き来出来る厄介な妖怪ですから」</p>	<p>"Naturally. There is no one in the Lunar Capital who is not aware of her. Her ability to travel freely between Earth and the moon makes her quite a nuisance."</p>
<p>「へえ、有名なんだ。って自由に月の都と行き来出来るだって？」</p>	<p>"Wow, she's pretty famous. Wait, did you say she could freely travel between Earth and the moon?!"</p>
<p>「ええ、それで昔に妖怪を引き連れ乗り込んできた事もありました。勿論、みんなコテンパンにしましたけどね」</p>	<p>"Yes, and she used that ability to bring a throng of youkai here long ago. Of course, we sent them back much worse for the wear."</p>
<p>「いやさあ、じゃあロケットなんか作らなくても月の都に行けたんじゃない。何で紫は手伝ってくれなかったのかなあ」</p>	<p>"I don't care about that. So we didn't even have to make a rocket or anything like that to get to the moon? Why didn't she help us?"</p>
<p>豊姫は大きな甕から何やら魔法の液体を掬い、グラスについだ。それを出された霊夢は、一瞬警戒した。</p>	<p>Toyohime used a ladle to fill a glass with some variety of magical liquid from a large clay pot. Reimu momentarily increased her vigilance when she saw it.</p>
<p>「これは永遠の時間をかけて漬けたお酒です。地上では味わう事が出来ないお酒ですよ」</p>	<p>"This is a special kind of alcohol that has been fermenting for eternity, through magical means. It is not like anything you have ever tasted on Earth."</p>
<p>「毒とか入ってないよね」</p>	<p>"You didn't poison it, did you?"</p>
<p>「月では殺生は好まれないですから」そう言って、豊姫は霊夢に差し出したお酒を自分で飲み、代わりに自分のお酒を差し出した。</p>	<p>"We dislike senseless killing," Toyohime said as she drank the cup she had offered to Reimu. She offered her own cup in return.</p>
<p>それを見て霊夢は警戒しつつも、お酒を手取る。洗練され過ぎた香りは、地上で飲むと何か寂しく感じそうであった。</p>	<p>Still pensive as if doubting her eyes, Reimu took the cup. The overly refined fragrance might have felt somehow desolate if consumed on Earth.</p>

「貴方達は、紫にうまく操られていただけですよ」	"Yukari did an excellent job in pulling your strings."
依姫はそういった。	Said Yorihome.
「どういう事？」	"What's that supposed to mean?"
「判らなければ別に良いのです。貴方達に悪気がない事が判りましたので……」	"You do not have to completely understand. Just know that we bear no ill will towards whoever came aboard the rocket."
「さ、積もる話はその位にして今日は飲みましょう。明日もありますから」	"Now, that's enough talk for today. Let us enjoy the rest for drinking. We shall continue tomorrow."
丸窓の外はすっかり暗くなっていた。	Outside the circular window, it had completely darkened.
もう桃の木を視認することは出来ない。しかし、そこには見えてはいけな存在が見えていた。	It was no longer possible to view the peach trees through it. However, there were two figures who should not have been there watching.
月の都では決して存在せず、地上の人間なら多くの人が見たことのある存在。	Something that could never exist on the Lunar Capital, but had been seen by many people on Earth.
夜の神社、柳の下、かつては人が集った廃校跡、廃病院……。慣れた人なら昼間でも街中や自宅などで、そこかしこで見ることが出来るだろう。	In shrines at night, under the willow trees, or in abandoned schools and hospitals. Some people are even able to see them in the middle of the day, out in the cities, or in their own home. They can show up just about anywhere.
亡霊である。	Ghosts.

窓から覗く亡霊の姿に、綿月姉妹は気付く事が無かった。月の都には亡霊など存在しないからだろうか。	The Watatsuki sisters did not notice the figure of a ghost watching them through the window, likely because there are no such things as ghosts in the Lunar Capital.
「幽々子様。何でここに霊夢がいるのでしょうか？」	"Lady Yuyuko, why is Reimu here?"
妖夢は小声で話した。幽々子も何か考えているようだ。	Youmu spoke in a whisper. She knew Yuyuko was planning something.
窓の向こうに見える霊夢は、すっかり酔っ払い豊姫と依姫に自分の武勇伝を語っている。	Reimu, who was facing the window, told Yorihome and Toyohime of her own war stories, all thoroughly drunk.
依姫は地上の話に、興味があるようで、食い入るように聞き入っていた。自分の師匠の話が出て来ることを期待しているのかも知れない。	Yorihome was interested in the doings on Earth, and listened intently. She might have been hoping to hear about her former mentor.
「妖夢。羨ましいわね」	"I'm so jealous, Youmu."
「え？ 何の事ですか？」	"What? Whatever for?"
「うちでもあのぐらい豪勢な料理が出ればいいのに。毎日」	"How I'd love to enjoy such sumptuous feasts like that every day."
「いや、あんなには食べきれないです。それより霊夢の事です、何故この屋敷にいるのでしょうか？」	"No, I don't think even you could eat that much. But please never mind that. Why is Reimu here?"
「遊びに来たんじゃなにかしら？」	"Maybe she just came calling?"
「まあ、吸血鬼のロケットで来た事は知ってますが、一緒に乗っていた他の人たちはどうなったのかとかそういう意味でして」	"I know she came here on the vampire's rocket, but I wonder what happened to the other passengers. That is what I meant."

「私もずっと妖夢と一緒にだったのに、そんな事判る筈が無いわ」	"I have been with you the whole time, so I have no way of knowing."
「まあそうですが.....。もしかして他の人達は捕まったのでしょうか」	"I suppose you're right... Do you believe they have captured the others?"
「どうみても霊夢が捕まった様に見えるけど」	"But it seems like Reimu is the one they have captured."
「捕まったというか、接待されているようにも見えるんですけどねえ」	"In one sense of the word. However, it appears more like a reception than anything."
月の都に亡霊の姿など、誰が想像しただろう。	Did anyone ever imagine seeing a ghost in the Lunar Capital?
だが、秘密裏に行動するのにこれ程便利な組み合わせもなかった。	Regardless, as they were meant to be acting in secret, one could not ask for a more convenient form.
亡霊は元々浄土に住む者である。つまりは生死に関わる穢れが少なく、その結果そこに居たという痕跡を残さずに行動出来たのだ。	Ghosts inherently reside in a Pure Land. This meant they have not been tainted by life nor death, and as a result they were able to act without leaving behind any traces of their presence.
その事を知っている者は余りいない。かつて妖怪が月に攻め入った頃、偶然気付いた妖怪が居たくらいだ。	Very few were aware of this fact. Even when youkai invaded the moon long ago, there were only some youkai that noticed by sheer coincidence.
その穢れの少ない亡霊が、ここの屋敷に居る事も偶然なのであろうか？	But was it a coincidence that this untainted ghost was here at this mansion?
いやこれも偶然ではなかった事は誰の目にも明白だ。ある妖怪——八雲紫が導いていたのである。	No, it's clear that this was not a coincidence at all. It was all due to the guidance of that youkai, Yukari Yakumo.

無事月の都に潜入した亡霊はどういう行動を取ったのか。	What exactly was the ghost's plan now that they had safely infiltrated the moon?
それが紫の計画の総仕上げとなるのだが、はたして。	That would be the final step in Yukari's master plan.
——幻想郷の境界に存在する神社。	The shrine on the border of Gensokyo.
紅く染まった林は、彩度が失われ暗くなり、次第に白く染められている。その光景が白粉婆が白粉を塗りたくる行為に似ていたので、いつの間に雪白粉と呼ばれていた。	The trees dyed in red began to lose their color, gradually turning white. As it mimicked white powder falling on the leaves, the trees were eventually came to be called "powdered trees."
博麗神社は、長い間掃かれる事の無かった落ち葉の絨毯の上に、雪白粉でうっすらと白く化粧されていた。	At the Hakurei Shrine, the fallen leaves had formed a carpet due to the lack of upkeep, and the leaves from the powdered trees were turning this carpet white.
住んでいる者が居なくなるだけで建物は一気に寂れるものである。こうして廃墟は自然に帰っていくのだろう。	With its lone tenant absent, the whole building felt desolate. It seemed as the ruins of an old building reclaimed by nature.
そんな風化を拒むのか、落ち葉を踏み、僅かに乗っていただけの白粉を蹴散らす者が居た。	As if refusing the weathering state of the shrine, a girl showed up, walking across the leaves, kicking up the newly-fallen white-speckled ones.
「今日も来てないみたいだな」	"Guess she ain't here today either."
その者は冷たくなった賽銭箱の上に腰掛けた。	She sat down on the cold offertory box.
「何で月の都の奴らは霊夢だけ地上に帰さなかったのか。今頃拷問でも受けてるのかも知れん」	"Why didn't those Lunarians let Reimu come back with us, huh? Are they still givin' her the third degree or somethin'?"

<p>暫く誰も居ない境内を眺めていたが、流石に退屈だと思ったのかその者は神社を後にした。</p>	<p>Watching for a while to see if anyone else would come, she grew bored of waiting as she expected and left the shrine.</p>
<p>黒い魔法使いの次は悪魔のメイド、風为天狗と、持ち回りで神社の留守を預かったかの様に誰かがやってくるが、肝心な主は戻ってこない。</p>	<p>The black magician, then the devil's maid, then the wind-wielding tengu, the shrine had many visitors who came to see if the shrine was still empty in turns, but the shrine's occupant did not return.</p>
<p>神社が留守の間に月に向かった吸血鬼達の興味は、既に別の方向を向いていた。月で見た海が忘れられず幻想郷にも海を作ると言い出したのだ。</p>	<p>While the shrine was silent, the vampire's interest changed from the moon to some other subject. She was unable to forget about the sea that she saw while on the moon, so she said she wanted to make one in Gensokyo.</p>
<p>海とは塩化ナトリウムなどの塩分が溶け込んだ膨大な量の水を湛えた、言わば大きな湖である。地表の七割を覆う海水。そんな物をどうやって作るというのだろうか。幻想郷で岩塩が見つかった形跡はない。そんなに大量の塩なんていくら人間の血液を集めたって.....いや、そんな塩分の問題ではないな。</p>	<p>Making a sea required dissolving sodium into a massive body of water, like a large lake. The surface of the Earth is covered in 70% saltwater. How would it be possible to create such a thing? There was no source of rock salt to be found in Gensokyo. However, it would be possible to collect the salts found in the blood of humans... But salt wasn't the problem.</p>
<p>幻想郷で再現したい海は地球を形成した海でも、生物の母である海でもない。一人の妖怪の目に見えた青い景色。魚もバクテリアも何も棲んでいない静かな海なのだ。海水である必要すら無い。</p>	<p>Even if the Earth would return a sea to Gensokyo, it would not be a host to living things. It would be just like the blue expanse a certain youkai saw not too long ago. It would be a sea without fish or bacteria or anything. There was no need for seawater.</p>
<p>「そこの本をどかしてもう少し広くできない？」</p>	<p>"Can we not widen it a little if you just move those books over there?"</p>

レミリア・スカーレットは自分の屋敷の地下に在る図書館に海を作り出そうとしていた。	Remilia Scarlet was in the library under her mansion making her own personal sea.
「もう、本を積む場所無いわ」図書館の主、パチュリー・ノーレッジは呆れた様子でそう言った。	"There is nowhere else to move them, you know," said the exasperated librarian Patchouli Knowledge.
「使っていない部屋に移動させておいてよ」	"So we shall move them to an unused room in the mansion."
「えー。また分類し直さないといけないじゃん」	"What? But then I will have to sort them all over again."
図書館の本は片付けられ、床には大量の砂が運び入れられていた。	Many of the books in the library had been moved to make room for the massive pile of sand that now covered the floor.
海といってもなんて事は無い。ただの室内プールである。これを期間限定で作り出そうというのだ。	This could not truly be called a sea; merely an indoor pool. It would not be a permanent fixture either.
冬だというのに、何故水遊びをするスペースを作ろうとしているのだろうか。	Why was she creating a space to play in the water in the middle of winter?
それは、吸血鬼なりのお礼のつもりらしい。彼女の希望通り月まで行く事が出来たのは、巫女の力のお陰である。本人が戻ってくるまでに海を作り、月から戻ってきたら誘おうと思っているのだ。	It seemed to be how the vampire was planning on expressing her thanks. Her desire to visit the moon was fulfilled thanks to the shrine maiden's power. She thought to build the sea until the shrine maiden returned to Earth, and then invite her to enjoy it.
幻想郷にはない海。それを用意する事で人間は喜んでくれる、そう考えたのだ。	A sea in a Gensokyo where there had been none. She imagined any human would be pleased by this development.

<p>彼女が巫女が戻ってきた事を聞いたのは、それから数日後の事だった。</p>	<p>It wouldn't be until several days later that she received word that the shrine maiden had returned.</p>
<p>「——海に行く格好ってこんなのかな」</p>	<p>"I guess this kind of outfit is okay for a day at the sea, right?"</p>
<p>約一ヶ月ぶりに月から生還した博麗霊夢は、吸血鬼から誘われて海に向かう準備をしていた。</p>	<p>Reimu Hakurei, returning home after being held for nearly a month on the moon, was preparing for a trip to the beach at the vampire's invitation.</p>
<p>「海だって紅魔館の地下だぜ？ ただの水遊びだと思うが」</p>	<p>"But the sea is under the Scarlet Devil Mansion, ain't it? Seems more like splashin' around at the hot springs to me."</p>
<p>霊夢の問いかけに魔理沙は答える。いつものやりとりだ。誰頭人はいても主だけが居なかった神社は、すっかり廃墟のようになっていたが、主が戻ってきただけですぐに日常を取り戻した。やはり神社には彼女が必要なのだ。</p>	<p>Marisa answered Reimu's question, the usual exchange. The shrine which had many visitors but no residents had appeared to have completely fallen into ruin, but once the resident returned, it immediately returned back to normal. She was vital to the shrine, after all.</p>
<p>「そもそもこんな寒いのに水遊びってねえ。あーあ、月の都は暖かったなあ。まさかこんなに神社が冷えるなんて……」</p>	<p>"So why are we splashing around in this chill anyway? Ahhhh, it was so warm back on the Lunar Capital. I didn't expect the shrine to get this cold..."</p>
<p>「人が住んでいないと建物は一気に冷えるらしいな。何だろう、何か人間が建物を暖める力を持っているのか」</p>	<p>"Buildin's with no one in 'em are the coldest. That's 'cause people give buildin's their warmth."</p>

<p>「ふん。誰も居ない建物には幽霊が住み着くから冷えるのよ。あーあ、掃除もしないといけないし、すぐに正月の準備もしないと」と言いながらも霊夢は水遊びの準備を続ける。何だかんだ言ってまだ体が日常に馴染んでいないようだ。</p>	<p>"Hmph. Buildings with no one in them are only cold because of the phantoms that have moved in. Ahhhh, and I didn't even have to do any sort of cleaning nor make preparations for the full moon ceremonies back there..." She complained as she continued to prepare for the sea. It appeared her body had yet to accustom itself to the weather.</p>
<p>「ところであいつら、月旅行を実現できた癖に海は作るんだな。地上の海の在る所まで何とか行く方法を考えたりにしないのかねえ」</p>	<p>"I still can't believe they made a sea despite that whole fiasco on the moon. Why don't they think up o' some way to go to a sea here on Earth?"</p>
<p>「それはねえ、海は、月より遠いから」</p>	<p>"Well, that's because that would be even further than the moon."</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p>海は月より遠い。そんな事あるのだろうか。</p>	<p>The seas are further than the moon. That just may be true.</p>
<p>地上に住む我々は、種子島宇宙センターだってケネディ宇宙センターだって海の上に浮かぶようにあるぞ、と突っ込んでいる所だろう。</p>	<p>It might be appropriate to make a retort about how the Tanegashima and Kennedy Space Centers float on the sea.</p>
<p>だが地上の幻想郷には海はない。月まで行っても幻想郷の結界を越えようとしなかった妖怪に、自ら外に行こうなど考えつく筈もない。海が存在しないとされているのなら作るしかない。幻想郷の妖怪達はそう考えるのだ。</p>	<p>But within the confines of Gensokyo, there were none. For those who had went to the moon yet did not cross the boundaries of Gensokyo, the thought to go outside the boundaries should never have occurred to them. Where there was no sea, all they could do was make one. That's what they believed.</p>
<p>しかし流石に海を作るのに図書館は小さすぎた。</p>	<p>However, the library naturally proved to be too small for the construction of a sea.</p>

<p>地下の図書館は水浸しで、申し訳程度に置かれたシダ植物、カラフルなパラソル。真夏の太陽をイメージしたというのなら記憶力が足りなすぎるランプの灯り。そもそも、吸血鬼に太陽に似たものを作らせるのは無理があったが、それにしても暗くて寒い。</p>	<p>The underground library had been submerged, and they took that excuse to further furnish it with palm trees and colorful parasols. A lamp had been placed to imitate the midsummer sun, but the memory of it was too vague to recreate convincingly. It would have been impossible in the first place for a vampire to willingly make anything resembling the sun, but at any rate, it was dim and cold.</p>
<p>吸血鬼はパラソルの下で日光浴をしているフリをしている。お友達の魔女はいつも通り本を読んでいた。</p>	<p>The vampire pretended to sunbathe underneath the parasols. Her witch friend read books as always.</p>
<p>「だから、今は冬だというのに水遊びはおかしいって！」</p>	<p>"Like I said, it's not right to be playing in the water in the middle of winter!"</p>
<p>霊夢が海から上がってきた。非常に寒そうである。どうやら水の温度は余り人に優しくないようだ。</p>	<p>Reimu came out of the sea. It seemed particularly cold, not hospitable to the human body.</p>
<p>「——お嬢様。何か来客の様ですが」</p>	<p>"Milady, it appears you have a visitor."</p>
<p>レミリアの近くにいたメイドがそういった。</p>	<p>The maid at Remilia's side informed her.</p>
<p>レミリアは面倒くさそうに首を振って「無視して良いよ」と言ったその時だった。空間が切れ、冷えた冬の海に生温かい風が吹き込んできたのは！</p>	<p>Remilia cocked her head and said "Just ignore them," in a tiresome manner. But at that moment, the air was cut by a lukewarm wind that blew across the chilled, winter sea!</p>
<p>——人工的な砂浜の上に上品なシートが敷かれた。派手なパラソルと水着姿だけが浮いていた。</p>	<p>An elegant sheet was spread out upon the artificial beach. A figure clad in a bathing suit and a showy parasol sat upon it.</p>

空間の隙間から現われたのは幻想郷の妖怪、八雲紫とお酒だった。	Appearing out of a gap in thin air was the youkai Yukari Yakumo, bearing alcohol.
紫の用件は宴会のお誘いだった。この妖怪から宴会の誘いがある時は、まず何かを企んでいると思って間違いない。	Yukari had visited to extend an invitation to a party. If one were to receive such an invitation from her, it is only natural to wonder what ulterior motives she may have.
しかし、いつもながらの強引な登場の仕方に有無を言わずに宴会が始まることになった。	However, upon her forceful appearance, she started her party before anyone could say a word in protest.
八雲紫は、自分の式神である藍と、友人である西行寺幽々子、その従者の魂魄妖夢を連れてきた。地下の砂浜は突如として大宴会の場となった。	Yukari Yakumo had brought her shikigami Ran and her friend Yuyuko Saigyouji, along with her servant Youmu Kompaku. The beach in the basement had suddenly become the scene of a big party.
「へえー。変わったお酒だねえ」レミリアが純粋に驚いている。	"Wow, this is an unusual variety of sake." Remilia was genuinely surprised.
それを聞いて紫は「失礼ね。毒は入っていないわよ」と、とんちんかんな返答をしたが、霊夢と魔理沙は毒が入っているのか疑い、メイドが呑んだのを確認してから口を付ける事にした。	Upon hearing this, Yukari replied, "How rude. It is not poisoned, I'll have you know." While nonsensical, Reimu and Marisa actually were suspicious of whether or not it was poisoned, but once the maid partook of the alcohol, they followed suit.
「あれ？ この味は何処かで……」霊夢は少し引かかる所があったが、それが何なのか思い出せない。何故か幽々子が霊夢を見ている。	"Huh? Where have I tasted this before...?" Reimu seemed to be unable to remember, and for some reason, Yuyuko saw Reimu in her puzzled state.

<p>「何か純粋なお酒だな。材料が全く想像つかないというか.....こんなもん何処で作っているんだ？」魔理沙が質問する。紫は再び「毒は入っていないわ」と答えた。</p>	<p>Marisa asked, "This sure is some pure sake. I dunno how they made it, but... where would they make somethin' like this?" Yukari reiterated in response, "It's not poisoned."</p>
<p>実は紫が持ってきたお酒に秘密がある。そのお酒は月の都で作られたお酒だったのだ。</p>	<p>Actually, there was a secret behind the sake Yukari had brought. It was sake made in the Lunar Capital.</p>
<p>亡霊には生死が無い。その事が、穢れの無い月の都と相性が良かった。幽々子は月の都にひと月ほど滞在し、誰にも怪しまれる事無く行動していたのだ。</p>	<p>Ghosts had nothing to do with life nor death. Because of that, they fit in perfectly with the pure nature of the Lunar Capital. During her month-long stay on the moon, Yuyuko's presence there did not raise any suspicions in the least.</p>
<p>そして堂々とお酒を盗み出すと、次の満月の時に紫に再び月面と地上の通路を開けて貰い、地上に降りてきたのだ。</p>	<p>This allowed her to brazenly steal the sake, and once the next full moon occurred, Yukari was able to open the way back to Earth.</p>
<p>幽々子がお酒を盗み出した理由はただ一つ。</p>	<p>Yuyuko had simply one reason for her theft.</p>
<p>月の民に喧嘩を売らずに、一度は惨敗した綿月姉妹に復讐をする為であった。</p>	<p>It was to obtain revenge on the crushing defeat the Watatsuki sisters levied on them so long ago without involving the rest of the Lunarians.</p>
<p>千年以上も昔に月に攻め入って惨敗したのは紫なのだが、紫はそれ以降目を付けられていて目立ちすぎてしまう。</p>	<p>While it was Yukari who led the invasion that had utterly failed more than one thousand years ago, Yukari knew that if she were to attack directly again, it would draw far too much attention.</p>

<p>だから、吸血鬼の襲撃を囮と見せかけて、更に紫自らが囮となる二十囮作戦に出たのだ。紫さえ地上に封じてしまえば、月と地上を行き来出来る力を持つ者は居ない。これ以上に綿月姉妹を油断させる方法は無いだろう。</p>	<p>So she devised a strategy to use the vampire's attack and even herself as decoys. If Yukari was confined to Earth, then there wouldn't be anyone else with the ability to travel between Earth and the moon. That would be the only way to have the Watatsuki sisters lower their guard.</p>
<p>しかしながらお酒を盗む事、それが、紫が考えた第二次月面戦争の正体なのだろうか？</p>	<p>But was the sake heist the true intent of Yukari's Second Lunar Invasion?</p>
<p>「月面に攻め入った時の話でも聞こうかと」</p>	<p>"Tell me of what happened on the lunar surface during your assault."</p>
<p>紫はそう吸血鬼に言う。</p>	<p>Yukari told the vampire.</p>
<p>「そんな昔の事、忘れたねえ。あんたは千年も昔の事を根に持っているようだけど、私は未来に生きるからね」</p>	<p>"That was so long ago, I have already forgotten. You may harbor thousand-year-old grudges, but I live for the future."</p>
<p>「あら、私が根に持っている？ そんな事、誰が言ったのかしら」紫はにやりと笑う。</p>	<p>"Oh my, harboring grudges? Who mentioned anything like that?" Yukari said with a sly grin.</p>
<p>「あれ？ 半年前に今年の冬に攻め入るとか言ってなかったっけ？」</p>	<p>"Hm? Didn't you say something about invading the moon this winter six months ago?"</p>
<p>「そんな昔の事、忘れました」</p>	<p>"That was so long ago, I have already forgotten."</p>
<p>レミリアはクスリと笑うと、月へ行った時の事を話し始めた。</p>	<p>Remilia gave a slight laugh and began to recount the time of her trip to the moon.</p>

<p>ロケットの仕組みは殆ど理解不能な説明であったが、空中での武勇伝や月の海の色、綿月依姫との闘いに敗れた事を面白おかしく話した。</p>	<p>Despite her nearly incomprehensible explanation of the rocket's construction, her tales of the journey within it, the color of the sea and the defeat at the hands of Watatsuki no Yorihome were amusing.</p>
<p>驚く事にレミリアは負けた事に対して特に悔しいとも思っていないようだ。最初から勝てると思っていたいなかったのかも知れない。何せ、紫が妖怪を総動員しても全く勝ち目がなかった事を知っていたのだから。</p>	<p>The surprising thing is that it appeared Remilia felt no particular frustration about losing. She may not have thought she would emerge victorious in the first place, as she knew the combined efforts of Yukari and the other youkai stood no chance either.</p>
<p>それなのに何故ロケットまで造って月に向かったのだろうか。</p>	<p>So why build a rocket and go to the moon at all?</p>
<p>紫が月に行って戦ったのはレミリアが生まれるずっと昔である。レミリアはその事が羨ましかったのかも知れない。</p>	<p>Yukari's skirmish on the moon was ages before Remilia was born. Perhaps she was jealous.</p>
<p>勿論、永遠亭の面子に出会った事も大きな要因だろう。そこで現実に存在する月の都の話を知る事となった。</p>	<p>Of course, their encounter with the group at Eientei was likely a major cause. That is when she first learned of the existence of the Lunar Capital.</p>
<p>レミリアにとっての夢のフロンティア、それが月の都だったのだ。</p>	<p>To Remilia, that was frontier of her dreams.</p>
<p>「そうそう、今日は他にも誘ってある人が居るのよ」</p>	<p>"Oh, yes. I have invited other guests today."</p>
<p>紫がその言葉を放つと同時に、海と化した図書館に妖精メイドが入ってきた。その場にいたみんなに僅かに緊張が走った。</p>	<p>At the same time the words left Yukari's mouth, a fairy maid entered the library-turned-sea. Everyone became slightly nervous.</p>

<p>「何やら宴会に呼ばれて来たという方が来ますが……」</p>	<p>"It appears those you spoke of have arrived to the party..."</p>
<p>レミリアが頷くと、まもなくして二人が入ってきた。紅魔館には珍しい月の民の二人、八意永琳と蓬萊山輝夜だった。</p>	<p>Remilia nodded towards the entrance, where two figures had appeared. These rather unusual visitors to the mansion were Eirin Yagokoro and Kaguya Houraisan.</p>
<p>「え？ 宴会って聞いて来たのに、温水プール……？」</p>	<p>"What? We heard there was going to be a party, but a heated pool...?"</p>
<p>「海よ」とレミリアが答えたと同時に霊夢が「冷水プール」と言った。</p>	<p>"It's a sea," said Remilia. "It's a freezing pool," said Reimu, both at the same time.</p>
<p>薄暗い地下にある砂浜、水、派手なパラソルにシダ植物、そして一部は水着姿で呑んでいる人間と妖怪。この光景に戸惑わない者など居ないだろう。</p>	<p>In the dimly-lit underground was a beach, water, colorful parasols, palm trees and a mixture of human and youkai, some in bathing suits. This scene would likely perplex anyone.</p>
<p>紫は行儀良く、「お待ちしております」と頭を下げると、永琳は瞬時に理解し豪華なシートの上に正座した。</p>	<p>Yukari properly greeted them. "Terribly sorry to keep you waiting," she said as she bowed. Eirin instantly understood the situation and kneeled in seiza on the elegant sheet.</p>
<p>永琳には全て判っているつもりだった。</p>	<p>Eirin had a complete understanding of what had happened.</p>
<p>ある妖怪は月の都に不穏な噂を流す為に巫女を利用した。</p>	<p>A certain youkai had used the shrine maiden to cause unrest through the rumors in the Lunar Capital.</p>

<p>巫女はその妖怪に言われるがまま神様を呼び出し使役した。それが許されるのは月の都にいる綿月依姫だけであつた。それによつて綿月姉妹は疑われ、その師匠である永琳も疑われた。これもその妖怪が仕組んだ事だ。</p>	<p>The shrine maiden did her part by summoning the gods as this youkai had instructed. The only one who had permission to do this was Watatsuki no Yorihime. This made her a suspect as well as her mentor, Eirin Yagokoro. This, too, was plotted by the youkai.</p>
<p>巫女が呼び出した住吉三神の力で、三段ロケットが完成するなど誰が想像できたろうか。</p>	<p>Someone would get the idea to use the power of the Sumiyoshi Sanjin summoned by the shrine maiden to complete the three-stage rocket.</p>
<p>確かに住吉三神は航海の神様で筒である。まさにアメリカが最初に月まで到達したロケット、サターンVの神様であつた。</p>	<p>Of course the Sumiyoshi Sanjin, the gods of voyage, would be housed in a tube<sup>[1]</sup>. Surely, it was the same god of Saturn V, the first American rocket to reach the moon.</p>
<p>永琳が初め吸血鬼のロケットを見たとき、外の世界のロケットの本を見て吸血鬼が住吉三神に気付く訳が無いと思つていた。</p>	<p>The moment Eirin saw the vampire's rocket, she knew that it was built based on a book about rockets from the outside world, but there was no way they were aware of the Sumiyoshi Sanjin's importance.</p>
<p>そんな事に気付ける者は、外の世界にも幻想郷にも月の都にも明るい者である必要がある。その時点で誰が裏から操っているのか永琳には明白であつた。</p>	<p>The only one who would have recognized that need would be someone well-versed in Gensokyo, the outside world and the Lunar Capital. At that moment, it was obvious to Eirin that someone was controlling these events from the shadows.</p>
<p>巫女に神様を扱えるように稽古した人物がその人物像と一致した為、永琳は確信していた。黒幕は八雲紫であると。</p>	<p>She was convinced that whomever it was also had the shrine maiden train to summon the gods. So it could only have been Yukari Yakumo.</p>

<p>たまたま月から兎が逃げてきたのでその兎を利用し、綿月姉妹に手紙を送った。もしその月の兎が居なければ、再び月を偽者と入れ替え、主犯だけを月に到達させないつもりでいた。ただ、それはまた幻想郷に不安をもたらす危険な方法ではあったが……。</p>	<p>By using a rabbit that had unexpectedly escaped from the moon, she was able to send a letter to the Watatsuki sisters. If it weren't for that rabbit, she had planned to once again replace the moon with a fake so that only the main perpetrator would not reach the moon. However, that would once again cause unrest throughout Gensokyo so it was a dangerous method...</p>
<p>だが永琳にも不安要素があった。その黒幕の目的がいまいち不明だったのである。そこまで手の込んだ手法で月に潜入したとしても恐らく何も出来ないであろう。それだけに不気味であった。</p>	<p>But Eirin was also uneasy. The one pulling the strings had a vague objective. Even if she felt she had to create a fake moon as a last resort, it was entirely possible nothing would have happened. That alone was ominous enough.</p>
<p>そしてその黒幕が目の前に居る。紫は永琳を酒の席に呼ぶという挑発をしてきたのだ。</p>	<p>And now she was face-to-face with the mastermind. Yukari was provoking Eirin through an invitation to drink.</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>
<p>「今日はどういう風の吹き回しかしら？」</p>	<p>"And what strange turn of events led to this?"</p>
<p>永琳は辺りを眺めた。一ヶ月前までここは幻想郷のケープカナベラルであったが、今は差し詰め図書館の伊豆と言ったところか。</p>	<p>Eirin gazed at her surroundings. Given the rocket launch not too long ago and the beach that now occupied most of the library, it could be said this was Gensokyo's very own Cape Canaveral.</p>
<p>「普段の労をねぎらいお酒でも、と思ひまして」紫は不気味にお酒を差し出す。</p>	<p>"We just thought it necessary to soothe the pain of labor with some sake," Yukari said ominously as she handed some to Eirin.</p>

永琳の頭の回転は速い。だが回転の速さは時として弱点ともなる。永琳は理解できない物に対してわざとらしい余裕を見せてしまう。動揺を見せたくないのだ。	Eirin's mind moved quickly, but this speed proved to have its weaknesses. Whenever confronted with anything she could not understand, she would pretend to purposefully act composed. It was to prevent revealing she was unsteady.
しかし賢い者が考えのない余裕を見せた時、その時が一番の弱点である。それは賢い者ならみんな知っている事だ。	However, the biggest weakness of wise beings are when they act composed without intending to do so. All wise beings know this.
「あら、有難う」と言ってお酒を受け取った。	"Oh, why, thank you," Eirin said as she took the sake.
「失礼ね。毒なんて入ってないわ」これはどうやら紫のギャグらしい。	"How rude. It is not poisoned." This seemed to be a running gag to Yukari.
「？ 多少の毒は薬ですわ」	"Hm? But small amounts of poison can be medicine."
そういって、永琳はお酒を呑んだ。	Eirin said as she drank the sake.
そして彼女は固まった。	And the moment it passed through her lips, she froze.
隣では酔っ払った霊夢と輝夜が何やら話している。	Beside her, Kaguya and a drunken Reimu were talking about something.
「月の都って、思ったより原始的ね。建物の構造とか着ている物とかさあ」	"But'cha know, za Loonar Capital washalot moor prim'tive dan I tought. Like za closhes, za buildin's and shtuff..."
輝夜は笑った。	Kaguya laughed.
「そう思うでしょう？ だから地上の人間はいつまでも下賤なのよ」	"Of course you would. That's why you Earthlings will remain forever inferior."
「どういうこと？」	"Whazzat s'posed ta meen?"

「気温は一定で腐ることのない木の家に住み、自然に恵まれ、一定の仕事をして静かに将棋を指す……、遠い未来、もし人間の技術が進歩したらそういう生活を望むんじゃない？」	"Living in houses built out of wood that will never weather away, blessed by nature, quietly playing shogi after finishing our standardized tasks... Is that not the lifestyle humans desire once their technology becomes sufficiently advanced in the far future?"
霊夢はお酒を呑む。	Reimu took another drink.
「もっと豪華で派手な暮らしを望むと思う」	"Ah tink we'd like a moor fancee laifstaile."
「その考えは人間が死ぬうちだけね。これから寿命は確実に延びるわ。その時はどう考えるのでしょうか？」	"The only humans who desire that are those who are dead. But it is certain that the lifespan of humans will continue to lengthen. What do you think about that?"
「寿命を減らす技術が発達するんじゃない？心が腐っても生き続ける事の無いように」	"Invent sumthin' to shorten za lifespan, duh. 'T'znot laik you kin keep on livin' after yer brain's rotted away."
その答えに輝夜は驚き、生死が日常の幻想郷は、穢れ無き月の都とは違う事を実感した。	This answer surprised Kaguya. She truly felt the difference between the pure Lunar Capital and Gensokyo where life and death was a part of their everyday life.
魔理沙はレミリアと話していた。	Marisa was talking to Remilia.
「いやあ、もう月に行くのは懲り懲りだぜ」	"Man, I've had more than enough of all this moon business."
「なんで？」レミリアは首を傾げた。	"Why?" asked Remilia, cocking her head.
「だってさあ、帰って来られたから良いけど、あのロケット、片道ロケットじゃないか。あんなただのミサイルだぜ？」	"Well, I'm glad we got back and all, but that rocket was just a one-way deal, y'know? So wasn't it just a missile?"

<p>「あれは、住吉三神を使ったからだめだったんだよね。行く間に二神切り離しちゃってさ。六神くらい居なきゃ帰り分の神様が足りなかった」レミリアが人差し指を上に向けてくるくる回した。どうやら六段分のロケットを表現したらしい。</p>	<p>"That was because we used the Sumiyoshi Sanjin. On the way there, we lost two parts of it. Since there aren't any six-part gods, we did not have enough to both go to and return from the moon." Remilia waved her finger in the air as if drawing a spiral. It seems it was supposed to represent a six-stage rocket.</p>
<p>「お前は妖怪だから良いけどさ、こっちは生身の人間だぜ？もっと計算してから飛ばしてくれよな大体、お前くらい頑丈なら、大きなミサイルに縛り付けて飛ばせば辿り着いたんじゃないのか？」</p>	<p>"You might have been fine, bein' a vampire, but what about flesh-and-blood humans like me? If yer that tough, ya should've done the math so that you'd pull the rocket the moon."</p>
<p>「ふん。あの程度ならロケットも何も無くても飛んでいけば辿り着きそうだったね」レミリアは両手を広げて天井を見た。</p>	<p>"Hmph. If it came to that, I would just fly to the moon myself." Remilia spread her arms out and looked toward the ceiling.</p>
<p>「その前にお前さんなら日光に当たって死ぬぜ」</p>	<p>"Better do somethin' about that whole "weak to sunlight" thing then."</p>
<p>魔理沙は笑ってお酒を呑んだ。正直、月旅行はもう懲り懲りだと思った。</p>	<p>Marisa laughed as she took another drink. She honestly thought that even Remilia was fed up with the moon.</p>
<p>——永琳は再びお酒を呑んだ。</p>	<p>Eirin took another drink.</p>
<p>間違いない。このお酒はただの労をねぎらう為に用意されたお酒ではない。くだを巻いたサラリーマンが、誰も理解できない言葉を吐きながら呑む安い焼酎なんかではない。</p>	<p>There was no doubt about it. Whatever labor they went through to get this sake, it was no ordinary venture. This was not some cheap swill that businessmen would drink after hours, incomprehensible babble spilling from their mouths.</p>

月の都で千年以上もかけて熟成した超超古酒である。そう、永琳が月の都に居た頃から寝かせていたお酒なのだ。	It was an exceedingly ancient sake that had been aging for over a thousand years in the Lunar Capital. Yes, it was likely sleeping even at the time when Eirin fled for Earth.
「こ、このお酒は……？」永琳は明らかに動揺した。考えのない余裕を見せた瞬間、つまり弱点を狙われてしまったからだ。	"Wh-What is this...?" Eirin was clearly shaken. She had shown composure without intending, meaning it was the moment Yukari had been waiting for to strike.
永琳がこのお酒の味を忘れる事はない。穢れの多い地上では味が変わってしまい作り出せない純粹さ、そして何年も寝かせたであろう奥深さ。	Eirin could never forget the taste of that sake. The purity that was impossible to obtain on the impure Earth, and the deep flavor that came from its millenium-long slumber.
「貴方も故郷を離れて千何百年か。そろそろ望郷の念に駆られる頃だろうと思ひまして、月の都をイメージしたお酒の席を用意しました」	"It must have been centuries since you left your hometown. I thought you were becoming distraught with homesickness, so I had some sake from the Lunar Capital prepared for you."
紫はにやりと笑った。	Yukari grinned.
その笑顔は永琳の心の奥深くに刻まれ、忘れる事の出来ない不気味さをもたらした。死ぬ事のない者へ与える、生きる事を意味する悩み。正体の判らない者への恐怖。	That ominous smile left a deep scar in her mind, something she would never be able to forget. To make those who cannot die question the meaning of living. To make them fear the unknown, what they cannot understand.
それが八雲紫の考えた第二次月面戦争の正体だった。	That was the true intention behind Yukari's Second Lunar Invasion.

## Notes

1. [Jump up](#) ↑ 筒 (*tube*) is in each of the three gods' names: *Sokotsutsu no O no Mikoto* (底筒男命), *Nakatsutsu no O no Mikoto* (中筒男命), and *Uwatsutsu no O no Mikoto* (表筒男命). Naturally, they would be embodied in a (vaguely) tube-shaped rocket.



# Cage in Lunatic Runagate/Afterword

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あとがき	Afterword
どうも、ZUNです。この本を手にとって頂き有難うございます。	Hello, I'm ZUN. Thank you for reading this book.
久しぶりの小説です。普段脇役に終わってしまう様なキャラ達が主役となり、オムニバス形式で独自の視点で幻想郷と自分の内面と表現した物になっています。	It's my first novel in a while. By taking the various supporting characters and making them the focus of each chapter, I made this book to be a compilation of their own personalities and viewpoints.
この小説単体では儚月抄のストーリーは判りませんが、キャラクターの深みが少しでも出るようになればと思って書きました。	While it isn't possible to understand the whole story through this novel alone, I wrote it with the hopes to deepen the characters a little bit more.
幻想郷は森羅万象が独自の解釈から成り立つ世界となっています。時にそれが常人の理解を阻害する事もありますが、不思議な感覚を持ったキャラ達の一人称で書かれた小説ですので、一種の幻想小説として楽しんで頂ければこの本の存在意義はあるのでしょうか。	Gensokyo is a world isolated from the rest of our own world. This fact is occasionally a hindrance to the understanding of most people, but as this book is written in the first-person view of characters with extraordinary senses, this book was meant to be enjoyed as a fantasy novel.
それにしても現実に月面に水が見つかったりして、まだまだ灰色の月にもロマンが詰まっているようです。事実は小説より奇なりと言うのも、現実有ってこそその空想ですので当然かも知れませんね。	But nevertheless, either if the moon were actually covered in water or remained as its normal, gray self, it is filled with an almost romantic longing. They say that truth is stranger than fiction, so it may be a matter of course that we would be convinced of the existence of whatever we imagine.
普段の何気ない生活も些細な事象にロマンを感じながら過ごせば、幻想郷のキャラ達の言っている事が心地よく感じられるようになるかと思えます。	Even routines can be romantic in their fine details. This is the feeling I get from what the inhabitants of Gensokyo say.
さて、ロマンを感じながら生きるという事は難しいのでしょうか？	Now, is it really so hard to have these romantic feelings in life?

<p>月面の平原を海と呼んだ人間はさうとうロマンチックだったのでしょう。月の裏側には都があり、常に地上から見えないように姿を隠したという。謎に特別な名前を与えたりストーリーを付加させたりするなんて、やはりロマンチストの仕事です。</p>	<p>Perhaps whoever called the plains on the moon "seas" was a romanticist. Now, let's say there was a city on the far side of the moon, constantly hidden from the sight of Earthlings. Giving a special name and backstory to this enigma would also naturally be the work of a romanticist.</p>
<p>では、実際に月の都を目指したり、ロケットを完成させたりする幻想郷の住人はロマンチストなのでしょうか？</p>	<p>Now, what about the residents of Gensokyo who built a rocket to travel to the Lunar Capital?</p>
<p>幻想郷ではそれが技術の最先端であり、事実、歴史や自然摂理に反していないのですから、殆どの人間、妖怪はロマンを感じてはいない筈です。幻想郷の出来事にロマンを感じるのは、あくまでも外の人間だけなのかも知れません。</p>	<p>That was the cutting edge of their technology, but as it was not opposing any kind of reality, history or natural providence, very few humans or youkai if any felt some kind of romanticism in the process. The only ones who would feel that way about the happenings in Gensokyo are likely humans from the outside world.</p>
<p>逆に、幻想郷では外の世界にロマンを感じています。毎日毎日、仕事や勉強、その合間に次々と送られてくる情報、家を出なくても出来る買い物等々……。幻想郷から見ればロマン溢れる日常かも知れません。</p>	<p>But on the other hand, Gensokyo sees the outside world in a romantic light. Working or studying day after day while sharing information or shopping without leaving the house in between... That kind of lifestyle might be overflowing with romanticism to the inhabitants of Gensokyo.</p>
<p>日常にロマンを感じる一番簡単な方法は、幻想の世界に生きる事でしょうか。意外と容易い気がしますね。日常から幻想小説を楽しんでいる方には。</p>	<p>The easiest way to feel romance in your everyday life is to live in a fantasy world. And that is surprisingly easy to do. Just read a fantasy novel.</p>
<p>Z U N</p>	<p>ZUN</p>