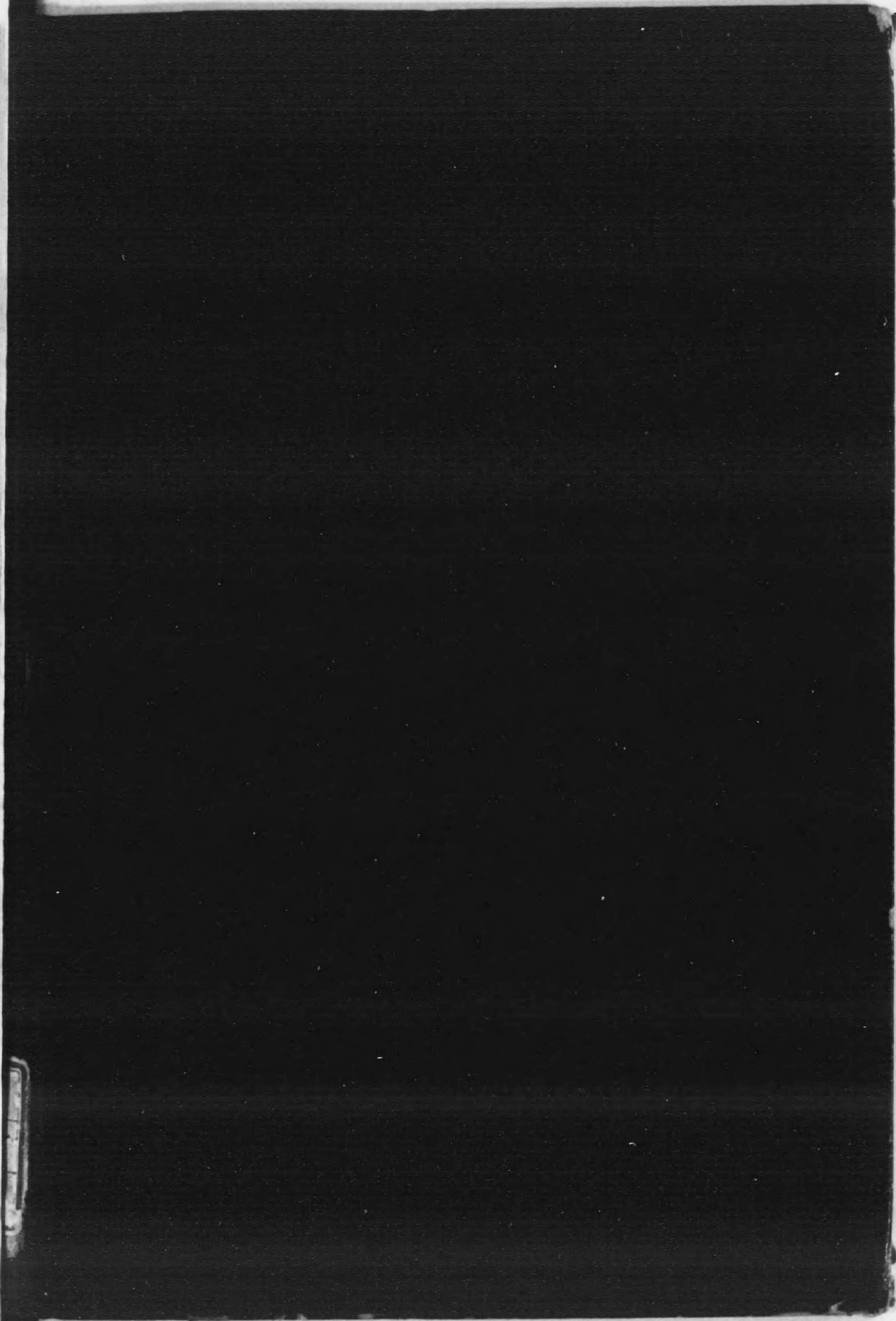




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JOSEPH CONRAD

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(19)

WORLD'S CLASSICS IN ENGLISH

SELECTIONS

FROM

JOSEPH CONRAD

WITH TRANSLATION AND NOTES

BY

G. OKKOTSU



1928

## 緒 言

Joseph Conrad (Teodor Joseph Konrad Korzenowski) は 1857 に生れた。父は波蘭の志士であつたが、1862 の革命運動に關係したため、露國の官憲に捕へられ、Vologda へ流された。當時五歳の Joseph は母と共に、父に従つたが、母はその翌年流謫地で客死し、後 Joseph が十二歳の時に父も死んだ。

然し幸ひ、Joseph は波蘭なる叔父の許にひきとられ、充分な教育をうける事が出来た。所が不思議にもこの山國育ちの Joseph は、小さい時から海へとつよく心を惹かれてをつたので、1874 叔父の同意を得、學問をすて、佛蘭西の馬耳塞<sup>マルセイユ</sup>に赴き、帆船の乗組員になつた。1878 彼は英國に渡つた。そして東海岸にて海員の生活を營みつゝ、英語を學び、航海術を研究したが、やがて順を追うて、商船の mate 並に captain の免狀を獲、その後約十年の間、南洋に於て船長を勤め、馬來、印度支那地方を往復した。後一寸亞弗利加の Congo に行き、一開拓會社所屬の船に關係したこともある。彼は斷片的な記事には感想をものしつゝ之等放浪中の孤獨をまぎらせたが、その後熱帶特有の熱病に冒されたため London に歸つて療養中、數年前知己となつた John Galsworthy の忠告と慫慂に依つて、文筆で立つことになつた。そして 1895 彼の第一の小説 *Almayer's Folly* は世に顯はれたのである。この最初の而も彼の母國語とは異つた言葉で書いた著作を、文一文と綴るのに、骨を削る様な思をしたと、彼自身書き記してをる。然しこの小説

こそは、彼の名をば現代英國作家中最も有名なるものゝ一つたらしめた幾多の著作の最初のものでつたのである。'An Outcast of the Island,' 'Under Western Eyes,' 'The Nigger of the Narcissus,' 'Lord Jim,' 'Typhoon,' 'Nostromo,' 'The Secret Agent,' 'Chance,' 'Victory,' 'The Shadow Line,' 'The Arrow of Gold,' 'The Rescue,' 'The Rover,' 'Suspense'——は彼の重要な著作で、他に數卷の短篇集もある。彼は 1924 に死んだ、年六十六。

Conrad は romantic な作家である。然し彼の romances は Stevenson に見る様な装飾に満ちたものでもなければ、Scott の其の様に空想をたくましくしたものでもない。他の romanticist の様に彼もまた遠い國や珍しい出来事などを語る、然し其は單なる叙述紹介ではない。彼は讀者を魅して、或は海中の孤島に遊ばしめ、或は烈しい日光の直射を浴びた、椰子樹繁る濱邊へと連れ行く、そして讀者は眞晝の息づまる様な暑さに押しつけられ、熱帯の森の無氣味な静けさにおびやかされる。之彼が romantic realist 又は realistic romanticist と呼ばるゝ所以である。もし夫れ彼の心理描寫に至つては現代にその比を見ざる程優れたもので、また彼の語る adventures はいつも souls (心) の adventures であつた。而も彼の之を語るや、自然派の科學的客觀描寫に墮することなく、英國小説傳統の教訓的傾向を帯びることもしなかつた。彼は寧ろ、人種や信仰の差異を超越し、無数の淋しい人の心を結び合はす人間の本性に訴へたのであつた。

人間の環境に對する闘争は彼の好んで扱つた thema である。そしてその環境は種々の姿になつて顯はれてをる。例へば 'Typhoon' に於ては其が盲目的な自然の力であり、'Lord Jim'

に於ては自己の性格の缺陷であり、'Victory' に於ては、人間惡の權化である。この Victory は Conrad の他の著作のいづれにも増して、彼の人生に對する信念を見るのに都合がよい。そしてその信念は彼の先輩たる Thomas Hardy の著作に潜む厭世觀と興味深き對照を形造る、兩者とも環境の壓迫に對する個人の苦闘を主題とし、兩者とも理想の悲劇を描く。然し Hardy が唯失敗の悲惨な方面を描いて其以上一步も出でざるに反し Conrad に於ては悲劇的結果、即ち單なる肉體の死が悲壯な苦闘そのものに依つて超越せられてをる。Victory に於ては男も女も惡の力で死ぬが、お互のために命を捨てることに依つて彼等は戀愛の悲壯な勝利を得るのである。

唯一つの點で Conrad も romanticism 特有の弱點を暴露する。即ち彼の深刻の心理分拆も、作中の男の人物に限つてなされるので女の人物はいづれも茫漠として捕捉し難く、その行動誠に端倪すべからざるものがある。女人が主要の人物たる 'The Arrow of Gold' は確かに彼の least successful novel である。

Conrad の style of writing (作風) は非常な發達を來してをる。初期の著作は、飾のない、端的な物語の標本とも云ふべきものである。即ち登場人物が種々雑多な、夫々に著しく個性を帯びたものであつても、Conrad は面倒な心理分拆を用ひず、吾人の感覺を通じ彼等の行動、言語、感情等を其儘吾人に傳へようと試みる。随つてその叙述は絢爛なものである。然し後期の作に於ては言葉がその濃厚な色彩を失ひ、注意の進點は肉感的なものから精神的なものへと推移した。そして直接的の話法よりも間接的の話法を選び、彼の素材を種々の見地から見る様な傾向が増して來た。斯様な譯で後期の作は技巧的で、その印象派的の手法は動機の微妙な分拆には都合のよいものか知らぬ

が、斯くして得られた利益が果して失はれた、初期の Simplicity を償ふものであるかどうかは疑問である。

又彼はすべての著作に於て、所謂 'magic of suggestion' に依つて筆を省き言外の意を讀者の同情ある intuition に委す様な行き方をとつてをる。之が彼の著作を読み難くすると同時に餘韻のある興味深いものとする。

次に譯註した三つの短篇は彼の最初の（随つて比較的読み易い）短篇集 Tales of Unrest. (1898) そして第三の話 The Idiots は頁數の都合上約三分の二につゞめたものである。

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THE LAGOON

## THE LAGOON

THE white man, leaning with both arms over the roof of the little house in the stern of the boat, said to the steersman—

“We will pass the night in Arsat’s clearing. It is late.”

The Malay only grunted, and went on looking fixedly at the river. The white man rested his chin on his crossed arms and gazed at the wake of the boat. At the end of the straight avenue of forests cut by the intense glitter of the river, the sun appeared unclouded and dazzling, poised low over the water that shone smoothly like a band of metal. The forests, sombre and dull, stood motionless and silent on each side of the broad stream. At the foot of big, towering trees, trunkless nipa palms rose from the mud of

**lagoon** = “salt-water lake parted from sea by sand-bank or enclosed by atoll”. (POD)

**we will pass** = let us pass.

**grunt** = emit a deep guttural sound of discontent.

**went on** = continued.

**fixedly** [ˈfiksɪdli] = intently. 「一心に」。

**wake** = “track left by ship on water”. (POD) 「船の通つた跡」。

## 潮入の湖

白人は両の腕を、舟の艫なる小屋の屋根の上<sup>もた</sup>にのせて凭れたまゝ、舵手に云つた。

「アーサットの開墾地で夜を明かさうよ。遅いからな。」

馬來人<sup>マレイ</sup>の舵手は、たゞ不服さうに咽喉<sup>のど</sup>をならしたゞけで、チツと川を見續けた。白人は十文字に置いた腕の上に頤<sup>あご</sup>をやすめて、舟が水面<sup>みなも</sup>にのこしゆく波紋を見つめた。川水の烈しいきらめきに依つて切りひらかれた、森中の真直<sup>まっすぐ</sup>な並樹筋の外れには、太陽が金屬の帯の様に滑らかに光る水の上に低くかゝつて、覆ふ雲もなく、まばゆく見えてをつた。ほの暗い、黒ずんだ森は、幅ひろき流の兩側に、動かす静かに立つた。大きな聳えた樹の根もとに、幹のないニパ耶子は、巨大な重たい葉が房状をなして、岸の泥土<sup>どろ</sup>から生え出で、褐色の水の

**poised low** = being poised low = poising itself low = hanging suspended low.

**sombre and dull forest** の形容詞。Contad には斯様な後置形容詞が極めて多い。

**trunkless nipa palms** palms に二種あつて nipa palms の方は幹のないもの、もう一つの方は幹の高いもの。



the bank, in bunches of leaves enormous and heavy, that hung unstirring over the brown swirl of eddies. In the stillness of the air every tree, every leaf, every bough, every tendril of creeper and every petal of minute blossoms seemed to have been bewitched into an immobility perfect and final. Nothing moved on the river but the eight paddles that rose flashing regularly, dipped together with a single splash; while the steersman swept right and left with a periodic and sudden flourish of his blade describing a glinting semi-circle above his head. The churned-up water frothed alongside with a confused murmur. And the white man's canoe, advancing up stream in the short-lived disturbance of its own making, seemed to enter the portals of a land from which the very memory of motion had for ever departed.

The white man, turning his back upon the setting sun, looked along the empty and broad expanse of the sea-reach. For the last three miles of its course the wandering, hesitating river,

**in bunches of leaves** 「葉の房になつて」。

**that hung**=and they [=bunches of leaves] hung (これは所謂 additional clause にて **that** は **which** とある方正し)。

**swirl of eddies** 之は tautological expression

**final**=absolute 「絶対の」。

**but the eight paddles**=except the eight paddles.

**swept**=rowed vigorously (馬來地方の獨木舟は paddle で舵をとる)。

渦の上<sup>ツブ</sup>にゆれもせずにかゝつた。風がまるでないので、樹も葉も枝も蔓草の蔓も、さては小さい花の花<sup>はなづら</sup>瓣も、皆魔法をかけられて、完全な二度と動き出すことなき静止状態にはいつた様に見えた。川の上で動いたものとは、規則的にピカと光つて水から出で、一齊にしぶきをたてゝ共に水へと浸<sup>ひた</sup>つた八挺の櫂<sup>かい</sup>だけであつた。そして舵手は頭上にきらきら半圓を描きつゝ、週期的にしかも急速に櫂を振りまはして右や左を漕いだ。掻き立てられた水は舷<sup>まなべり</sup>側に沿うてザワザワと泡立つた。そして白人の獨木舟は、自らが作りなした東<sup>つか</sup>の間の擾亂<sup>ざうらん</sup>の中を、流れに逆<sup>さか</sup>つて進み、運動の記憶すら永久に去つてしまつた土地の入口へと、はいつて行く様に見えた。

〔白人は夕陽に背を向けて、海まで一直線なる下流<sup>かほしち</sup>の遮<sup>さへ</sup>ぎるものもなき渺々たる水面を見渡した。海に至る最後三哩の間を、いまゝでさすらひ、ためらひしてをつた川は、目も遙かな水平

**sudden**=hurried.

**alongside**="close to side of ships." (POD)

**up** 「を漕つて」(之は前置詞)。

**the very memory**—**departed** 運動の記憶すら無い土地故、運動そのものに至つては猶更ないと知るべし。

**sea-reach**="straight course of a portion of a river, elsewhere winding, as it reaches out seaward." (New Stand. Eng. Dict.)

as if enticed irresistibly by the freedom of an open horizon, flows straight into the sea, flows straight to the east—to the east that harbours both light and darkness. Astern of the boat the repeated call of some bird, a cry discordant and feeble, skipped along over the smooth water and lost itself, before it could reach the other shore, in the breathless silence of the world.

The steersman dug his paddle into the stream, and held hard with stiffened arms, his body thrown forward. The water gurgled aloud; and suddenly the long straight reach seemed to pivot on its centre, the forests swung in a semicircle, and the slanting beams of sunset touched the broadside of the canoe with a fiery glow, throwing the slender and distorted shadows of its crew upon the streaked glitter of the river. The white man turned to look ahead. The course of the boat had been altered at right-angles to the stream, and the carved dragon-head of its prow was pointing now at a gap in the fringing bushes of the bank. It glided through, brushing the overhanging twigs, and disappeared from the river like some slim and amphibious creature leaving

**as if enticed**=as if it were enticed.

**the east that—darkness** 「光と闇を併せやどす東の方」とは朝の日光も、晩の夕闇も東の方から来るのを云つたもの。

**the world**=the surrounding nature.

**his body thrown forward**=with his body thrown forward.

線のひろやかなるに、<sup>いかに</sup>否<sup>いかに</sup>應なく誘はれでもしたかの如く、東の方へと、——光と闇とを併せやどす東の方へと真直に流れる。舟の<sup>とも</sup>艫にあたつて、何やら小鳥の繰返へし呼ぶ、耳障りな、よはよはしい啼聲が、平らかな<sup>みなも</sup>水面を掠め、向ひの岸に<sup>いとど</sup>得届かぬうちに、周囲の自然の微風だにない<sup>しいやく</sup>静寂の中へと消え去つた。

舵手は<sup>か</sup>櫂を流に深くつきいれ、<sup>からだ</sup>體を前方へこめて腕をこはせ乍ら、つよく握りしめた。川水はごぼごほと高鳴つた、そして突然長い真直な川筋はその真中を中心として、回轉する様に見え、森は半圓を描いてまはつた。そして夕陽の傾いた光線は、火の様に<sup>あか</sup>赤々と、<sup>まるきぶね</sup>獨木舟の横側を照し、川水のうねうねときらめく土へ、<sup>よなび</sup>舟人達の細長い歪んだ影を投じた。白人は<sup>か</sup>頭をめぐるして、舟の行く手を見た。舟の進路は流と直角に變はつてをつた。そして船首なる彫刻の<sup>りゆうづつ</sup>龍頭は、今や岸を<sup>ふち</sup>縁どる灌木のしけみの中の、とある、ときれ目に向けられた。舟はそのあひだを迂りぬけ、上から覆ひ被ぶさる小枝を掠めて、何か川から抜け出して森の中の穴へとおもむく、細長い兩棲動物の様

**broadside**="ship's side". (POD)

**throwing**=and threw.

**the crew**=the boatmen.

**carved dragon-head** 「彫刻の龍頭」之は舟の裝飾。

**fringing bushes of the bank**=bushes fringing the bank.

the water for its lair in the forests.

The narrow creek was like a ditch: tortuous, fabulously deep; filled with gloom under the thin strip of pure and shining blue of the heaven. Immense trees soared up, invisible behind the festooned draperies of creepers. Here and there, near the glistening blackness of the water, a twisted root of some tall tree showed amongst the tracery of small ferns, black and dull, writhing and motionless, like an arrested snake. The short words of the paddlers reverberated loudly between the thick and sombre walls of vegetation. Darkness oozed out from between the trees, through the tangled maze of the creepers, from behind the great fantastic and unstimulating leaves; the darkness, mysterious and invincible; the darkness scented and poisonous of impenetrable forests.

The men poled in the shoaling water. The creek broadened, opening out into a wide sweep of a stagnant lagoon. The forests receded from the marshy bank, leaving a level strip of bright green, reedy grass to frame the reflected blueness of the sky. A fleecy pink cloud drifted high above, trailing the delicate colouring of its image under the floating leaves and the silvery blossoms of the lotus. A little house, perched on high

**glistening blackness of water** = glistening, black water.

**black and dull** は次の writhing and motionless と同様 twisted root の形容詞。

に、川から姿を消した。

細い支流は振くれた、無暗と深い濠の様であつた。そして空の澄み渡つた輝かしい青色が、細く帯の様に見える下で、一面に黒すんでをつた。大きな樹が、花綵もて飾られた蔓草の縁にかくれて、高く聳えた。此處彼處黒い川水がきらきらする邊に近く、何か高い樹の振れた根が、捕へられた蛇の様に黒く、くすみ、腕き乍らも動かす、小さな羊齒の格子の目からのぞいて見えた。舟漕ぐ人々の短い言葉が、草や木の厚い、ほの暗い扉の様な、すきまのない茂みのあひだで、高らかに反響した。暗が樹々の間から、或は蔓草のもつれた籐を通し、或はまた大きい、奇怪な、しかも微動だにせぬ葉の後からにじみ出た、神秘的にして、ものみなを呑み盡す暗、足の踏み入れもならぬ森の香氣と毒氣を漂はす暗が。

舟人達は浅くなりまさる水に棹さした。支流は廣まり開けて、廣々した、よどめる潮入の湖となつた。森は水に映つた空の青色を縁どる、さへた緑の蘆様の草の、平らかな一地帯をのこして、じめじめした岸から遠のいた。羊毛の様な薄桃色の雲が、空高くたゞよひ、蓮の浮べる葉や、銀色の花のかけに、その姿の妙なる色さしを映して過ぎた。高い杭の上につてをる、小さな家が遠方に黒く見えた。そしてその傍には、後方の森の中

**scented and poisonous of** = having the scent and poison of.

**shoaling** = getting shallower.

**sweep** = expanse.

piles, appeared black in the distance. Near it, two tall nibong palms, that seemed to have come out of the forests in the background, leaned slightly over the ragged roof, with a suggestion of sad tenderness and care in the droop of their leafy and soaring heads.

The steersman, pointing with his paddle, said, "Arsat is there. I see his canoe fast between the piles."

The polers ran along the sides of the boat glancing over their shoulders at the end of the day's journey. They would have preferred to spend the night somewhere else than on this lagoon of weird aspect and ghostly reputation. Moreover, they disliked Arsat, first as a stranger, and also because he who repairs a ruined house, and dwells in it, proclaims that he is not afraid to live amongst the spirits that haunt the places abandoned by mankind. Such a man can disturb the course of fate by glances or words; while his familiar ghosts are not easy to propitiate by casual wayfarers upon whom they long to wreak the malice of their human master. White men

**with a suggestion of**=suggesting.

**is there**=is there in the house.

**end**=destination.

**glances or words** 眼でにらめたり、呪文を唱へたりすること。

**familiar ghosts** 「魔法使の召使なる妖精」 Latin 語で servant のことを *famulus* といふ。

から出てゝも来たかの様な體裁の、高いニボン耶子が二本、ギザギザな屋根の上へこども加減に立つてをつたが、その葉の多い、聳えた樹頭のうなだれた様子には、悲しげな優しさと心づかひを連想せしむるものがあつた。

舵手は櫂で指し乍ら云つた。「アーサットは家に居る。私は彼のボートが杭の間にチャンと見える。」

棹さす舟人達は、舟縁を走り乍ら、肩越しに振向いて、その日の旅の落着く先を眺めた。彼等としては、出来ることなら、こんな見るからにもものすごい、氣味の悪い評判をとつた潮入の湖よりも、どこか他所で、夜を明かし度かつたのであつた。おまけに、彼等はアーサットが嫌ひであつた。何故かといへばまづ第一に、彼は他國人だつたし、また一つには、荒屋を繕つて住む彼が、人の住み棄てた場所へ出る妖精と一所に暮すのを、怖くもないと公言するものだから。かういふ輩は眼光や言葉に依つて、運命の方向をまけることが出来るもので、その手下の妖精は通りすがりの旅人が宥め賺すのに容易じやない。何しろ彼等は旅のものに對して主人なる人間の怨恨を晴らし度くて居るのだから。白人達は信仰はなし、悪魔の親玉とはぐるだし、

**not easy to propitiate by casual wayfarers**=not easy to be propitiated by casual wayfarers=not easy for casual wayfarers to propitiate.

**upon whom**—**human master**=because they long to wreak the malice of their human master upon them [=casual wayfarers].

care not for such things, being unbelievers and in league with the Father of Evil, who leads them unharmed through the invisible dangers of this world. To the warnings of the righteous they oppose an offensive pretence of disbelief. What is there to be done?

So they thought, throwing their weight on the end of their long poles. The big canoe glided on swiftly, noiselessly, and smoothly, towards Arsat's clearing, till, in a great rattling of poles thrown down, and the loud murmurs of "Allah be praised!" it came with a gentle knock against the crooked piles below the house.

The boatmen with uplifted faces shouted discordantly, "Arsat! O Arsat!" Nobody came. The white man began to climb the rude ladder giving access to the bamboo platform before the house. The juragan of the boat said sulkily, "We will cook in the sampan, and sleep on the water."

"Pass my blankets and the basket," said the white man, curtly.

He knelt on the edge of the platform to receive

**care not for such things**=do not feel concern for such things. 「斯様なことには頓着しない」。

**in league with**=allied with. 「と結托して」。

**who**=and he.

**unharmed**=safe.

**What is there to be done?**=There is nothing to be done.

**throwing their weight**—poles 肩へあてた棹の先へ身體の重み

またこの親玉が、彼等をして、此世の中の目に見えぬ危険を切抜けさせるのだもの、こんなことは問題にしましな。正しい人々の警告に對して白人達は、反抗的に無信仰を装はつて見せる。これでは何とも仕方がないじゃないか。

舟人達は體の重みを長い棹の一端になげかけ乍ら、かく考へた。その大きな獨木舟は、速かに、音もなく又滑かに、アーサットの開墾地へ向けて、すべるが如くに進んだが、ついに、投げ下す棹のガラガラと鳴る大きな響と、「やれ、難有や」といふ低い咳きのうちに、舟は家の下なる、曲つた杭に、軽くツシンと突き當つた。

舟人達は仰向いて、「アーサットよ、おい、アーサットよ」と口々に喚いた。然し誰も出て來なかつた。白人は、家の前なる竹の露臺まで上下出来る、粗末な梯子を登りはじめた。舟長はむつつりとして云つた。「私等は舢板で煮焼をし、水の上で寝ますぜ。」

「俺の毛布とバスケットをとつてくれ」と白人は不愛想に云つた。

彼は包を受取るため、露臺の端に跪いた。それから小舟は岸

を托すること。

**Allah be praised!**=May Allah be praised 「アラーの神が讃美せられんことを!」。

**it came**=the canoe came.

**discordantly** 「まちまちに」「口々に」。

**juragan**=captain. (これは馬來語)。

the bundle. Then the boat shoved off, and the white man, standing up, confronted Arsats, who had come out through the low door of his hut. He was a man young, powerful, with a broad chest and muscular arms. He had nothing on but his sarong. His head was bare. His big, soft eyes stared eagerly at the white man, but his voice and demeanour were composed as he asked, without any words of greeting—

“Have you medicine, Tuan?”

“No,” said the visitor in a startled tone. “No. Why? Is there sickness in the house?”

“Enter and see,” replied Arsats, in the same calm manner, and turning short round, passed again through the small doorway. The white man, dropping his bundles, followed.

In the dim light of the dwelling he made out on a couch of bamboos a woman stretched on her back under a broad sheet of red cotton cloth. She lay still, as if dead; but her big eyes, wide open, glittered in the gloom, staring upwards at the slender rafters, motionless and unseeing. She was in a high fever, and evidently unconscious. Her cheeks were sunk slightly, her lips were partly open, and on the young face there was the ominous and fixed expression—the absorbed,

**shoved**=moved.

**who had come**=as he had come.

**had nothing on but his sarong**=had only his sarong on.

**short**=suddenly.

からはなれた。白人は立ち上ると、アーサツトと向ひあつた。アーサツトは彼の小屋の低い入口から出て来てをつたのである。彼は若い力のある男で、胸は廣く、筋骨たくましい腕をしてをつた。彼はサーロン袴の他何もつけず、その頭はむき出しであつた。彼の大きな、やさしい眼はヂツと白人を見つめたが、彼の聲と態度は挨拶の言葉も述べずに——

「トウアンよ、貴方は薬を持つてるかね」と尋ね乍らも、落ちついてをつた。

客人は吃驚した語氣で云つた。「いや、持つてないよ。なぜ。うちに病人があるのか。」

「まあ、はいつて御覽、」とアーサツトは同じ様な平靜な態度で答へ、それから突然くるつと後うしろを向いて、再び小さい入口をくゞつた。白人は包を下へおろして、後あとからついてはいつた。

住居の薄暗い光のなかで、白人は、竹の寢臺の上に、一枚の幅廣い赤木綿の布をかけて、仰向けに體をのぼした一人の女を認めた。彼の女は死んでをつたかの如く、靜かに寢てをつた。然しその廣く見開いた大きな眼は、動かす、また何を見るときもなく、上の細いたるき桶にそゝがれて、暗の中にきらめいた。彼の女は高熱で、明らかに無意識であつた。頬は少し落ち、唇は半ば開いてをつた。そしてその若々しい顔の上には、氣味の悪い、こはゞつた表情、——即ち將に死なんとして居る、無意識な人々

**made out**=discerned.

**as if dead**=as if she had been dead.

**absorbed**=deeply engrossed「夢中の」。

contemplating expression of the unconscious who are going to die. The two men stood looking down at her in silence.

“Has she been long ill?” asked the traveller.

“I have not slept for five nights,” answered the Malay, in a deliberate tone. “At first she heard voices calling her from the water and struggled against me who held her. But since the sun of to-day rose she hears nothing—she hears not me. She sees nothing. She sees not me—me!”

He remained silent for a minute, then asked softly—

“Tuan, will she die?”

“I fear so,” said the white man sorrowfully.

He had known Arsat years ago, in a far country in times of trouble and danger, when no friendship is to be despised. And since his Malay friend had come unexpectedly to dwell in the hut on the lagoon with a strange woman, he had slept many times there, in his journeys up and down the river. He liked the man who knew how to keep faith in council and how to fight without fear by the side of his white friend. He liked him—not so much perhaps as a man likes his

**the unconscious**=unconscious people

**she hears not me**=she does not hear my voice.

**I fear so**=I think so, though I am sorry.

に見らるゝ、夢中な、物を考へ込んでる様な表情があつた。二人の男は無言でその女を見下し乍ら立つてをつた。

「いまゝで、長らく悪かつたのかい」、と旅人は尋ねた。

「私は五夜さ寝ないよ」、と馬來人は落ちついた調子で答へた。「最初彼の女は水上から自分を呼ぶ聲を聞き、つかまへてる私を振りもぎらうともがいた。然し今日の太陽が出てから、彼の女は全く耳が聞えない。——私の聲も聞えない。また全く眼が見えない。私——この私の顔も見えないのだ。」

彼は一寸の間、黙つてをつたが、やがて小聲で尋ねた。——

「トウアンよ、彼の女は死ぬだらうか。」

「左様かも知れないな」、と白人は悲しげに云つた。幾歳も前、如何なる友情も粗略には出来ぬ闘争と危険の時代に、白人はアサツトを知つたのであつた。そしてこの馬來人の友が思ひもかけず、見知らぬ女と、この湖畔の小屋へ住む様になつてからは、川を上下する旅行に際し、幾度もそこへ泊つたのであつた。彼は會議の席で信義を守ることも出来れば、彼の傍で恐るゝ色なく戦ふことも出来る、その馬來人が好きであつた。そして恐らく、人が自分の愛犬を好む程ではないにしても、——

**no friendship is to be despised**=any kind of friendship cannot be despised. 亂世にあつては誰からの友情でも貴いのである。

**knew how to**=could.

favourite dog—but still he liked him well enough to help and ask no questions, to think sometimes vaguely and hazily in the midst of his own pursuits, about the lonely man and the long-haired woman with audacious face and triumphant eyes, who lived together hidden by the forests—alone and feared.

The white man came out of the hut in time to see the enormous conflagration of sunset put out by the swift and stealthy shadows that, rising like a black and impalpable vapour above the tree-tops, spread over the heaven, extinguishing the crimson glow of floating clouds and the red brilliance of departing daylight. In a few moments all the stars came out above the intense blackness of the earth, and the great lagoon gleaming suddenly with reflected lights resembled an oval patch of night sky flung down into the hopeless and abysmal night of the wilderness. The white man had some supper out of the basket, then collecting a few sticks that lay about the platform, made up a small fire, not for warmth, but for the sake of the smoke, which would keep off the mosquitos. He wrapped himself in his blankets and sat with

**enough to help—questions** 全くの好意から援助して別に返禮を求めないこと。

**in time to.....** .....「するの間に間にあふ様に」。

**conflagration**=great fire.

**with reflected light** 「反射せる光で」とは星の光の水に映つたものをいふ。

それでも矢張、援助を與へて而も報償を求めぬ程度に、また、自分達だけ人から離れ、怖がられて、森の奥深く同棲せし、その孤獨の男並びに、大膽な顔と誇らしい眼をした長髪の女のことを自分の仕事の最中にも、おほろけに考へる程度には、その男が好きであつた。

白人は小屋から出て來たが、黒い手筈のない霧の様に、樹々の梢の上までもたち昇つて、空一面に廣がつた浮べる雲の深紅の色と、沈まんとする夕陽の赤い輝きとを薄めゆく、足の速い、忍びやかなる夕闇が、日没の大火事にも似た夕焼けをば消すのを見るにまにあつた。たちまちに、すべての星が、大地の眞暗闇の上に顯はれた。そして星の光を映して、突然輝き出でた、大きな潮入の湖は、陰氣な、底知れぬ荒野の夜の闇の中へ投げ落された、夜の空の楕圓形の一片にも似てをつた。白人はバスケットから夕餉を出して認め、それから露臺の此處彼處に散在してをつた棒切を集めて、小さな焚火をしたが、これは暖を擲るためではなくて、蚊いぶしの煙のためであつた。それから彼

**hopeless** = dreary.

**abysmal** = very deep.

**made up a fire** 火を起した。

**which would—mosquitos** = as it would keep off the mosquitos 「なぜなら、その火で蚊が寄つて來まいから」



his back against the reed wall of the house, smoking thoughtfully.

Arsat came through the doorway with noiseless steps and squatted down by the fire. The white man moved his outstretched legs a little.

"She breathes," said Arsat in a low voice, anticipating the expected question. "She breathes and burns as if with a great fire. She speaks not; she hears not—and burns!"

He paused for a moment, then asked in a quiet, incurious tone—

"Tuan . . . will she die?"

The white man moved his shoulders uneasily, and muttered in a hesitating manner—

"If such is her fate."

"No, Tuan," said Arsat calmly. "If such is my fate. I hear, I see, I wait. I remember . . . Tuan, do you remember the old days? Do you remember my brother?"

"Yes," said the white man. The Malay rose suddenly and went in. The other, sitting still outside, could hear the voice in the hut. Arsat said: "Hear me! Speak!" His words were succeeded by a complete silence. "O Diamelen!" he cried suddenly. After that cry there was a

**she breathes**=she is living.

**expected question** 「白人の聞きさうな質問」

**as if with a great fire**=as if she burned with a great fire.

**incurious**=indifferent. 「聞き度くもなさ相な」「無頓着な」

は、毛布にくるまり、その家の蘆の羽目に背を凭せて腰をおろし、思案し乍ら煙草を燻らせた。

アーサツトは、足音をたてずに、入口から出て来て、焚火の傍へ坐つた。白人は、さしのべた脚を少し動かした。

「彼の女は生きて居る」とアーサツトは聞かれさうに思つた問の先をこして低聲に云つた。「彼の女は生きてをる、而も身體は大きな火で燃えてもする様に、燃えてをる。彼の女は口をきかない。耳も聞えない——而も身體は燃えてをる。」

彼は一寸口を噤んだが、やがて静かな、ひとつの様な調子で尋ねた。

「トウアンよ……彼の女は死ぬだらうか。」

白人は不安氣に肩を動かし、口籠り乍ら呟いた——

「もし彼の女の宿命が、さうした譯のものならば。」

アーサツトは落ちついて云つた。「いや違ふ、ドウアンよ。もし私の宿命が、さうした譯のものならば、である。私には聞える。私には見える。私は待つて居るのだ。私は忘れもしないが……トウアンよ、貴方は昔のことを覚えてるかね。貴方は私の兄弟のことを覚えて居るかね。」

「覚えてるよ」と白人は云つた。馬來人は突然立ち上つて、家の中へはいつて行つた。外で静かに坐つてをつた白人は、小屋の中なる聲を聞くことが出来た。「私の言葉を聞け、返事をせよ」とアーサツトは云つた。彼の言葉には、全き静けさが續いた。「おゝ、ディアメレンよ」と彼は突然叫んだ。そしてその

**If such is her fate** her fate が文の主語である。

**I hear, I see, I wait** 話の後半で分る様に死んだ兄弟の聲が聞え、姿が見え、傍まで来るのを待つての意。

**Diamelen**=the name of Arsat's wife.

deep sigh. Arsat came out and sank down again in his old place.

They sat in silence before the fire. There was no sound within the house, there was no sound near them; but far away on the lagoon they could hear the voices of the boatmen ringing fitful and distinct on the calm water. The fire in the bows of the sampan shone faintly in the distance with a hazy red glow. Then it died out. The voices ceased. The land and the water slept invisible, un stirring and mute. It was as though there had been nothing left in the world but the glitter of stars streaming, ceaseless and vain, through the black stillness of the night.

The white man gazed straight before him into the darkness with wide-open eyes. The fear and fascination, the inspiration and the wonder of death—of death near, unavoidable, and unseen, soothed the unrest of his race and stirred the most indistinct, the most intimate of his thoughts. The ever-ready suspicion of evil, the gnawing suspicion that lurks in our hearts, flowed out into the stillness round him—into the stillness profound and dumb, and made it appear untrustworthy and infamous, like

**sank down**=sat down wearily.

**old place** 元をつた場所。

**invisible**=in the dark.

**had been left—but**=had been left in the world only.

**near**=happening under his own nose.

叫聲についで深い歎息が起つた。ア—サツトは外へ出て来て、再びもとの場所へ、くづれる様に坐つた。

(二人は焚火の前に、口もきかないで坐つてをつた。家の中には、なんの音もしなかつた。彼等の近くにも、音は聞えなかつた。併し湖上遙か<sup>かなた</sup>彼方、平らかな水の上に、彼等は舟人達の聲が、とぎれとぎれに、はつきりと鳴りひびくのを聞くことが出来た。舳板の船首なる火は、おぼろけに赤く燃えて、遠く微かに輝いた。やがてその火も消え、人の聲もとだえた。そして陸も水も闇につままれて、静かに、音もなく眠つた。何だか、此世界には、唯夜の黒い<sup>せいじやく</sup>静寂の中を、絶間なく而も空しく流れゆく星のきらめきのみが、残されたかの様に思へた。

(白人は眼を廣く見開いて、自分の前なる暗の中を、真直に見つめた。間近かな、避け難い、而も目に見えぬ死の恐怖と魅力、死の靈感と不可思議が、彼の民族に特有なる<sup>せうさう</sup>焦燥を鎮め、彼の<sup>かんがへ</sup>想念のうちで、一番不明瞭な、一番奥深いものを呼びさました。絶えず存在する<sup>わざはひ</sup>災禍の豫感、人の心にひそむ、<sup>なま</sup>惱ましい豫感が、彼の周囲なる<sup>せいじやく</sup>静寂、—深い、音もなき静寂のうちへと流れ出でた。そしてその静けさを許し難き兇暴の、穏やかな、底氣味の悪い假面の様に、頼み難なくも、また、<sup>いそ</sup>厭はしき

**unrest of his race**=vigorous pursuit of wealth characteristic of the Europeans.

**ever-ready**=always present.

**suspicion of evil**=presentiment or conjecture that something wrong is about to happen.

the placid and impenetrable mask of an unjustifiable violence. In that fleeting and powerful disturbance of his being the earth enfolded in the starlight peace became a shadowy country of inhuman strife, a battlefield of phantoms terrible and charming, august or ignoble, struggling ardently for the possession of our helpless hearts. An unquiet and mysterious country of inextinguishable desires and fears.

A plaintive murmur rose in the night; a murmur saddening and startling, as if the great solitudes of surrounding woods had tried to whisper into his ear the wisdom of their immense and lofty indifference. Sounds hesitating and vague floated in the air round him, shaped themselves slowly into words; and at last flowed on gently in a murmuring stream of soft and monotonous sentences. He stirred like a man waking up and changed his position slightly. Arsat, motionless and shadowy, sitting with bowed head under the stars, was speaking in a low and dreamy tone—

“... for where can we lay down the heaviness of our trouble but in a friend's heart? A man must speak of war and of love. You, Tuan,

**unjustifiable**=inexcusable.

**In that fleeting—being**=In his heart much disturbed for a time in this way=As his heart was much disturbed for a time in this way.

**helpless**=weak.

**country of inextinguishable—fears** 善悪二元の妖精が人間の心を捉へんとする desires と、人間の其に對する fears との錯綜せる所。

ものに思はせた。この様に彼の心が束の間つよく動揺したので、星月夜の平和の裡につままれた大地は、氣味の悪い闘争の行はるゝ幻の國となり、人間の弱き心を捉へんと熱心に相争ふ、恐ろしき妖精と愛すべき妖精、氣高き妖精と卑しき妖精の戰場となつた。即ち消し難い欲望と恐怖の、ものさはがしい不思議の國となつた。

訴へる様な<sup>うづた</sup>呟きが、夜の闇に起つた。恰も周囲の森の大なる静けさが、白人の耳の中へ、その絶對にして超然たる無關心のかしこさを、囁やかんと試みでもしたかの如き、聞くものを悲ませ驚ろかす<sup>つごも</sup>呟きが、口籠つた、はつきりしない聲が、白人の周囲の空中に浮び、徐々に纏まつて言葉になり、終には、なだらかで單調な文章のせゝらぎになつて、静かに流れて行つた。白人は夢からさめたもゝの様に<sup>からだ</sup>身體を動かし、少しく居すまひを變へた。身動きもせぬ、影の様なアーサツトが星空の下に頭を<sup>こ</sup>屈めて坐し、低いねむたい口調で、語つてをるのであつた。

「……なぜなれば我々は、友の胸の中を措いては我々の惱みの重荷を下し横たへる場所がないからである。男といふものは戦争と戀愛について語らねばならぬ。トウアンよ、貴方は戦争

**in the night**=in the darkness of the night.

**immense**=absolute.

**sounds**=voices.

……for where can we lay 白人が Arsat の言葉に氣がついた時その言葉は話の途中だつたのである。故に for の前に點線を用ひてある。

**heaviness**=burden.

know what war is, and you have seen me in time of danger seek death as other men seek life! A writing may be lost; a lie may be written; but what the eye has seen is truth and remains in the mind!"

"I remember," said the white man quietly. Arsat went on with mournful composure—

"Therefore I shall speak to you of love. Speak in the night. Speak before both night and love are gone—and the eye of day looks upon my sorrow and my shame; upon my blackened face; upon my burnt-up heart."

A sigh, short and faint, marked an almost imperceptible pause, and then his words flowed on, without a stir, without a gesture.

"After the time of trouble and war was over and you went away from my country in the pursuit of your desires, which we, men of the islands, cannot understand, I and my brother became again, as we had been before, the sword-bearers of the Ruler. You know we were men of family, belonging to a ruling race, and more fit than any to carry on our right shoulder the emblem of power. And

**what the eye has seen is truth** 馬來人の様な less civilized people は reality (現實) と experience (經驗) を重んずる故にこの言葉がある。

**love** には「戀愛」の意味と 'sweet heart' の意味とある。

**the eye of day**=the sun. cf. daisy < day's eye. 雛菊は形太陽に似たれば此の名がある。

の如何なるものかを知つてをる。そして危険に際して私が死を求むること、なほ他のものが生を求むるが如くであつたことを、<sup>あなた</sup>貴方は目撃した。書き物は亡びる時があるかも知れない。又虚偽の書き記<sup>し</sup>されることがあるかも知れない。併し人が眼で見たことは、眞實で心の中に<sup>とど</sup>まる！」

「俺は覚えてるよ」と白人は静かに云つた。アーサツトは悲しげな落ちつきもて、言葉を續けた。

「されば、私は<sup>あなた</sup>貴方に戀愛のことを語らう。夜の闇の中に語らう。暗い夜と愛する女が往つてしまはぬうちに、——そして太陽が私の悲と私の恥を、私の汚れた顔と私の燃え切つた心を、照さぬうちに語らう。」

短い<sup>さつ</sup>微かな<sup>たい</sup>嘆息が、殆んど認め難い話のときれ目を示した。そしてまた、彼の言葉は、身動きも身振もなしに流れ續いた。

「艱難と戦争の時代が過ぎ、<sup>あなた</sup>貴方が我々島のものには、了解の出来ぬ望を追うて、この國から去つた後で、私と私の兄弟は、また以前の様に、支配者の太刀持となつた。君の知る如く、我々は支配階級に屬する、よい家柄のもので、如何なる人々よりも、右の肩に権力の象徴を荷ふに適してをつた。繁榮の

**looks**=shines.

**blackened face**=face full of remorse because of my own black (i.e. monstrous) deeds.

**men of family**=men of good family.

**the emblem of power**=the ruler's sword.

in the time of prosperity Si Dendring showed us favour, as we, in time of sorrow, had showed to him the faithfulness of our courage. It was a time of peace. (A time of deer-hunts and cock-fights; of idle talks and foolish squabbles between men whose bellies are full and weapons are rusty. But the sower watched the young rice-shoots grow up without fear, and the traders came and went, departed lean and returned fat into the river of peace. They brought news too. (Brought lies and truth mixed together, so that no man knew when to rejoice and when to be sorry. We heard from them about you also. They had seen you here and had seen you there. And I was glad to hear, for I remembered the stirring times, and I always remembered you, Tuan, till the time came when my eyes could see nothing in the past, because they had looked upon the one who is dying there—in the house.)

He stopped to exclaim in an intense whisper, "O Mara bahia! O Calamity!" then went on speaking a little louder.

"There's no worse enemy and no better friend than a brother, Tuan, for one brother knows

**Si Dendring**=the ruler's name.

**But**「然し」といつたのは怠け者だけじやない働き者も居たことを述べるための conjunction.

**without fear** 之は watched を修飾する adverbial phrase 也。

時代にシ、デンドリングは我々に恩恵を垂れた。丁度我々が、以前悲愁の時代に、我々の勇氣の誠を彼に捧げた様に。時恰も平和の時代であつた。即ち鹿狩や闘鶏を事とし、満腹した鑄刀の連中が、閑談と愚論を交はす時代であつた。併し種時人は稲の芽が伸るのを、何の心配もなしに眺めた。そして貿易商は往來した。彼等貿易商は出掛けには貧乏でも、平和の川へと戻つた時には福々であつた。彼等は消息を齎した。うそとまことを交ぜてもつて來た。それ故、何時喜び何時悲しむべきか誰にも見當がつかなかつた。我々は彼等から、貴方のことをも聞いた。彼等は貴方に此處で會つた、彼處で會つたと云つた。「私は其を聞くと嬉しかつた。なぜなら私はもの騒がしかつた時代を忘れず、貴方のことも始終忘れずにをつたから。が終に私の目が過去の何ものをも見得ない時が來た。なぜなら私の目は、あそこの家の中で死にかけてをるものに、そゝがれたから。」

彼は語るのをやめ、つよい囁き聲で、「おい、汝行かば、災禍あらん。おゝ災禍あらん、」と叫んだが、それからいますこし高い聲で話し續けた。

「トゥアンよ、敵として、兄弟よりも恐ろしきはなく、友として兄弟よりも頼もしきはなし。なぜなら兄弟は互を知つてゐる

**lean**=poor.

**fat**=opulent.

**O Mara bahia!**=O you will meet with Calamity, if you go. (之は馬來語)

another, and in perfect knowledge is strength for good or evil. I loved my brother. I went to him and told him that I could see nothing but one face, hear nothing but one voice. He told me, 'Open your heart so that she can see what is in it—and wait. Patience is wisdom. Inchi Midah may die or our Ruler may throw off his fear of a woman!' . . . I waited! . . . You remember the lady with the veiled face, Tuan, and the fear of our Ruler before her cunning and temper. And if she wanted her servant, what could I do? But I fed the hunger of my heart on short glances and stealthy words. I loitered on the path to the bath-houses in the daytime, and when the sun had fallen behind the forest I crept along the jasmine hedges of the women's courtyard. Unseeing, we spoke to one another through the scent of flowers, through the veil of leaves, through the blades of long grass that stood still before our lips; so great was our prudence, so faint was the murmur of our great longing. The time passed swiftly . . . and there were whispers amongst women—and our enemies watched—my

**nothing but**=only.

**Patience is wisdom**=It is wise for you to wait. (i.e. to be patient.)

**Inchi Midah**=the name of the ruler's wife.

**before her cunning and temper**=affected by the power of her cunning and anger.

もので、完全な知識のうちには、善いにつけ、悪いにつけ、力が潜んでゐるものだから。私は私の兄弟を愛してをつた。私は彼の所へゆき、自分は唯一つの顔しか見えず、唯一つの聲しか聞こえないと語つた。彼は私に云つた。「彼の女が、お前の心のうちのまことを見得る様に、心を開け——そして待て。忍耐が賢いゆき方だぞ。インチミダーが死ぬかも知れぬ、或は又、我々の支配者が、一婦人に對する恐怖をなげ捨てるかも知れぬ。」……私は待つた……トウアンよ、貴方は覆面の婦人、並びに、彼の女の奸智と短氣とに氣壓された、我々の支配者の恐怖を覺えてゐるであらうが、あゝいふ婦人が女中を必要とするうちは、私として手の下し様がなかつた。併し私は東の間の瞥見や、ひそやかな言葉で、私の心の饑をいやした。私は晝のうち、浴場への道をさまよひ、太陽が森の後に落ちた時、婦人達の中庭の素馨の垣に沿うて、しのび歩いた。姿こそ見えないが、花の香ごしに、葉のヴェイルごしに、また我々の唇の前に静かに生えてをつた、長い草の葉をへだて、我々は囁き交はした。その位我々の用心は大きく、その位我々の大いなるあこがれの囁きは微かなものであつた。時は速かに過ぎた。……そして婦人の間にはひそひそと噂が出た。——そして我々の敵は

**If she wanted her servant**=while she wanted her servant.

**what can I do?**=I could do nothing at all.

**fed**=satisfied temporarily, assuaged.

**blades** 菖蒲なその葉を云ふ、その形劍の刃に似たれば也。

brother was gloomy, and I began to think of killing and of a fierce death . . . We are of a people who take what they want—like you whites. There is a time when a man should forget loyalty and respect. Might and authority are given to rulers, but to all men is given love and strength and courage. My brother said, 'You shall take her from their midst. We are two who are like one.' And I answered, 'Let it be soon, for I find no warmth in sunlight that does not shine upon her.' Our time came when the Ruler and all the great people went to the mouth of the river to fish by torchlight. There were hundreds of boats, and on the white sand, between the water and the forests, dwellings of leaves were built for the households of the Rajahs. The smoke of cooking-fires was like a blue mist of the evening, and many voices rang in it joyfully. While they were making the boats ready to beat up the fish, my brother came to me and said, 'To-night!' I looked to my weapons, and when the time came our canoe took its place in the circle of boats carrying the torches. The lights blazed on the water, but behind the

**I began to think of killing and of a fierce death**=I began to think of running amuck. To run amuck or amock とは人を澤山殺して自分も死ぬ馬來人の自殺法をいふ。

**should forget** 忘れちゃいけない (should not forget) のに忘れるから should を用ひ。

**is given** 主語は love and strength and courage で女は love だけを念頭に置いて is と單數形を用ひたるも is given love と云つてなるう

警戒した。私の兄弟は憂鬱になつた。そこで私は他をあやめて、自らも狂ひ死することを考へ始めた。我々は貴方達白人の様に、欲しいものを我ものとする種族に屬する。凡そ人には、忠義と尊敬とを忘れる時もあるものだ。支配者には権力と威光が與へられてをる。然しすべてのものには、愛情と腕力と勇氣が與へられてをる。私の兄弟は云つた。「敵の真中から、女を奪へ。我々は身體は二人でも、心は一つである。」そこで私は答へた、「では早くしやう。なぜならば、私は彼の女を照さぬ日光のうちには、暖かみを見出せないから。」我々の時節は到來した。支配者とすべてのお歴々が、松明の光で、漁するため、川口へと出掛けたのであつた。數百の小舟が出た。そして水と森の間なる、白い砂濱には、木の葉の小屋が、酋長達の家族のために建てられた。煮焼の煙は、夕暮の青い靄の様であつた。そして多くの聲が、その中で嬉々として鳴り響いた。人々が魚の夢を驚かさんと、小舟の用意をしてをつた時、私の兄弟は私の所まで来て云つた。「此宵こそは！」私は私の武器をしらべた。そして時刻になつた時、我々の獨木舟は、松明をともした數多の小舟の圓陣のうちに加はつた。松明の火は、水上に燃えた。然し小舟の後は暗闇であつた。男叫の聲が起つて、興奮ちに急に思ひいて and strength and courage と附け加へたのである。

**I find no warmth in sunlight that does not shine upon her** 彼女が傍に居らぬと日向に出ても暖くないといふ意味。

**making the boat ready** 舟を準備して。

**to beat up**=to alarm.

**looked to** 「……をしらべて見た。」

boats there was darkness. When the shouting began and the excitement made them like mad we dropped out. The water swallowed our fire, and we floated back to the shore that was dark with only here and there the glimmer of embers. We could hear the talk of slave-girls amongst the sheds. Then we found a place deserted and silent. We waited there. She came. She came running along the shore, rapid and leaving no trace, like a leaf driven by the wind into the sea. My brother said gloomily, 'Go and take her; carry her into our boat.' I lifted her in my arms. She panted. Her heart was beating against my breast. I said, 'I take you from those people. You came to the cry of my heart, but my arms take you into my boat against the will of the great!' 'It is right,' said my brother. 'We are men who take what we want and can hold it against many. We should have taken her in daylight.' I said, 'Let us be off;' for since she was in my boat I began to think of our Ruler's many men. 'Yes. Let us be off,' said my brother. 'We are cast out and this boat is our country now — and the sea is our refuge.' He lingered with his foot on the shore, and I

**The water swallowed our fire** 松明を水へ入れて消したのである。

**deserted** 「人から見棄てられた」 「<sup>ひとけ</sup>人氣なき」。

**leaving no trace** 「足跡を残さずに」 「足を宙にして」。

が人々を物狂ほしくした時、我々は列を離れた。水は我々の松明の火を呑んだ。そして、我々は、燃えさしの火の微光が、<sup>こ</sup>此處彼處に残つてただけで、あとは一面に暗い岸へと浮び戻つた。我々は小屋の中に、奴隷の娘達が語るのを聞いた。それから我々は<sup>ひとけ</sup>人氣のない、淋しい場所を見付けて、そこに待つた。彼の女が来た。岸を傳つて、風のために海の中へと吹きこまるゝ木の葉の様に疾く、足を宙にしてかけて来た。私の兄弟は憂鬱な聲で云つた。「行つて彼の女をとらへ、我々の小舟の中へ運べ。」私は彼の女を抱き上げた。彼の女は喘いだ。彼の女の心臓は私の胸に觸れて高鳴つた。私は云つた。「私はおまへを、この國の人々から奪つてゆく。おまへは私の心の叫びに應じて来た。併し私の腕は、高貴な人の意志に反して、お前を小舟の中へ連れゆくのである。」「それは當然だ。我々は欲しいものを自分のものとし、それを衆に反抗して、保持し得るものである。一體なら白晝、彼の女を連れ去るべきだつたのだ。」と私の兄弟は云つた。「出掛け様じゃないか。」と私が云つた。なぜなら、彼の女が舟の中<sup>きた</sup>に来るや、私は我等の支配者の、<sup>おまた</sup>數多の部下のことを考へたからである。私の兄弟は云つた。「よし、出掛けやう。我々は追放の身だ。そしてこの小舟が、今や我々の國である。——それから海は我々の<sup>かくが</sup>隠れ家である。」彼は岸に足を掛けた儘、ためらつた。そこで私は彼に、早くしてくれと頼

**to the cry of my heart** = in response to the cry of my heart.

**We should have taken her in daylight** 一體なら夜なぞでなく白晝彼女を奪つて來べきだつたのだ。



entreated him to hasten, for I remembered the strokes of her heart against my breast and thought that two men cannot withstand a hundred. We left, paddling downstream close to the bank; and as we passed by the creek where they were fishing, the great shouting had ceased, but the murmur of voices was loud like the humming of insects flying at noonday. The boats floated, clustered together, in the red light of torches, under a black roof of smoke; and men talked of their sport. Men that boasted, and praised, and jeered—men that would have been our friends in the morning, but on that night were already our enemies. We paddled swiftly past. We had no more friends in the country of our birth. She sat in the middle of the canoe with covered face; silent as she is now; unseeing as she is now—and I had no regret at what I was leaving because I could hear her breathing close to me—as I can hear her now.”

He paused, listened with his ear turned to the doorway, then shook his head and went on.

“My brother wanted to shout the cry of challenge—one cry only—to let the people know we were freeborn robbers who trusted our arms

**clustered together**=being clustered together.

**under a black roof of smoke**=being covered by black smoke.

**men that would have been our friends in the morning** こんなことさへなかつたら「夜が明けても親しくつき合へたらうと思はれ

んだ。なぜなら私の胸に觸れた、彼の女の心臓の鼓動を思ひ起したから。我々は出發した。そして岸に近く沿うて、川を漕ぎ下つた。我々が、皆の漁<sup>すなとり</sup>をしてをつた入江を通過した時、男叫<sup>おたけび</sup>の聲はすでに止んでをつたが、人々の呟き聲は、眞晝に飛ぶ昆蟲の羽音の様に高くひびいた。小舟は赤い松明の光をあび、黒煙に覆はれて、群れ浮んだ。人々がその夜の漁<sup>すなとり</sup>のことを語つた。自慢をしたり、人を褒めたり、嘲弄したりせし人々。一體なら朝が來ても、依然として我々の友であつたらうものを、その夜のうちにもはや、敵となつてしまつた人々が。我々は速かにそこを漕いで過ぎた。我々は生れた故郷に、もはや友がなかつた。彼の女は獨木舟の眞中に、顔を覆うたまゝ、いまの通何も云はず、いまの通何を見るときも座つてをつた。しかも私は後<sup>あと</sup>にしてゆくものに對して、更に未練がなかつた。なぜなら、今私に聞こえる通、すぐま近に彼の女の呼吸が聞こえたからである。」

彼は言葉を途切らせ、入口の方へむけて、耳をすましたが、頭を左右に振つてまた語り續けた。]

「私の兄弟は、挑戦の叫びを——それも唯一度だけ——あけ、我々が自由の身に生れたもので、己の武器と大海原とに信賴する海賊なるを人々に知らせ度い、と云つた。そこでまた私

**the country of our birth**=the country where we were born.

**silent**=being as silent.

knows this

and the great sea. 'And again I begged him in the name of our love to be silent. Could I not hear her breathing close to me? I knew the pursuit would come quick enough. My brother loved me. He dipped his paddle without a splash. He only said, 'There is half a man in you now—the other half is in that woman. I can wait. When you are a whole man again, you will come back with me here to shout defiance. We are sons of the same mother.' I made no answer. All my strength and all my spirit were in my hands that held the paddle—for I longed to be with her in a safe place beyond the reach of men's anger and of women's spite. My love was so great, that I thought it could guide me to a country where death was unknown, if I could only escape from Inchi Midah's fury and from our Ruler's sword. We paddled with haste, breathing through our teeth. The blades bit deep in the smooth water. We passed out of the river; we flew in clear channels amongst the shallows. We skirted the black coast; we skirted the sand beaches where the sea speaks in whispers to the land; and the gleam of white sand flashed back past our boat, so swiftly she ran upon the water. We spoke not. Only once I said, 'Sleep,

Could I not—me? = I could hear her breathing close to me.  
to be = to live.

the sea speaks in whispers to land 海の水がひたひたと陸に寄

は、我々の愛情に免じ、黙つてゝくれと頼んだ。私はまぢかに彼女の女の呼吸が聞こえたのだもの。私は追手が随分早くかゝるだらうと承知してをつた。私の兄弟は私を愛した。彼は櫂を水音もたてずに操つた。彼は唯かう云つた。「今お前の身體には、男が半人前残つてをる。そして後の半人前は、あの女の身體の中にある。私は待つことが出来る。お前がまた一人前の男になつた時、私と一所に戻つて来て、反抗の叫びをあげるのだぞ。我々は同じ腹の兄弟だからな。」私は返辭をしなかつた。すべての私の力、すべての私の精神は、櫂を握つた私の手の中に籠つた。——なぜなら、私は敵方の男達の怒と女達のさげすみの、及んで來ない安全な場所で、彼女の女と共に住むことを熱望したから。私の愛情は甚だ大きいものだつたので、もし私がインチミダの激怒と支配者の劍から逃れることが出来さへしたら、私は其愛情の手引で、不老不死の國まで行けるだらうと思つた。我々は齒を食ひしばつて喘ぎ乍ら、急いで漕いだ。櫂の先は滑かな水に深く食ひ込んだ。我々は川から出て、水清き運河の、淺瀬の中を飛ぶ様に進んだ。我々は黒い海岸を傳つて行つた。また海の水が陸に囁く、砂濱を傳つて行つた。そして白い砂のきらめきが、我々の小舟と、擦れ違ひにひらめいた。その位速かに我々の小舟は水上を走つたのである。我々は口をきかなかつた。唯一度私は云つた。「眠むれディアメレンよ。聞

せるのを斯く云つたのである。

the gleam of—boat 舟が早く進んだから、外の景色が逆に飛んで行く様に見えたのである。

Diamelen, for soon you may want all your strength.' I heard the sweetness of her voice, but I never turned my head. The sun rose and still we went on. Water fell from my face like rain from a cloud. We flew in the light and heat. I never looked back, but I knew that my brother's eyes, behind me, were looking steadily ahead, for the boat went as straight as a bushman's dart, when it leaves the end of the sumpitan. There was no better paddler, no better steersman than my brother. Many times, together, we had won races in that canoe. But we never had put out our strength as we did then—then, when for the last time we paddled together! There was no braver or stronger man in our country than my brother. I could not spare the strength to turn my head and look at him, but every moment I heard the hiss of his breath getting louder behind me. Still he did not speak. The sun was high. The heat clung to my back like a flame of fire. My ribs were ready to burst, but I could no longer get enough air into my chest. And then I felt I must cry out with my last breath, 'Let us rest!' . . . 'Good!' he answered; and his voice was firm. He was strong. He was brave. He knew not fear and no fatigue . . . My brother!"

the sweetness of her voice = her sweet voice.  
sumpitan = blow-gun. 馬來語也。

もなくお前は、お前の全身の力が必要になるかも知れないから。」私は彼の女の麗はしい聲を聞いた。併し私は決して振返らなかつた。太陽は昇つた。しかも我々は休まずに先へと進んだ。汗の水は雲から落ちる雨の様に、私の顔から落ちた。我々は光と熱を浴びて、飛ぶ様に進んだ。私は決して後<sup>うしろ</sup>を向かなかつた。併し私は、兄弟の眼が私の後<sup>うしろ</sup>で行く手をヂット見つめてをるのを知つて居た。なぜなら、小舟は、吹矢銃の筒先をはなれた、森の男の子の吹矢の様に、真直に進んだから。私の兄弟よりすぐれた漕手も、すぐれた舵手も居なかつた。數<sup>おほくたび</sup>多度、我々は共にその獨木舟に乗つて、競漕に勝つた。然しその時——即ち最後につれだつて漕いだ時ほどに我々の力をそゝいた例<sup>たうし</sup>はなかつた。我々の國には、私の兄弟にもまして、勇ましく、強いものは居なかつた。私は振向くために力を割くことが出来なかつたが、絶えず、私の後で、兄弟の息づかひの、次第に荒くなるのが聞こえた。それでもなほ、彼は口を開かなかつた。太陽は高く昇つてをつた。暑熱は火の焰の様に、私の背にまはつた。私の肋<sup>おぼろ</sup>は、いまにも張さけさうであつたが、私はもはや、胸へ充分息を吸ひこむことが出来なかつた。そしてその時私は、最後の息で、「休もうじやないか」と叫ばねばならぬと感じた。……「よし」と彼は答へた。そして彼の聲は確かなものであつた。彼は強かつた。彼は勇敢であつた。彼は恐怖も疲勞も知らなかつた。……私の兄弟は！」

for the last time これを最後と。cf. for the first time 始めて。

A murmur powerful and gentle, a murmur vast and faint; the murmur of trembling leaves, of stirring boughs, ran through the tangled depths of the forests, ran over the starry smoothness of the lagoon, and the water between the piles lapped the slimy timber once with a sudden splash. A breath of warm air touched the two men's faces and passed on with a mournful sound—a breath loud and short like an uneasy sigh of the dreaming earth.

Arsat went on in an even, low voice.

"We ran our canoe on the white beach of a little bay close to a long tongue of land that seemed to bar our road; a long wooded cape going far into the sea. My brother knew that place. Beyond the cape a river has its entrance; and through the jungle of that land there is a narrow path. We made a fire and cooked rice. Then we lay down to sleep on the soft sand in the shade of our canoe, while she watched. No sooner had I closed my eyes than I heard her cry of alarm. We leaped up. The sun was halfway down the sky already, and coming in sight in the opening of the bay we saw a prau manned by many paddlers. We knew it at once; it was one of our Rajah's praus. They were watching the shore, and saw us. They beat the

the starry smoothness of the lagoon—the starry, smooth lagoon.

力強い而も、もの柔かなさゝやき、茫漠として又翳々たるさゝやき、震へる葉、揺れる枝のさゝやきが、森のもつれ茂つた奥をすぎ、潮入の湖の星を宿した、平らかな水みづの面おもてを渡つた。そして杭かきの間の水が、突然音をたて、滑らかな杭かきの木を一度洗つた。温かい微風が、その二人の顔をなで、悲しげな音をたて、行き過ぎた。——夢見る大地の、不安な嘆息なげきにも似た、聲高くもまた東の間の微風が。

アースアットは抑揚のない低聲で話を續けた。

「我々は、小さな灣の白い砂濱の上、丁度行く手を遮さへぎる様に見えた、陸地の長い出鼻でしづね近くに、獨木舟ひとりふねをのせあげた。それは海の中へと、遠く突き出た、長い、樹おひしの生茂つた岬であつた。私の兄弟は、その場所を知つて居つた。その岬の向側には川口があつて、その岬おしの大叢おほやぶの中には狭い道が通つてをつた。我々は火をおこして米を炊かしいた。それから、我々は柔かい砂の上の、我々の小舟の蔭で寝るために横になつた。そしてその間彼の女は見張をした。私が眼をとぢるか、とぢないに、私はけたまほしい叫を聞いた。我々は飛起きた。太陽はすでに、空を半ばさがつてをつた。そして數多あまたの漕手の乗込んだ帆船が、灣の入口に顯あらはれ來るのを見た。我々は直ぐに其が分つた。其は我々の酋長の持てる帆船の一つであつた。彼等は岸を見つめてをつたが、我々を認めた。彼等は銅鑼かねを打ちならし、帆船の船首を

that land—the long tongue of land.

gong, and turned the head of the prau into the bay. I felt my heart become weak within my breast. Diamelen sat on the sand and covered her face. There was no escape by sea. My brother laughed. He had the gun you had given him, Tuan, before you went away, but there was only a handful of powder. He spoke to me quickly: 'Run with her along the path. I shall keep them back, for they have no firearms, and landing in the face of a man with a gun is certain death for some. Run with her. On the other side of that wood there is a fisherman's house—and a canoe. When I have fired all the shots I will follow. I am a great runner, and before they can come up we shall be gone. I will hold out as long as I can, for she is but a woman—that can neither run nor fight, but she has your heart in her weak hands.' He dropped behind the canoe. The prau was coming. She and I ran, and as we rushed along the path I heard shots. My brother fired — once — twice — and the booming of the gong ceased. There was silence behind us. That neck of land is narrow. Before I heard my brother fire the third shot I saw the shelving shore, and I saw the water again: the mouth of a broad river. We

a handful = a small amount.

I shall つよい決心を表はす。

keep them back 「彼等を防ぐ」。

hold out = maintain resistance.

灣の中へと向けた。私は心臓の鼓動が胸の中で微かになるのを感じた。デアメレンは砂濱の上に坐して、顔を覆うた。海傳ひに逃れる道とはなかつた。私の兄弟は笑つた。トウアンよ、彼は貴方が我々の國を去る前、彼に與へた鐵砲をもつてをつた。併し火藥は、ほんの少しあるだけだつた。彼は私に向つて早口に云つた。「彼の女を連れて、道傳ひにはしれ。敵には銃器がないから、俺が食ひとめてやる。鐵砲をもつた一人の敵を憚らずに上陸すれば、數人はきつと死ぬからな。彼の女と一所に逃げる。森を越えた向側には、漁夫の家——とそれから獨木舟がある。俺は彈丸を撃ち盡したら、後から行くよ。俺は馳けるのが疾いから、敵の追付き得ないうちに、我々は逃げ了はせるさ。俺は出来るだけ長く防がう。なぜなら、彼の女は走ることも、闘ふことも出来ぬ婦人にすぎぬ、その上に、弱々しい手に、お前の心を抱へてゐるのだから」。彼は獨木舟の後にかくれた。帆船は近づいて來た。彼の女と私は走つた。そして我々が小徑傳ひに走つた時、私は彈丸の音を聞いた。私の兄弟は發砲したのであつた —— 一發 —— 二發そして銅鑼のとゞろきは止んだ。我々の後には静寂があつた。その岬は幅の狭いものなので。三發目の彈丸の音が聞こえぬうちに、緩い傾斜の濱が見え、それからまた水が見えた。これは廣い河の口であつた。我々は草深き木の間路を横ぎつた。我々は水際ま

but = moreover.

she has your heart in her weak hands 戀の重荷を手に持つゆゑ、さぞ重たかる、といふ心也。

That neck of land = that promontory.

crossed a grassy glade. We ran down to the water. I saw a low hut above the black mud, and a small canoe hauled up. I heard another shot behind me. I thought, 'That is his last charge.' We rushed down to the canoe; a man came running from the hut, but I leaped on him, and we rolled together in the mud. Then I got up, and he lay still at my feet. I don't know whether I had killed him or not. I and Diamelen pushed the canoe afloat. I heard yells behind me, and I saw my brother run across the glade. Many men were bounding after him. I took her in my arms and threw her into the boat, then leaped in myself. When I looked back I saw that my brother had fallen. He fell and was up again, but the men were closing round him. He shouted, 'I am coming!' The men were close to him. I looked. Many men. Then I looked at her. Tuan, I pushed the canoe! I pushed it into deep water. She was kneeling forward looking at me, and I said, 'Take your paddle,' while I struck the water with mine. Tuan, I heard him cry. I heard him cry my name twice; and I heard voices shouting, 'Kill! Strike!' I never turned back. I heard him calling my name again with a great shriek, as when life is going out together with the voice—and I never turned my

a small canoe hauled up 曳きあげられた小獨木舟。  
forward=in the forepart of the boat.

で走りくだつた。私は黒い泥土の上なる低い小屋と、陸につけてある小さな獨木舟を見た。私は背後にまた一發の銃聲を聞いた。私は考へた、「これは最後の一發だ。」我々は獨木舟の所まで、かけ下りた。一人の男が小屋から駈けて來たが、私はその男に飛び掛つて、二人一所に泥土の中へ轉がつた。それから私は起き上つたが、彼は私の足下に身動きもせず横たはつた。私は彼を殺してしまつたのだつたかどうか、今でも分らない。私とデアメレンは、獨木舟を押し出して、水に浮べた。私は背後に人の喚き聲を聞いた。そして私は、兄弟が樹の間路を横ぎつて走るのを見た。多くのものが、彼の後から飛んで來た。私は彼の女を抱へて、小舟の中へ投げこみ、續いて自分もとびこんだ。振向いて見たら、私は兄弟の倒れたのが見えた。彼は倒れて又起き上つた。併し追手は、彼を取巻きつゝあつた。彼は今行くぞ、と叫んだ。追手は彼に肉薄した。見ると、大勢だ。それから私は彼の女を見た。トウアンよ、私は獨木舟を押し出したよ！深みへと其を押し出した。彼の女は私を見乍ら、船首の方に跪づいてをつた。そこで私は、「お前の櫂をとれ。」と云つた、そして私の櫂で水をうつた。トウアンよ、私は、兄弟が呼ぶのを聞いたよ。私は彼が私の名を、二回呼ぶのを聞き、追手が口々に、「殺せ、打て」、と喚くのを聞いた。併し私は決して後を向かなかつた。私は兄弟が大きく叫んで、再び私の名を呼ぶのを聞いた。而も私は決して後を向かな

with mine=with my paddle.  
voices=enemy's voice.

head. My own name! . . . My brother! Three times he called—but I was not afraid of life. Was she not there in that canoe? And could I not with her find a country where death is forgotten—where death is unknown!”

The white man sat up. Arsat rose and stood, an indistinct and silent figure above the dying embers of the fire. Over the lagoon a mist drifting and low had crept, erasing slowly the glittering images of the stars. And now a great expanse of white vapour covered the land: it flowed cold and grey in the darkness, eddied in noiseless whirls round the tree-trunks and about the platform of the house, which seemed to float upon a restless and impalpable illusion of a sea. Only far away the tops of the trees stood outlined on the twinkle of heaven, like a sombre and forbidding shore—a coast deceptive, pitiless and black.

Arsat's voice vibrated loudly in the profound peace.

“I had her there! I had her! To get her I would have faced all mankind. But I had her—and——”

His words went out ringing into the empty distances. He paused, and seemed to listen to

**Was she not—unknown!**—I thought, “Is she not here in this canoe? And can I not with her find a country where death is forgotten—where death is unknown.”

かつた。ほかならぬ私の名を！ 而も私の兄弟が！ 三度び呼んだのだ——併し、私は命が惜しかつたのではない。が、「彼の女が舟の中に居るじゃないか。私は彼の女と共に、死が忘れられ、死の知られざる國を見出し得ないものだらうか。」と思つたのだ。

白人は居すまひを直した。アースットは身體を起して、立ちあがつたが、焚火の消えかゝつたもえさしの上に、おほろけな、そして黙々たる姿に見えた。潮入の湖の上を、漂ひ流れ、低く懸れる霧が、静かに匂つて、きらめく星の影を、徐々に消して行つた。そして今や、廣い一面の濛々たる白気が、地面を覆うて、闇の中を冷たく灰色に流れ、樹の幹や家の露臺の周圍に、音もなく渦卷いた。そしてその家は、落ちつかぬ、手筈のない幻の海の上に浮ぶ様に見えた。唯遙か彼方に、樹々の梢が、空の星のきらめくなかに、暗い、近づき難い岸、陰険にして、假借なき、怖らしい海岸の様な輪郭を描いてそびえた。

アースットの聲は、深い静寂のうちに高く反響した。

「彼の女はそこにをつた！ すでに私の手中にあつた！ もしもこれから、彼の女を手に入れるのであつたら、私は全人類に立ち向つたでもあらう。然し彼の女はすでに私の手中にあつた——それで——」

彼の言葉は、空虚な遠方へと響いて行つた。そして、何とも仕様のない、呼び戻すことも出来ない遙か彼方へと消えてゆ

**an indistinct and silent figure**—looking an indistinct and silent figure.

**in noiseless whirls** 音もなき渦になつて。

them dying away very far—beyond help and beyond recall. Then he said quietly—

“Tuan, I loved my brother.”

A breath of wind made him shiver. High above his head, high above the silent sea of mist the drooping leaves of the palms rattled together with a mournful and expiring sound. The white man stretched his legs. His chin rested on his chest, and he murmured sadly without lifting his head—

“We all love our brothers.”

Arsat burst out with an intense whispering violence—

“What did I care who died? I wanted peace in my own heart.”

He seemed to hear a stir in the house—listened—then stepped in noiselessly. The white man stood up. A breeze was coming in fitful puffs. The stars shone paler as if they had retreated into the frozen depths of immense space. After a chill gust of wind there were a few seconds of perfect calm and absolute silence. Then from behind the black and wavy line of the forests a column of golden light shot up into the heavens and spread over the semi-circle of the eastern horizon. The sun had risen. The mist lifted,

**What did I care who died?** = I did not care a straw who died.

く、自分の言葉に、耳をすましてをる様に見えた。其から彼は静かに云つた——

「トウアンよ、私は兄弟を愛してをつたよ。」

一陣の微風が渡つて、彼は身震をした。彼の頭上高く、静かな霧の海の上高く、棕櫚のうなだれた葉が、悲しげな、絶え入る様な音して擦れあつた。白人は足をのぼした。彼の顔は胸の上へ埋もれてゐた。そして彼は頭も上げず、悲しげに云つた——

「我々は皆、兄弟を愛するさ。」

アーサットは、小聲ながら激越な口調で叫んだ。

「誰が死なうと、私は少しも構はなかつたのだ。私は自分の心の中に平和を求めたのだ。」

彼は家の中の物音を聞きつけた様子で——耳をすましたが、やがて静かに中へはいつて行つた。白人は立ち上つた。微風が思ひ出した様に起つては吹いて来た。星は、はてしらぬ空間の凍つた奥底へ退いた様に、一層青白く輝いた。ひやゝかな風が一つさつと渡つた後、數秒の完全な風と絶対の静けさがあつた。次で森の梢が、空に劃した黒いうねうねした線の後から、金色の光の圓柱が、天空に沖し、東の地平線の半圓一帯に擴がつた。太陽はすでに昇つたのであつた。霧は晴れ、千切れ

**in fitful puff** 發作的に吹いて。



broke into drifting patches, vanished into thin flying wreaths; and the unveiled lagoon lay, polished and black, in the heavy shadows at the foot of the wall of trees. A white eagle rose over it with a slanting and ponderous flight, reached the clear sunshine and appeared dazzlingly brilliant for a moment, then soaring higher, became a dark and motionless speck before it vanished into the blue as if it had left the earth for ever. The white man, standing gazing upwards before the doorway, heard in the hut a confused and broken murmur of distracted words ending with a loud groan. Suddenly Arsat stumbled out with outstretched hands, shivered, and stood still for some time with fixed eyes. Then he said—

“She burns no more.”

Before his face the sun showed its edge above the tree-tops, rising steadily. The breeze freshened; a great brilliance burst upon the lagoon, sparkled on the rippling water. The forests came out of the clear shadows of the morning, became distinct, as if they had rushed nearer—to stop short in a great stir of leaves, of nodding boughs, of swaying branches. In the merciless sunshine the whisper of unconscious life grew louder, speaking in an incomprehensible voice round the dumb

**unconscious life** = natural life. (cf. conscious life = human life)

ては漂ふ断片となり、薄れては飛びゆく細い渦巻となつた。そしてグエイルを脱いだ潮入の湖は、立ち並んだ樹々の根元なる、濃い陰影の中に、平かに、また黒く横たはつた。一羽の白い鷺が、斜に重々しく飛び乍ら、湖の上に昇り、遮ぎるものもなく、日光の照す所まで達し、東の間、まばゆきほど輝かしく見えたが、それから更に高く舞ひ上つて、黒い不動の一点となり、つひに、大地を永久に見棄てたかの如く、青空の中へと消えてしまつた。白人は入口の前で、空の方を見つめ乍ら、立つてをつたが、小屋の中では、もの狂ほしい言葉の、しどろもどろな、きれぎれの呟きが、つひには、大きな唸り聲になるのを聞いた。突然、アーサットは、手をさしのべたまゝ、まろび出で、身震ひをし、しばし目を据えて立つてをつたが、やがて云つた。

「彼の女はもはや燃えて居ない。」

彼の面前では、太陽がぢりぢりと昇りつゝ、樹の梢の上にそのはしを顯はした。微風は勢をまし、陸離たる光彩が、俄に潮入の湖の上に起つて、小波立つた水の面にきらめいた。森は朝のくつきりした陰影の中から抜け出で、あだかも、ま近かまで駆け寄つて、木の葉や、微動する大枝や、大に揺れる小枝を、ざはめかした儘、突然立ち止まつたかの如く、はつきりとしてきた。用捨なく、照りつける日光を浴びて、自然界の生活の囁きは、聲高くなり、人間の悲しみの無言なる闇をめぐる

**Incomprehensible** = indescribable.

darkness of that human sorrow. Arsat's eyes wandered slowly, then stared at the rising sun.

"I can see nothing," he said half aloud to himself.

"There is nothing," said the white man, moving to the edge of the platform and waving his hand to his boat. A shout came faintly over the lagoon and the sampan began to glide towards the abode of the friend of ghosts.

"If you want to come with me, I will wait all the morning," said the white man, looking away upon the water.

"No, Tuan," said Arsat softly. "I shall not eat or sleep in this house, but I must first see my road. Now I can see nothing—see nothing! There is no light and no peace in the world; but there is death—death for many. We were sons of the same mother—and I left him in the midst of enemies; but I am going back now."

He drew a long breath and went on in a dreamy tone.

"In a little while I shall see clear enough to strike—to strike. But she has died, and . . . now . . . darkness."

He flung his arms wide open, let them fall along his body, then stood still with unmoved

half aloud=half audibly.

death for many p. 32: ll. 1-2 註参照。

つて、云ひ知れぬ聲で物語をした。アーサットの目は、しづかに、何を見るともなく、さまよつたが、やがて昇りくる太陽を凝視した。

「私には何も見えない。」と彼は半ば人に聞こえる様な聲で獨語を云つた。

「それは、何もないからさ。」と白人は云つた。そして露臺の端まで歩いてゆき、自分の舟に手を振つて、合圖をした。應答の叫びが、微かに潮入の潮を渡つて聞こえて來た。そして舟は妖精の友なる、アーサットの住家へ向けて、迂り出した。

「もしお前が、俺と一所に來たいのなら、午前中は待つてを待つてあげやう。」と白人は水の上を見遙かし乍ら云つた。

「いや、トウアンよ。」とアーサットは云つた。「私はこの家の中では食事もしないし寝もしないが、私はまづ第一に、自分の進むべき道を見付けなければならぬ。しかし今、私には何も—何も見えない。この世の中には、光も平和もない。併し死がある。多くのものにとつての死がある。我々は同じ腹から生れた兄弟であつた。—しかし私は彼を、敵の最中に見棄てたのである。併し私はこれから戻つて行くのだ。

彼はホツと一息して、夢見る様な調子で語り續けた。

「一寸すれば、私も、たいきつける—たいきつける位には明瞭と見える様になるだらう。併し彼の女は死んでしまつた。そして……今や……暗黒だ。」

彼は腕を擴けて、身體の兩傍へ下したが、それから太陽を凝視しつゝ、落ちついた顔と、石のやうに動かぬ眼をして、靜

to strike=to strike many dead.

darkness=there is darkness.

face and stony eyes, staring at the sun. The white man got down into his canoe. The polers ran smartly along the sides of the boat, looking over their shoulders at the beginning of a weary journey. High in the stern, his head muffled up in white rags the juragan sat moody, letting his paddle trail in the water. The white man, leaning with both arms over the grass roof of the little cabin, looked back at the shining ripple of the boat's wake. Before the sampan passed out of the lagoon into the creek he lifted his eyes. Arsat had not moved. He stood lonely in the searching sunshine; and he looked beyond the great light of a cloudless day into the darkness of a world of illusions.

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stony = unfeeling or motionless as a stone.

かに立つてをつた。白人は獨木舟の中へ降りた。棹さす舟人達は、舷側を軽ろやかに走つた。そしてもの憂き旅の始發點を、肩越しに振向いて見た。頭を白い布に包んだ舟長は、艫の高所に、不愛想な顔して、坐つて彼の橈を水のまにまに流しつゝ進んだ。白人は小屋の草屋根の上に兩腕を置いて凭れたまゝ、船のすぎゆく跡にたつ、きらきらした小波を顧みた。舟が湖から出て、支流に入る前に、白人は目をあけて見た。アーサットはまだ、身動きをして居なかつた。白人は烈しい日光を浴びて獨り淋しく立つてをつた。そして雲もなき日の明るい光を越えて、幻の世界の暗黒をのぞき込んだのであつた。

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his head muffled up = with his head muffled up.

AN OUTPOST OF PROGRESS

## AN·OUTPOST OF PROGRESS

### I

THERE were two white men in charge of the trading station. Kayerts, the chief, was short and fat; Carlier, the assistant, was tall, with a large head and a very broad trunk perched upon a long pair of thin legs. The third man on the staff was a Sierra Leone nigger, who maintained that his name was Henry Price. However, for some reason or other, the natives down the river had given him the name of Makola, and it stuck to him through all his wanderings about the country. He spoke English and French with a warbling accent, wrote a beautiful hand, under

**Outpost** 「前哨」。敵の不意打などに備へるため、本隊からはなして配置した哨兵。轉じて其「屯所」。

**progress**=trade. 貿易は未開の地へ文明と進歩をもちこんでゆくといふ所から、「進歩」を「貿易」の意味に洒落て用ひたのである。故に **outpost of progress** 「進歩の前哨屯所」とは、「未開地に於ける貿易の出張所」の意。

**There were two men in charge of.....There** は發語にて意味なし、**were** を **in charge of** に續け、「二人の男が...を管理してをつた」と譯す。

**trading station** 「貿易出張所」。

## 進歩の前哨屯所

### 1

二人の白人が、その貿易の出張所を管理してをつた。主任のカイヤーツは、脊が低くて肥えてをつたが、助手のカーリエは、脊が高くて、大きな頭と、とても横に広い胴が、長細い脚の上に乗かつてをつた。其所に務めてゐた三番目の男は、シエラ・レオーネの黒奴で、この男、自分の名はヘンリ・ブライスだと主張した。が何ういふものか、下流の土人等は、彼にマコーラといふ名前をつけた。そしてその名は、彼が國內を歩き廻る間中、ついて離れぬものとなつた。マコーラは、鳥の囀る様な調子で、英佛の言葉を話し、手蹟を綺麗にかき、簿記の心得も

**staff**=body of assistants by whom an institution or business is carried on. 學校ならば校長を除いた他の職員をいひ出張所なら所長又は主任を除いた他の所員をいふ。但し此所では主任即ち chief を含めて staff と云つたのである。

**Sierra Leone** 亞弗利加の西海岸なる英國植民地。

**nigger** “negro” の contemptuous form. 「黒奴」に對する「黒ん坊」位の所。

**stuck to him** 「彼に、はりついてしまつた」「ついてはなれぬものとなつた」。

**warbling** 「小鳥の囀る様な」 of. “Lush-warbler” 「鶯鶯」。

**accent**=way of speaking 「口のきゝ方」。

stood book-keeping, and cherished in his innermost heart the worship of evil spirits. His wife was a negress from Loanda, very large and very noisy. Three children rolled about in sunshine before the door of his low, shed-like dwelling. Makola, taciturn and impenetrable, despised the two white men. He had charge of a small clay storehouse with a dried-grass roof, and pretended to keep a correct account of beads, cotton cloth, red kerchiefs, brass wire, and other trade goods it contained. Besides the storehouse and Makola's hut, there was only one large building in the cleared ground of the station. It was built neatly of reeds, with a verandah on all the four sides. There were three rooms in it. The one in the middle was the living-room, and had two rough tables and a few stools in it. The other two were the bedrooms for the white men. Each had a bedstead and a mosquito net for all furniture. The plank floor was littered with the belongings of the white men; open half-empty

**cherished**=clung to...「...に凝つた」。

**in his innermost heart**「心の奥底で」。

**negress** negro の feminine form.

**Loanda** 西部亞弗利加なる葡領の島。

**very large and very noisy**=being 「=and is」 very large and very noisy.

**in sunshine**=in the sun 「日向に」。

**taciturn** 「無口な」。

**impenetrable**=dense, stubborn 「他人の意見なぞ耳に入らぬ」 「頑固な」。

**clay** 「粘土の」 「粘土造の」 名詞を形容詞的に用ひたのである。

あつたし、それに心の奥底では、悪魔の崇拜に凝つてをつた。

彼の内儀はロアンダ生れの黒奴で、とても大柄な、とても騒々しい女であつた。三人の子供達は棟の低い、物置小屋の様な住居の入口の前で、日向にごろごろしてをつた。無口で頑固なマコーラは、二人の白人を馬鹿にしてゐた。彼は乾草で屋根を葺いた、小さな粘土造の倉庫を預かつてをつた。そして珠数玉、木綿、赤ハンケチ、眞鍮の針金、その他其所にしまつてあつた商品の、正確な帳つけをして居る様に見せかけた。倉庫とマコーラの小屋以外としては、出張所の切りひらいた地面に、大きな建物が一つあるだけだつた。其は蘆で手綺麗に建てたもので、四方に椽側を廻らしてあつた。三室あつたが、真中の室は居間で、二つの粗末なテーブルと数脚の腰掛が置いてあつた。あとの二つは、白人達の寢室で、いづれも家具としては、寢臺と蚊帳があるだけだつた。板張の床は、白人達のもちもの、即

**it**=the storehouse.

**neatly** 「きちんと」 「手綺麗に」。

**with a verandah on all sides** 「四方に椽側のついた」。

**living-room**=sitting room.

**rough** 「粗末な」。

**Each had a bedstead—furniture**=Each room was bare but for a bedstead and a mosquito net. 「どの室にも、寢臺と蚊帳があるだけで他には何もなかつた」。

**plank** 「板張の」。

**belogings**=goods belonging to.

boxes, torn wearing apparel, old boots; all the things dirty, and all the things broken, that accumulate mysteriously round untidy men. There was also another dwelling-place some distance away from the buildings. In it, under a tall cross much out of the perpendicular, slept the man who had seen the beginning of all this; who had planned and had watched the construction of this outpost of progress. He had been, at home, an unsuccessful painter who, weary of pursuing fame on an empty stomach, had gone out there through high protections. He had been the first chief of that station. Makola had watched the energetic artist die of fever in the just finished house with his usual kind of "I told you so" indifference. Then, for a time, he dwelt alone with his family, his account books, and the Evil Spirit that rules the lands under the equator. He got on very well with his god. Perhaps he had propitiated him by a promise of more white men to play

wearing apparel=clothing.

untidy 「きちつとしない」「だらだらした」。

cross 「十字架」基督教信者は墓に十字架をたてる。

much out of the perpendicular 「大いに傾斜してゐる」。

all this=all these things.

at home=in his native country.

weary of=being weary of=being tired of 「...するのが厭になつて」。

on an empty stomach 「空腹をかゝへて」。

through high protections=through great influences. 「有力者のひきで」。

ち、あいたまゝの、半ば空になつた箱や、破れた着物や、古い靴など、ふしだらな男の身邊に、不思議と蒐積る、あらゆるきたないものや、あらゆる壊れたものが、散らばつてをつた。之等の建物から少しはなれて、またもう一つの棲所があつた、そしてその棲所には、ひどく傾斜した、高い十字架の下に、そもそもの發端を見て知つてをつた人で、この進歩の前哨屯所の建設を計畫もし、監督もした人が眠つてをつた。彼は、本國では芽をふかすにしまつた畫家であつたが、空き腹で名聲を追ひ求めるのが、いやになつたため、有力者のひきで、こんな處まで出掛けて來たので、その出張所初代の主任であつた。マコーラは、この元氣な畫家が、熱病に罹つて、やつと出來上つた家の中で、死んだのを、いつもの「だから云はないことぢやない、」式の冷淡な態度で、ぢつと見てをつたのであつた。それから一時、マコーラは、自分の家族と、會計帳簿と、其から赤道直下の國々を支配する悪魔と、其だけを相手に暮した。その悪魔とは彼、睦まじくつき合つた。恐らく彼は、おもちゃになる様な白人を、やがてはもつと餘計に世話するといふ約束でもつて、

station=trading station.

"I told you so" indifference 「だから云はないことぢやない、とでも云ふやうな冷淡さ」。自分獨りをよしとする様な態度をいふ。

the Evil Spirit=the Devil.

got on=lived in harmony.

his god=the Evil Spirit.

propitiated 「氣嫌をとつた」。

by a promise of=making a promise that he would give 「あげようと約束をして」。

with, by-and-by. At any rate the director of the Great Trading Company, coming up in a steamer that resembled an enormous sardine box with a flat-roofed shed erected on it, found the station in good order, and Makola as usual quietly diligent. The director had the cross put up over the first agent's grave, and appointed Kayerts to the post. Carlier was told off as second in charge. The director was a man ruthless and efficient, who at times, but very imperceptibly, indulged in grim humour. He made a speech to Kayerts and Carlier, pointing out to them the promising aspect of their station. The nearest trading-post was about three hundred miles away. It was an exceptional opportunity for them to distinguish themselves and to earn percentages on the trade. This appointment was a favour done to beginners. Kayerts was moved almost to tears by his director's kindness. He would, he said, by doing his best, try to justify the flatter-

**by-and-by** = soon.

**director** 「重役」「取締役」この場合は後で分る様に managing director 「専務取締役」である。

**up** = up stream 川を溯つて。

**sardine box** オレフ油漬にした鰯の罐詰にて形平たし。

**found the station in good order** 「出張所を整頓状態に於て見出した」。「来て見ると、出張所が整頓してなつた」。

**as usual** いつもの如く。

**had the cross put up** 「十字架を建てさせた」cf. "to have one's watch repaired" 「時計を修繕させる」。

**was told off** 「派遣せられた」"to tell" は「數へる」意味で

悪魔の氣嫌をとつたのもあらうか。兎に角、大貿易會社の専務が甲板に平たい屋根の小屋を設けた、巨大な鰯の罐詰然たる汽船に乗つてやつて来て見ると、出張所はキッチンと片付いて、マコーラは、不相變、黙々として勤勉に働いてるのであつた。専務は初代主任の墓の上に、十字架を建てさせ、カイヤーツに後任を命じた。カーリエが管理助手として派遣せられた。専務は冷酷有能の男で、時々、併し極く目立たぬ様に、すごい冗談を、どしどしやつてのけた。彼はカイヤーツとカーリエに向つて演説をなし、彼等にその出張所の有望な方面を、指摘して聞かせた。最も近い出張所が約三百哩も離れてをる。これは二人が腕をあらはし、取引で歩合をもうけるのに絶好の機會であつて、この任命は新米者に與へられた一種の恩惠である、といふのであつた。カイヤーツは、専務の親切な計らひに、泣かん計りに感動した。彼は全力を盡して、この身に餘る信頼に報いやうな

"to tell off" 本隊から一部を番號で數へて「派遣する」意味。

**second in charge** 「管理助手」「副主任」。

**indulged in...** 「...に耽つた」。

**aspect** 「方面」。

**The nearest trading.....to beginners** 之は専務の言葉を半ば間接話法的に記述したもので、いま専務直接の言葉に改めれば次の様になる。"The nearest trading station is about three hundred miles away. It is an exceptional opportunity for you to distinguish yourselves and to earn percentages on the trade. This appointment is a favour done to beginners."

**almost to tears** 「殆ど涙の出るまで」。

**He would, he said, by doing his best, try...** = He said, "I will, by doing my best, try....."



ing confidence, &c., &c. Kayerts had been in the Administration of the Telegraphs, and knew how to express himself correctly. Carlier, an ex-non-commissioned officer of cavalry in an army guaranteed from harm by several European Powers, was less impressed. If there were commissions to get, so much the better; and, trailing a sulky glance over the river, the forests, the impenetrable bush that seemed to cut off the station from the rest of the world, he muttered between his teeth, "We shall see, very soon."

Next day, some bales of cotton goods and a few cases of provisions having been thrown on shore, the sardine-box steamer went off, not to return for another six months. On the deck the director touched his cap to the two agents, who stood on the bank waving their hats, and turning to an old servant of the Company on his passage to headquarters, said, "Look at those two imbeciles. They must be mad at home to send

**knew how to...=could.....**

**express himself=speak.**

**an army guaranteed**—Powers 歐洲大戦前、歐洲の Powers は Belgium を永久の仲立地帯として侵略しないことに協定してをつた。

**was less impressed**=was not so much impressed as Kayerts.

**If there were—the better** 之は Carlier の心の中、直接の話法に改めれば、He thought, "If there *are* commissions to get, so much the better."

**trail a glance over the river** 「川の上を不愉快氣に眺め渡す」。

どい云つた。カイヤーツはもと電信局にゐたことがあるので、キチンとした言葉遣ひを心得てをつた。カーリアは歐洲の列強から侵略をうけない様に保證せられた、伯耳義陸軍の非職の騎兵下士だつたが、カイヤーツほどには感動しなかつた。歩合も取れるのなら、益々いゝや、と彼は考へた。そして、川や、森や、出張所を世界の他の部分から切り離す様に見える鬱蒼たる大叢などを、不愉快げに眺め渡し乍ら、彼は小さな聲で呟いた。「すぐに、萬事分るさ。」

次の日、木棉物の包數箇と食糧品二箱三箱の陸上げが済むと、鯛の鑑詰然たる汽船は、行つてしまつたが、それからもう半年の間は、戻つて來ない豫定であつた。甲板の上で専務は、川岸に立つて高帽を振つた。主任と助手の二人に對し、自分の帽子に手をかけて挨拶した。そして本社へと引き上げる途すがら、會社の老僕を省みて云つた。「あそこにある、二人の馬鹿を見

"cast a glance at....." は「.....に一瞥をなげる」のであるが、"trail a glance over....." はその一瞥が一箇所に止まらず、それからそれへとうごいてゆくことを示す。

**impenetrable=dense.** 「生ひ繁つた」「足を踏み入れることも出來ぬ」。

**to cut off** 「絶縁する」。

**not to return** 「戻つて來ない豫定で」。

**who stood**=as they stood.

**imbeciles**=good-for-nothings. 「ろくでなし」。

**They must be mad at home** 「本國の奴等は氣の變に違ひない」。

me such specimens. I told those fellows to plant a vegetable garden, build new storehouses and fences, and construct a landing-stage. I bet nothing will be done! They won't know how to begin. I always thought the station on this river useless, and they just fit the station!"

"They will form themselves there," said the old stager with a quiet smile.

"At any rate, I am rid of them for six months," retorted the director.

The two men watched the steamer round the bend, then, ascending arm in arm the slope of the bank, returned to the station. They had been in this vast and dark country only a very short time, and as yet always in the midst of other white men, under the eye and guidance of their superiors. And now, dull as they were to the subtle influences of surroundings, they felt themselves very much alone, when suddenly left unassisted to face the wilderness; a wilderness rendered more strange, more incomprehensible

**specimens** 「しろもの」人に此文字を用ゆれば輕蔑の意を表はす。

"item" もまた同様に用ゆ。

**landing-stage** 「上陸場」。

**I bet**=surely.

**form themselves** 「自己を陶冶する」cf. "form one's character" 「人格を陶冶する」。

**stager** 「抜け目のない奴」「古狸」。

**watched the steamer round the bend**=watched the steamer go round the bend.

**dark**=uncivilized.

ろ。あんな代物しろものを送つて寄越よこすなんて、本國の奴等やつら正氣の沙汰じゃないぜ。俺はあの二人に、菜園を植込んだり、新しい納屋と垣根を作つたり、着船場よつさばをこしらへる様に云つては来たが、請合うけあひ、何も出来やしまい。彼奴等あいつらにや、仕事のとつきが分るまい、俺は元からこの川岸の出張所は、無駄だと思つてゐたのだが、彼奴等あいつらには丁度にあひお似合の所さ。」

「彼奴等あいつらも鍛へられることで御座いませう。」と海山千年の老人は靜かに微笑し乍ら云つた。

「兎に角、半年てものは、彼奴等から肩抜けだよ。」と、専務は云つた。

二人の男は汽船が川の曲り目をまがつてゆくのを見てをつたが、其から腕と腕を組み合はせ、川岸の傾斜面をのほつて、出張所へと戻つた。彼等はこの大きな未開の國へ來てから、まだほんの僅かにしかならなかつた。そして今までは絶えず、他の白人にまじつて、上役の監督と指導をうけてをつたのだが、しかも今や、一體が二人とも環境の隠れた力に鈍感ではあつたものゝ、はてしなき原野、即ち、中に住む勢いきほひのいゝ生物の不思議な姿が、チラチラするので、ますます異様に、ますます得體いだいの

**under**=placed under.

**the eye**=the watch.

**dull as they were**=though they were dull.

**subtle**=obscure. 「隠れた」。

**influence of the surroundings** 「周囲の勢力」「外部からの壓迫、支配」。

**when suddenly left**=when they were suddenly left.

**unassisted**=alone.

**incomprehensible** 「了解し難い」「えたいの知れぬ」。

by the mysterious glimpses of the vigorous life it contained. They were two perfectly insignificant and incavable individuals, whose existence is only rendered possible through the high organisation of civilised crowds. Few men realise that their life, the very essence of their character, their capabilities and their audacities, are only the expression of their belief in the safety of their surroundings. The courage, the composure, the confidence; the emotions and principles; every great and every insignificant thought belongs not to the individual but to the crowd: to the crowd that believes blindly in the irresistible force of its institutions and of its morals, in the power of its police and of its opinion. But the contact with pure unmitigated savagery, with primitive nature and primitive man, brings sudden and profound trouble into the heart. To the sentiment of being alone of one's kind, to the clear perception of the loneliness of one's thoughts, of one's sensations—to the negation of the habitual, which is safe,

**glimpse**=swift passing appearance.

**life**=animate existence 「生物」「動植物」。

**insignificant** 「取るに足らぬ」。

**individual**=person.

**whose existence**=and their existence=and their life.

**audacities** 「おしつよさ」「圖々しさ」。

**the expression of—surroundings** 「その環境の安全を信ずる心の表現」とは「周囲のものが自分たちに害を加へるものではないといふ安心から自然流れ出てくる結果」の意。

知れぬものに見える、はてしなき原野に直面せよと、放り出された時、二人は自分等がいかにも頼ないことを感じた。彼等二人は全く下らぬ、無能なものどもであつた。斯様な人々の生活は、開化せる群衆の進歩した組織によつて、はじめて可能なものとなるのである。凡そ人にして、その生活、その人格の本質、その能力、乃至はその圖々しさが、その環境の安全を信ずる心の表現に過ぎざるところを覺るものは尠い。勇氣も、沈着も、自信も、感動も、主義も、又あらゆるえらい<sup>かんがへ</sup>想念も、あらゆるけちな<sup>かんがへ</sup>想念も、個人のものではなくて、群衆、即ち、その制度道德の反抗し難き勢力と、その警察並に輿論の權力とを盲信する群衆のものなのである。然し、純粹な、正真正銘の野蠻に接し、原始的の自然や原始的の人間に觸れると、人の心に突然の、深刻な心配が起つて来る。自分以外に自分の仲間はないといふ感じにまで、また自分の考や自分の氣持が孤立だといふ明瞭な知覺にまで、即ち安全な平凡の否定にまで、危険な異常の肯定が

**opinion**=public opinion 「輿論」。

**unmitigated** 「割引なしの」「眞の」。

**trouble** 「心配」。

**alone**=the only man.

**kind** 「同類」。

**perception of the loneliness—sensations** 「斯かる蠻地には他に白人が居ないから自分の様にもものを考へ、自分の様な感を抱くものが他にないといふ知覺」。

**negation of the habitual** 「平凡の否定」とは白人として日頃見聞することは決して起つてこないといふ感じをいふ。

there is added the affirmation of the unusual, which is dangerous; a suggestion of things vague, uncontrollable, and repulsive, whose discomposing intrusion excites the imagination and tries the civilised nerves of the foolish and the wise alike.

Kayerts and Carlier walked arm in arm, drawing close to one another as children do in the dark; and they had the same, not altogether unpleasant, sense of danger which one half suspects to be imaginary. They chatted persistently in familiar tones. "Our station is prettily situated," said one. The other assented with enthusiasm, enlarging volubly on the beauties of the situation. Then they passed near the grave. "Poor devil!" said Kayerts. "He died of fever, didn't he?" muttered Carlier, stopping short. "Why," retorted Kayerts, with indignation, "I've been told that the fellow exposed himself recklessly to the sun. The climate here, everybody says, is not at all worse than at home, as long as you keep out of the sun. Do you hear that, Carlier? I

**affirmation of the unusual** 「異常の肯定」とは日常の見聞とは全々かけはなれたことがたしかに起つて來るといふ感じをいふ。

**whose discomposing intrusion** = which [=the suggestion] intruding discomposingly

**tries** = strains. 「緊張せしめる」。

**not altogether unpleasant** = having a slight amount of attraction 「全然不愉快でもない」即ち「どこかで、かすかに愉快の様にも思へる」。

**suspects** = half believes.

**imaginary** = not real 「實在しない」。

加はつて來、漠然とした、思ふ様にならぬ、忌まはしいものゝ暗示が加はつて來る。そして其の暗示は、不安になるまでのしかゝつて來て、賢愚兩者の想像力を一様に刺戟し、その文明人的神經を過勞せしめるのである。

カイヤーツとカーリエは腕と腕を組み合せ、小供等が暗闇の中でやる様に、お互に寄り添つて歩いた。そして二人は等しく、半ばあとかたがないものゝ様にも思へる危険を意識したが、其が全然不愉快な譯でもなかつた。二人は、なれなれしい調子で、とめ度もなく、しゃべつた。「我々の出張所はいゝ所にあるよ。」と一人が云ふと、他のものも夢中になつて、同意し、場所柄のよいことを、滔々と布衍した。其から彼等は墓の傍を通つた。「可愛さうに」とカイヤーツが云つた。「この男は熱病で死んだのだらう？」とカーリエは突然立留り乍ら呟いた。カイヤーツは、いまいまさうに即答した。「それだつて、この男は無鐵砲にも、日向へ身體を曝したといふ話だぜ。皆の説ぢや、日向へ出ない様にさへしてをれば、此處の氣候は本國と比べて、少しも遜色はない相だ。いかね、カーリエ。僕は此處の主任だ

**chatted persistently** = chatted away.

**beauties** 「美點」。

**devil** = fellow.

**stopping short** = stopping suddenly.

**Why** これは聞かなくてもいゝ様な simple question に對する interjection. 「知れたことさ」位の意。

**as long as** = if only.

**Do you hear that?** = Do you understand that?

am chief here, and my orders are that you should not expose yourself to the sun!" He assumed his superiority jocularly, but his meaning was serious. The idea that he would, perhaps, have to bury Carlier and remain alone, gave him an inward shiver. He felt suddenly that this Carlier was more precious to him here, in the centre of Africa, than a brother could be anywhere else. Carlier, entering into the spirit of the thing, made a military salute and answered in a brisk tone, "Your orders shall be attended to, chief!" Then he burst out laughing, slapped Kayerts on the back, and shouted, "We shall let life run easily here! Just sit still and gather in the ivory those savages will bring. This country has its good points, after all!" They both laughed loudly while Carlier thought: That poor Kayerts; he is so fat and unhealthy. It would be awful if I had to bury him here. He is a man I respect. . . . Before they reached the verandah of their house they called one another "my dear fellow."

The first day they were very active, pottering about with hammers and nails and red calico, to

**superiority** 「地位の優越」。

**The idea that — alone** 「自分が Carlier を埋めて後へ獨り残ることになるだらうといふ考」。

**entering into** 「……に打ち入つて」「……を汲取つて」。

よ。そして主任としての命令は、君が日光へ<sup>からだ</sup>身體を曝しちやならぬといふのぢや。」カイヤーツは冗談に上役ぶつたのであるが、彼の<sup>しんこ</sup>真底は真面目なのであつた。恐らくは、自分がカーリエを埋葬して、獨だけ取残されにやなるまいと考へると、内心ぞつとした。彼は突然、自分にはこのカーリエが、此處アフリカの中央では、他の場所で自分の兄弟が大切なよりも、ずつと大切だと感じた。カーリエも、命令の精神を汲取つて、軍隊的の敬禮をなし、テキパキした調子で、「主任殿、貴下の御命令は守る様にいたします」と答へた。それから彼は笑ひ出した。そしてカイヤーツの背中を叩いて叫んだ。「此處じや、呑氣に暮せさうだぜ。まあ、ぢつと坐り込んで、野蠻人の持つて来る象牙を掻き集めるのだな。この國だつて、結局はいゝ所もあるよ。」二人はカラカラと笑つたが、その間にカーリエは考へた。「あのカイヤーツて奴は可愛相に肥つて弱いぜ。俺が此處であの男を埋葬してやらなきやならんとしたら、たまらんな。俺の尊敬する男ぢやあるし……」二人は自分達の住居の、ヴェランダの所まで達しないうちにもう、お互のことを、「おい君」と呼び合ふ仲となつた。

最初の日、彼等はカーテンを吊り、<sup>うち</sup>家を住みみよく綺麗にするため、<sup>かたべ</sup>鐵槌や、釘や、赤いキヤラコを持つて、そこらをまご

**your order; shall be attended to** = I will attend to your orders.

**unhealthy** = weak.

**"my dear fellow"** 之は great intimacy を表はす呼びかけの言葉。

put up curtains, make their house habitable and pretty; resolved to settle down comfortably to their new life. For them an impossible task. To grapple effectually with even purely material problems requires more serenity of mind and more lofty courage than people generally imagine. No two beings could have been more unfitted for such a struggle. Society, not from any tenderness, but because of its strange needs, had taken care of those two men, forbidding them all independent thought, all initiative, all departure from routine; and forbidding it under pain of death. They could only live on condition of being machines. And now, released from the fostering care of men with pens behind the ears, or of men with gold lace on the sleeves, they were like those lifelong prisoners who, liberated after many years, do not know what use to make of their freedom. They did not know what use to make of their faculties, being both, through want of practice, incapable of independent thought.

At the end of two months Kayerts often would say, "If it was not for my Melie, you wouldn't

**habitable** = comfortable.

**grapple with** = try to solve.

**lofty** = distinguished.

**struggle** = effort.

**strange need** 「不思議な必要」といふのは社会が優秀なる人々の下積となるべき劣等者を必要とする意味。

まごし乍ら、よく働いた。彼等は新しい生活に氣持よく、落ちつかうと決心してをつたのである。所が之は彼等にとつて、出来ない相談であつた。純然たる物質的の問題すら、充分な解決を試みるには、人が通例想像するよりも以上に、心の落付きと卓越せる勇氣を必要とするのである。どんな人にした所が、斯様な努力をするのに、この連中以上に不適當では有り得なかつたであらう。社会は何も情深いからではなく、むしろ妙な必要上から、これら二人の世話をし、すべて勝手にものを考へたり、積極的に事を行つたり、きまつた道筋からはなれなどするのを禁じたので、しかも、違反すれば死刑にするといふ條件で、之を禁じたのであつた。即ち、彼等は機械になるといふ條件で、はじめて生活が出来たのであつた。しかも今や、耳にペン軸をはさんだ人々や、袖に金モールをつけた人々の、なでいつくしむ様な世話から開放された彼等は、長い年月の後で放免になつて、自分の自由の利用法も分らぬ終身囚と趣が似てをつた。彼等は二人とも、練習が缺けてをつたので、獨立ちでもものを考へることが出来ず、自分等の能力の利用法も分らないのであつた。

二箇月の終にカイヤーツは、よく云ふのであつた。「うちのメリーのことさへなかつたら、君とこんな所で御目には懸らな

**under pain of death** = with death as penalty.

**being machines** 「機械になる」とは自己の意志を滅却して機械的に動くこと。

**men with pens behind the ears** 「會社や役所の上役」。

**men with gold lace on the sleeves** 「軍隊に於ける上官」。

catch me here." Melie was his daughter. He had thrown up his post in the Administration of the Telegraphs, though he had been for seventeen years perfectly happy there, to earn a dowry for his girl. His wife was dead, and the child was being brought up by his sisters. He regretted the streets, the pavements, the *cafés*, his friends of many years; all the things he used to see, day after day; all the thoughts suggested by familiar things—the thoughts effortless, monotonous, and soothing of a Government clerk; he regretted all the gossip, the small enmities, the mild venom, and the little jokes of Government offices. "If I had had a decent brother-in-law," Carlier would remark, "a fellow with a heart, I would not be here." He had left the army and had made himself so obnoxious to his family by his laziness and impudence, that an exasperated brother-in-law had made superhuman efforts to procure him an appointment in the Company as a second-class agent. Having not a penny in the world, he was compelled to accept this means of livelihood as soon as it became quite clear to him that there was nothing more to squeeze out

catch = find.

dowry 「持参金」 歐西の女は持参金がないと嫁ぐのがむづかしい。

regretted = wished that he could see or hear again.

cafés 「珈琲店」。

かつたらうになあ。」メリーといふのは彼の娘であつた。彼は電信局で十七年も何不足なく勤めてをつたのに、その職を棄てたのは、娘の持参金を儲けるためであつた。彼の妻は死んで居なかつた。そして其の子供は彼の姉妹の手で育てられてをつた。彼は市街や、舗道や、カーフェヤ、異年の友を懐しがつた。また、彼が日常に見たすべてのもの、目なれしものに依つて暗示せらるゝすべての聯想、——即ち、下級の役人の呑気で、單調で、氣ばらしになる想念を懐しみ、役所に行はるゝすべての噂話、小さな反目、なまぬるい毒舌、一寸した洒落などを懐しがつた。カーリエは、「僕に親切で、同情のある義兄があつたら、こんな所には居ないんだがなあ、」とよく云ふのであつた。彼は軍隊を出たが、怠けるのと、あつかましいので、家のものゝ鼻つまみになつたものだから、憤慨した義兄か超人的の努力に依つて、この会社に於ける出張所副主任としての地位を、彼のために探して呉れたのであつた。カーリエは、唯一片も金の持ち合はせがなかつたので、親類のものから、もう何もしぼるべきものゝないことが明瞭になるや否や、この職業に就かざ

suggested 「暗示せらるゝ」「頭に浮ぶ」。

decent = kindly, not severe. 此の意味に用ゆるは school slang.

obnoxious 厭はしく。

means of livelihood 糊口の道。

of his relations. He, like Kayerts, regretted his old life. He regretted the clink of sabre and spurs on a fine afternoon, the barrack-room witticisms, the girls of garrison towns; but, besides, he had also a sense of grievance. He was evidently a much ill-used man. This made him moody, at times. But the two men got on well together in the fellowship of their stupidity and laziness. Together they did nothing, absolutely nothing, and enjoyed the sense of the idleness for which they were paid. And in time they came to feel something resembling affection for one another.

They lived like blind men in a large room, aware only of what came in contact with them (and of that only imperfectly), but unable to see the general aspect of things. The river, the forest, all the great land throbbing with life, were like a great emptiness. Even the brilliant sunshine disclosed nothing intelligible. Things appeared and disappeared before their eyes in an unconnected and aimless kind of way. The river seemed to come from nowhere and flow nowhither. It flowed through a void. Out of that void, at times, came canoes, and men with spears in their

**sense of grievance**=consciousness of wrong done.

**sense**=bodily feeling in general.

**came**=became.

**aware**=conscious.

るを得なかつた。彼もカイヤーツの様に、昔の生活を懐しがつた。彼は天氣の好い午後のサーベルと拍車の音、兵舎内の冗談、兵營所在地の若い女のことなどを懐しがつた。しかし、そのほかに、彼はまた遺恨に思つてゐることもあつた。彼は明かに、大分虐待をうけた男らしかつた。そしてそのために彼は時々憂鬱になつた。併し二人は、さう云ふ愚鈍と怠惰の交際に於て、うまく折合つて行つた。彼等は二人して何も、——全然何もしなかつた。そして給料を貰つて怠けてをられる生活の感じといふものを享樂した。そしてやがてはお互に愛情らしいものを感じる様になつた。

彼等は大きな部屋の中にゐる盲人の様に、唯自分達と接觸するものを意識（しかもほんの不完全に意識）するだけで、大體の形勢は、見ることも出来ずに日を暮した。川も、森も、生命の脈うつ全大陸も、彼等には偉大なる空虚の如くであつた。輝かしい日光すら、何等はつきりしたものを顯はし示しはしなかつた。いろいろなものが、何の連絡もなければ、何のあてもなさ相に、彼の眼の前へ顯はれては消えた。川は何處からともなく流れて来て、何處へともなく流れ去る様に見えた。其は空虚の中を流れた。しかも、その空虚の中から、時々獨木舟が出て来て、槍を手にした男達が、突然出張所の中庭に群がることも

**throbbing with life**=alive with growing animals and plants.

**nowhere**=some unknown place.

**nowhither**=to some unknown place.



hands would suddenly crowd the yard of the station. They were naked, glossy black, ornamented with snowy shells and glistening brass wire, perfect of limb. They made an uncouth babbling noise when they spoke, moved in a stately manner, and sent quick, wild glances out of their startled, never-resting eyes. Those warriors would squat in long rows, four or more deep, before the verandah, while their chiefs bargained for hours with Makola over an elephant tusk. Kayerts sat on his chair and looked down on the proceedings, understanding nothing. He stared at them with his round blue eyes, called out to Carlier, "Here, look! look at that fellow there—and that other one, to the left. Did you ever see such a face? Oh, the funny brute!"

Carlier, smoking native tobacco in a short wooden pipe, would swagger up twirling his moustaches, and, surveying the warriors with haughty indulgence, would say—

"Fine animals. Brought any bone? Yes? It's not any too soon. Look at the muscles of that fellow—third from the end. I wouldn't care to get a punch on the nose from him. Fine arms,

**would suddenly crowd** = were suddenly seen to crowd.

**uncouth** = strange.

**sent** = emitted.

**would** = were seen to.

**Here** 「おい」注意を促す發語。

**brute** = fellow.

**native** = native to the soil 「その土地で出来る」。

あつた。彼等は裸體で、皮膚はつややかに黒く、雪白の貝殻や、真鍮の針金で身をやつし、美事な四肢をしてをつた。彼等は口をきくとき、妙なさはさはする聲を出し、勿體振つて歩き、膽をつぶした様な、絶えずきよろきよろした眼の中からは、すばやい、烈しい眼光を放射した。これ等の闘士は四重か、それ以上の長い列をつくつて、ヴェランダの前に坐り、その間に酋長達は、一本の象牙のことで、何時間もマコーラと、駈引をするのであつた。カイヤーツは椅子へ腰をかけた儘、全然何も分らずに、此取引を見下してをつた。彼はこの連中を、丸い、青い眼で見つめてをつたが、やがてカーリエの方を向いて喚いた。「おい、見ろ、あそこの彼奴を見ろ。それから、——左手のもう、一人の奴を。君、あんな顔てものを見たことがあるかい。アー可笑しい畜生だよ！」

短い木のパイプで、地煙草をふかしてをつたカーリエは、口髯を捻り乍ら、威張つてやつて来て、應揚にその闘士達を見渡し、次の様に云つたりするのであつた——

「すばらしい動物だ。象牙をもつて来たのか。さうか、早い所ぢやないよ。終から三番目の——彼奴の筋肉を見ろ。僕は彼奴に鼻を上なぞなぐられ度くないね。すばらしい腕だが、脚は膝

**with haughty indulgence** = with an air of comfortable superiority.

**Fine animals** = They are fine animals.

**Brought any bone?** = They brought any bone?

**It is not any too soon** = It is none too soon = It is far from soon.

**care** = be willing.

**Fine arms** — = They have fine arms.

but legs no good below the knee. Couldn't make cavalry men of them." And after glancing down complacently at his own shanks, he always concluded: "Pah! Don't they stink! You, Makola! Take that herd over to the fetish" (the storehouse was in every station called the fetish, perhaps because of the spirit of civilisation it contained) "and give them up some of the rubbish you keep there. I'd rather see it full of bone than full of rags."

Kayerts approved.

"Yes, yes! Go and finish that palaver over there, Mr. Makola. I will come round when you are ready, to weigh the tusk. We must be careful." Then, turning to his companion: "This is the tribe that lives down the river; they are rather aromatic. I remember, they had been once before here. D'ye hear that row? What a fellow has got to put up with in this dog of a country! My head is split."

Such profitable visits were rare. For days the

**legs no good**=legs of no use. 「役に立たない脚」。

**couldn't make — them**=we couldn't [even if we tried to] make cavalry men of them 「よしや彼等を騎兵に仕立て様としたつて出来な

い相談だらう」 of them の of は材料を表はす。

**Pah!** 輕蔑の interjection.

**Don't they stink?**=How they stink!

**fetish** 野蠻人の崇拜する「物神」即ち草木禽獸その他の自然物。

**rubbish**=worthless things.

から下が駄目だ。騎兵にや仕込めまい。」それから自分の脛を得意氣に眺め下した後で、いつもかう結ぶのであつた。「冗談じやない。臭いぜ。その連中をあつちの御本尊の方へ連れて行けよ。(倉庫は、恐らくその中に、文明の精髓が納めてあつたからだらう。何處の出張所でも御本尊と呼ばれてをつた。)そして、其處にしまつてあるがらくたを少し皆にやつてしまへ、俺は其所が襤褸で埋まつてるよりは、象牙で埋まつてる所を拜み度いぜ。」

カイヤーツは讃成した。

「さうだ、さうだ。マコーラ君、彼方へ行つて談判を片付けろよ。僕は君の方で用意が出来た頃、牙の目方をかけに廻つてゆくからね。念は入れとかなきやいかん。」それからカーリエの方へ向いて、「これは下流に住んでゐる連中で、にほひはいゝ方だぜ、僕は此奴等が、前にも一度此所へ來たのを覚えてゐる。君、あの言ひ合ひはどうだ。このこぎたない國ぢや、我慢しなきやならぬことが、何と多いことか。ほんとに、厭になつたよ。」

こんなに有利な土人の訪れは、稀だといふので、この二人の

**approved** 「賛成した」「相槌をうつた」。

**what**=what a lot.

**dog of a country**=disagreeable country. cf. a dog of a man=detestable fellow.

**my head is split**=I am sick of it.

**such profitable visits were rare**=the two white men thought, "Such profitable visits are rare" 「白人達は、こんなもうけになる土人の訪問はたんとないと考へた」。

two pioneers of trade and progress would look on their empty courtyard in the vibrating brilliance of vertical sunshine. Below the high bank, the silent river flowed on glittering and steady. On the sands in the middle of the stream, hippos and alligators sunned themselves side by side. And stretching away in all directions, surrounding the insignificant cleared spot of the trading post, immense forests, hiding fateful complications of fantastic life, lay in the eloquent silence of mute greatness. The two men understood nothing, cared for nothing but for the passage of days that separated them from the steamer's return. Their predecessor had left some torn books. They took up these wrecks of novels, and, as they had never read anything of the kind before, they were surprised and amused. Then during long days there were interminable and silly discussions about plots and personages. In the centre of Africa they made the acquaintance of Richelieu and of d'Artagnan, of Hawk's Eye and of Father

**look on**=look at with some show of feeling.

**vibrating brilliance** 立ち昇る陽炎のため日光がいらゆらすること。

**steady**=without stopping.

**hippos**=hippopotamuses.

**insignificant**=of no importance.

**fateful complications of fantastic life** 熱帯の奇怪な動植物の間に見らる、互助相剋をいふ。

**wrecks of novels** 「破船の様な見る影もない小説本」。

cf. a saint of a man 聖人の様な人。

貿易と進歩の開拓者達は、幾日も、直射する日光の、ゆらゆらするきらめきを浴びた空虚な中庭を眺めなどした。高い岸の下には、静かな川が、きらきらと、よどみなく流れた。流の真中の砂洲の上には、河馬や鱈魚が並んで甲羅を干してをつた。また奇怪な生活の恐ろしい縄を覆ひかくす、はてしなき森は、四方八方へと延び擴がつて、その貿易出張所のせまい開拓地を圍みつゝ、無言なる偉大の能辨なる沈黙のうちに横たはつた。二人のものは、何事も理解せず、また汽船の戻つて来るまでに待たねばならぬ、月日の経過を除いては、何事も念頭になかつた。彼等の前任者は數冊の破れた書物をのこして死んだ。彼等は之等の見る影もない小説を、讀み始めた。所が二人とも、かう云つた種類のもは、まるで何も讀んだことがなかつたので、吃驚もし、面白くも思つた。アフリカの真中で、彼等はリシェリュダの、ダールタニオンだの、ホークアイだの、ゴリオ親爺

a gem of a poem 珠玉の様な詩。

a monster of a dog 怪物の様な犬。

**Richelieu** ルイ十三世時代の有名な佛國の高僧兼政治家なれど、茲では英國小説家 George Payne Rainsford James (1799-1860) の著した同名の小説の主人公としての彼。

**d'Artagnan** 佛小説家 Alexander Dumas の The Three Musketeers (三銃士) に出て来る快男兒。

**Hawk's Eye** 正しくは Hawkeye. とあるべし。米小説家 Finnimore Cooper の小説 The Deerslayer 其他の主人公の nickname.

**Father Goriot** 佛小説家 Honoré de Balzac の著した同名の小説の主人公。

Goriot, and of many other people. All these imaginary personages became subjects for gossip as if they had been living friends. They discounted their virtues, suspected their motives, decried their successes; were scandalised at their duplicity or were doubtful about their courage. The accounts of crimes filled them with indignation, while tender or pathetic passages moved them deeply. Carlier cleared his throat and said in a soldierly voice, "What nonsense!" Kayerts, his round eyes suffused with tears, his fat cheeks quivering, rubbed his bald head, and declared, "This is a splendid book. I had no idea there were such clever fellows in the world." They also found some old copies of a home paper. That print discussed what it was pleased to call "Our Colonial Expansion" in high-flown language. It spoke much of the rights and duties of civilisation, of the sacredness of the civilising work, and extolled the merits of those who went about bringing light, and faith, and commerce to the dark places of the earth. Carlier and Kayerts read, wondered, and began to think better of themselves. Carlier said one evening, waving

**discounted their virtues** 小説中の人物の美德をまさかそれ程にすぐれたものではなかつたらうなど description よりも、うちわに考へたのである。

**decried their success** 「彼等が成功したのは怪しからぬと云つた。」  
**were doubtful about** = doubted.  
**passages** = descriptions.

だの、他の人物と知合になつた。すべて之等小説中の人物が、恰も、實際の生きた友達でもあつたかの如くに、二人の話題となつた。二人は之等の人物の徳行を割引して考へ、動機を疑ひ、成功をくさした。或はまた作中の人物に裏表がある<sup>うらおもて</sup>ので反感を起し、その勇氣についても疑念をさしはさんだ。犯罪の話は二人のものをいたく憤慨せしめ、優しいか、または哀れな條は、二人を大いに感動させた。カーリエは咳ばらひをした。そして軍人らしい聲で「あい、くだらない」と云つた。カイヤーツは、圓い眼に涙を湛え、肥えた頬をうち振はし乍ら、禿けた頭をなで、「これはすばらしい本だ、世の中に、こんな巧いことを書く奴が居るとは、思ひも寄らなかつた」と言明した。二人はまた、本國の古新聞を見つけた。その新聞は、「我國の殖民地的發展」といふ標題をつけるのを、適當と考へた様な問題を誇張した言葉で論じてをつた。即ち大いに文明の權利と義務を説き、世を文明に導く事業の神聖なるを語り、地球上未開の地へ、光明と信仰と貿易をもたらすことに従事する人々の功績を稱揚した。カーリエとカイヤーツは、讀んで感服した。そして自分達を以前よりもえらいものと思ふ様になり始めた。カーリエは或晩、手を振廻し乍ら云つた。「百年経つと恐らく此處に

"what nonsense" 「何と馬鹿々々しい話だ」とは小説を讀んで感動するなんてくだらない、といふ意。

**was pleased to** = thought fit.

**high-flown** = exaggerated.

**dark** = uncivilized.

his hand about, "In a hundred years, there will be perhaps a town here. Quays, and warehouses, and barracks, and—and—billiard-rooms. Civilisation, my boy, and virtue—and all. And then, chaps will read that two good fellows, Kayerts and Carlier, were the first civilised men to live in this very spot!" Kayerts nodded, "Yes, it is a consolation to think of that." They seemed to forget their dead predecessor; but, early one day, Carlier went out and replanted the cross firmly. "It used to make me squint whenever I walked that way," he explained to Kayerts over the morning coffee. "It made me squint, leaning over so much. So I just planted it upright. And solid, I promise you! I suspended myself with both hands to the cross-piece. Not a move. Oh, I did that properly."

At times Gobila came to see them. Gobila was the chief of the neighbouring villages. He was a grey-headed savage, thin and black, with a white cloth round his loins and a mangy panther skin hanging over his back. He came up with long strides of his skeleton legs, swinging a staff as tall as himself, and, entering the common room of the station, would squat on his heels to the

and all = and every thing else.

good = admirable.

It used to make me squint 十字架が傾いてをつたので(濟まない様な気がして自分は横眼でちらと見るだけ、正々堂々と眞直には見

も都會が出現するだらう。波止場と、倉庫と、兵營と——それから玉突場と。文明だね、君、それから道德と、其他すべてが出現するだらう。その時分に世の人は、カイヤーツ及びカーリエといふ感心な男が、始めて此處に住まつた文明人だつた、といふ事を書物で讀む様にならう。」カイヤーツはうなづき乍ら云つた。「さうさ、さふいふ具合に考へると慰むる所があるよ。」二人は死んだ前任者の事は忘れた様だつたが、カーリエは或る朝早く出掛けて、十字架をしかと建て直した。「僕が其方へ散歩する時、いつもまともにや見難かつたものさ。非常に傾いてたのでね。だから其を一寸眞直にして置いたよ。しかも、しつかりとやつといたぜ! 横木へ兩手をかけて、つるさがつて見たが、こゆるぎもしなかつた。おゝ、ちやんとやつといたよ。」と彼は朝のコーヒを飲み乍らカイヤーツに説明した。

時々ゴビラが二人にあひに來た。ゴビラといふのは、近所の幾村落かの酋長であつた。彼は白髮頭の野蠻人で、瘦せて、色黒く、腰には白布を纏ひ、脊中には、むさくろしい豹の皮をぶらさけてをつた。彼は自分の身の丈ほどの杖を振り乍ら、骸骨の様な脚で大股に歩いてやつて來た。そして出張所の居間にはいつて、入口の左に膝をついて畏まるのが常であつた。そこに

られなかつたといふ意。)

I promise you! = I assure you!

properly = in a proper way = as I should.

common room = living room.

left of the door. There he sat, watching Kayerts, and now and then making a speech which the other did not understand. Kayerts, without interrupting his occupation, would from time to time say in a friendly manner: "How goes it, you old image?" and they would smile at one another. The two whites had a liking for that old and incomprehensible creature, and called him Father Gobila. Gobila's manner was paternal and he seemed really to love all white men. They all appeared to him very young, indistinguishably alike (except for stature), and he knew that they were all brothers, and also immortal. The death of the artist, who was the first white man whom he knew intimately, did not disturb this belief, because he was firmly convinced that the white stranger had pretended to die and got himself buried for some mysterious purpose of his own, into which it was useless to inquire. Perhaps it was his way of going home to his own country? At any rate, these were his brothers, and he transferred his absurd affection to them. They returned it in a way. Carlier slapped him on the back, and recklessly struck off matches for his amusement. Kayerts was always ready

**his occupation**=what he was doing.

**from time to time**=occasionally 「時々」。

**image**=grotesque statue, mask. Gobila がまるで木像かお面の様な表情の顔をしてゐたから、冗談に斯く呼びかけたのである。

彼は坐つてカイヤーツをぢつと見た。そして時折、カイヤーツには全く分らない演説をやつた。カイヤーツは、ゴビラのやる事を遮りもせず、時々親し気に、「どうだね、景氣は、おいお面爺さん」と云つた。そして二人は微笑するのであつた。二人の白人はその老いた不思議な男がすきであつた。そして彼をゴビラ親爺と呼びなした。ゴビラの態度は親の子に對するが如くであつた。そして彼は眞にすべての白人を愛する様に見えた。白人達は、彼には非常に若く、背丈の點だけを除けば、區別のつかぬ程似たものに見えた。そして皆兄弟で、不死身のものだと彼は思つた。彼が親しく知つた最初の白人たるかの畫家の死んだことも、彼のこの信念をぐらつかせはしなかつた。なぜなら、其白人は死んだ振をした上、何か自分一箇の不思議な目的のため、<sup>からだ</sup>身體を埋めさせたもので、之を詮議立てしても無駄な話と、彼は確信してをつたからである。之は恐らく白人が故郷へ歸る方法でもあらうか、とも考へた。兎に角、後へ來た二人は始の白人の兄弟だ、といふのでゴビラはその馬鹿馬鹿しい愛情を彼等の方へ移したから、白人の方でも幾分はその愛情に報いたのであつた。カーリエはゴビラの背中をたゞき、彼が面白がるので無暗にマツチをすつて見せた。カイヤーツは又、いつ

**got himself buried** 自分の身體を埋葬させた。

**into which**=and into that.

**in a way**=more or less.

**ready**=willing.

to let him have a sniff at the ammonia bottle. In short, they behaved just like that other white creature that had hidden itself in a hole in the ground. Gobila considered them attentively. Perhaps they were the same being with the other—or one of them was. He couldn't decide—clear up that mystery; but he remained always very friendly. In consequence of that friendship the women of Gobila's village walked in single file through the reedy grass, bringing every morning to the station, fowls, and sweet potatoes, and palm wine, and sometimes a goat. The Company never provisions the stations fully, and the agents required those local supplies to live. They had them through the good-will of Gobila, and lived well. Now and then one of them had a bout of fever, and the other nursed him with gentle devotion. They did not think much of it. It left them weaker, and their appearance changed for the worse. Carlier was hollow-eyed and irritable. Kayerts showed a drawn, flabby face above the rotundity of his stomach, which gave him a weird aspect. But being constantly together, they did not notice the change that took place gradually in their appearance, and also in their dispositions.

**considered** = gazed fixedly at.

**or** = or at least.

**in single file** 單縦列をなして。

**bout** = fit.

も快く彼にアンモニアの瓶をかきさせた。要するに二人とも、地下の穴の中へ姿を隠したもう一人の白人その儘に振舞つた。ゴビラは二人をじつと見詰めた。恐らくは二人とも、以前の白人と同一か、少くとも其のうちの一人がさうなのだらうと考へた。ゴビラはきめかねた——その不可思議を明かにし得なかつた。併し彼はどこまでも友誼的な態度を變へなかつた。この親交の結果、ゴビラの村の女共が、蘆を分けつゝ、一列になつて、毎朝出張所へ、鶏や、薩摩芋や、耶子酒や、時には山羊などをもつて來た。會社は出張所に對し、決して充分な食糧を供給しないことにしてゐるので、二人の白人は、生活上その様な地方の供給を必要とした。彼等はこれをゴビラの好意に依つて得、そして申分のない生活をした。折々、二人のうちの片方が、熱病にかゝると、もう一人のものが優しい熱誠を以て看護した。二人はかういふ病氣を、たいしたこととも思はなかつたが、その後では身體が前より弱くなつた。そしてその外貌も瘦れた。カリエは、眼が落ちこみ、怒りぼくなつた。カイヤーツは丸くふくれたお腹のうへに、不景氣な、だぶだぶした顔をのせてをつたが、これが如何にも變てこに見えた。然し絶えず一所に居つたので、二人は自分達の外貌や氣質のうちに漸次起つた變化には、氣がつかなかつた。

**changed for the worse** 悪い方へ變つた。

**drawn** = dismal.

**which gave** = which fact gave.

Five months passed in that way.

Then one morning, as Kayerts and Carlier, lounging in their chairs under the verandah, talked about the approaching visit of the steamer, a knot of armed men came out of the forest and advanced towards the station. They were strangers to that part of the country. They were tall, slight, draped classically from neck to heel in blue fringed cloths, and carried percussion muskets over their bare right shoulders. Makola showed signs of excitement, and ran out of the storehouse (where he spent all his days) to meet these visitors. They came into the courtyard and looked about them with steady, scornful glances. Their leader, a powerful and determined-looking negro with bloodshot eyes, stood in front of the verandah and made a long speech. He gesticulated much, and ceased very suddenly.

There was something in his intonation, in the sounds of the long sentences he used, that startled the two whites. It was like a reminiscence of something not exactly familiar, and yet resembling the speech of civilised men. It sounded like one of those impossible languages which sometimes we hear in our dreams.

“What lingo is that?” said the amazed Carlier. “In the first moment I fancied the fellow

It = his speech.

五箇月は、かくして過ぎた。

それから或朝、カイヤーツとカーリエとがヴェランダの下なる椅子にごろごろし乍ら、汽船の訪れのまちがいことを語つてをつた時、武装せる男の一群が、森の中から出て来て、出張所の方へ向つて来た。其一群は其邊でついぞ見掛けない連中で、背が高く、瘦せてゐて、頸から踵まで、青い縁どつた布を、古風に巻きつけてをつた。そしてあらはな右肩の上に著發銃を荷つてゐた。マコラーは興奮の様子を顯はした。そして倉庫(彼は毎日其處で晝間を過したのだが)から、この連中を迎へに、駆け出して行つた。彼等は中庭にはいつて来た。そして落ちついた輕蔑的なまなざしで、四邊を見廻した。彼等の團長は逞ましい、意志のつよさうな、眼の血ばしつた黒人であつたが、椽側の前に立つて、長い演説をやつた。彼は身振澤山でしやべつたが、だしぬけにやめた。

彼の言葉の抑揚や、彼の用ひた長い文章のひゞきの中には、何となく二人の白人を、ぎよつとさせるものがあつた。其はいさゝか不氣味なものゝ追憶の様で、而も文明人の言葉にも似てをつた。其は時とすると、我々が夢のうちに聞く、奇怪な言葉の様にも響いた。

「あれは何處の言葉かね。」とカーリエはあきれて聞いた。「最初僕は、あの男が佛蘭西語を話し出すのだなと思つたよ。」

not exactly familiar = slightly uncanny.



was going to speak French. Anyway, it is a different kind of gibberish to what we ever heard."

"Yes," replied Kayerts. "Hey, Makola, what does he say? Where do they come from? Who are they?"

But Makola, who seemed to be standing on hot bricks, answered hurriedly, "I don't know. They come from very far. Perhaps Mrs. Price will understand. They are perhaps bad men."

The leader, after waiting for a while, said something sharply to Makola, who shook his head. Then the man, after looking round, noticed Makola's hut and walked over there. The next moment Mrs. Makola was heard speaking with great volubility. The other strangers—they were six in all—strolled about with an air of ease, put their heads through the door of the store-room, congregated round the grave, pointed understandingly at the cross, and generally made themselves at home.

"I don't like those chaps—and, I say, Kayerts, they must be from the coast; they've got firearms," observed the sagacious Calier.

Kayerts also did not like those chaps. They both, for the first time, became aware that they

**seemed to be standing**=seemed to be uneasy as if standing.

**who**=but he.

兎に角、我々が今まで聞いたやつとは、趣の違つた嘸語だね。

カイヤーツは答へた。「ほんとだよ。おい、マコーラ、その男は何て云つたのだい。その連中は何處から來たのだい。また何處の誰なのだい。」

併し熱い煉瓦の上に立つてる様に、そはそはしたマコーラは、せかせか答へた、「私には分らないんです。大分遠くから來たのですね。もしかしたら家内には分るでせう。もしかしたら悪い奴ですぜ。」

隊長は暫く待つた後で、何事か鋭くマコーラに云つたが、マコーラは頭を横に振つた。さうすると、其男は四邊を見廻してから、マコーラの小屋を見付け、その方へ歩いて行つた。續いてすぐ、マコーラの内儀の滔々と話すのが聞え出した。他の連中は——全部で六人だつたが——悠々と其處らをぶらつき、倉庫の入口から頭を出したり、墓の周圍に集つて、分つたらしく十字架を指したりした。そして大體に於て落ちつき込んでやつた。

「僕は此奴等好かないよ——そして何だぜ、カイヤーツ、海岸の方から來たに違ひないぜ。鐵砲を持つてるもの。」とカーリエは分つたらしく云つた。

カイヤーツもその連中を好かなかつた。二人とも此時始めて、異常なことが充分危険であり得る境遇に生活してをること、

**congregated**=gathered.

lived in conditions where the unusual may be dangerous, and that there was no power on earth outside of themselves to stand between them and the unusual. They became uneasy, went in and loaded their revolvers. Kayerts said, "We must order Makola to tell them to go away before dark."

The strangers left in the afternoon, after eating a meal prepared for them by Mrs. Makola. The immense woman was excited, and talked much with the visitors. She rattled away shrilly, pointing here and pointing there at the forests and at the river. Makola sat apart and watched. At times he got up and whispered to his wife. He accompanied the strangers across the ravine at the back of the station-ground, and returned slowly looking very thoughtful. When questioned by the white men he was very strange, seemed not to understand, seemed to have forgotten French—seemed to have forgotten how to speak altogether. Kayerts and Carlier agreed that the nigger had had too much palm wine.

There was some talk about keeping a watch in turn, but in the evening everything seemed so quiet and peaceful that they retired as usual. All night they were disturbed by a lot drumming in the

may = can easily

seemed to have -- altogether. 佛語だけでなしに一般の口のきゝ

及び、この世の中には、自分達と異常な事との間に立つて障壁となる方は、自分達を措いて他にはないといふことに気がついた。二人とも不安になつたので、家の中へはいつて、ピストルに弾丸をこめた。カイヤーツは云つた。「暗くならぬうちに立ち去る様、彼奴等に云へと、マコーラに命じなきやいかん。」

その連中は、マコーラの内儀が彼等のために拵らへてやつた食事を済ませてから、午後になつて立ち去つた。その大女は興奮して、其訪問者達と大いに話した。彼の女は此處彼處、森や、川を指さし乍ら、かんばしつた聲で早口に喋り續けた、マコーラは離れた處に坐つて、ちつと見てをつた。時々彼は立ち上つて、彼の内儀に囁いた。彼はその連中の後からついて、出張所の裏の谷を渡つて行つたが、ちつと考へ込んだ様子をして、のろのろ戻つて來た。白人達から質問をうけた時、様子が非常に妙で、問はれることが分らないらしく、佛蘭西語を忘れてしまつた様に見えた——いや、口のきゝ方からして忘れてしまつた様にも見えた。カイヤーツとカーリエは、マコーラが耶子酒を飲み過ぎたのだといふことに、意見が一致した。

交代で夜番をしようといふ相談も多少あつたが、晩になつて萬事が非常に静かで穏やかな様だつたので、二人は平常の通に休んだ。村落では無暗に太鼓をたゝいたので、二人は終夜眠れ方からして忘れてしまつた様に思へた。

villages. A deep, rapid roll near by would be followed by another far off—then all ceased. Soon Short appeals would rattle out here and there, then all mingle together, increase, become vigorous and sustained, would spread out over the forest, roll through the night, unbroken and ceaseless, near and far, as if the whole land had been one immense drum booming out steadily an appeal to heaven. And through the deep and tremendous noise sudden yells that resembled snatches of songs from a madhouse darted shri! and high in discordant jets of sound which seemed to rush far above the earth and drive all peace from under the stars.

Carlier and Kayerts slept badly. They both thought they had heard shots fired during the night—but they could not agree as to the direction. In the morning Makola was gone somewhere. He returned about noon with one of yesterday's strangers, and eluded all Kayerts' attempts to close with him: had become deaf apparently. Kayerts wondered. Carlier, who had been fishing off the bank, came back and remarked while he showed his catch, "The niggers seem to be in a deuce of a stir; I wonder what's up. I saw about

**appeals** = religious invocations.

**sustained** = continuous.

**night** = darkness of night.

**off the bank** = standing on the bank with a rod and line thrown into

なかつた。まぢかに聞ゆる、大きな、せはしない轟音に續いて、遠方にもまた別の轟音が起つたが——皆やんだ。まもなく、短い訴へる様な音が其處此處で鳴出したが、それが皆一所に混りあひ、増大して、カブよい、きれ目のない音となり、恰も國全體が、天に向つて絶え間なく、哀訴の音をとゞろかし出づる巨大な太鼓にでも、なつたかの如く、と絶えず、止まず、近くまた遠く、森を越えて擴がり、夜の闇をつらぬいて廣まるのであつた。そしてその深みのある怖ろしい騒音を縫うて瘋癲病院から聞えて来る、とぎれとぎれの歌にも似た突然の喚きが、地上遙か遠くまで突き進み、星空の下からすべての平和を、追ひ散らす様に思はるゝ耳障りな音の噴出となつて、鋭くも高く鳴り響いた。

カーリエとカイヤーツは、よく寝なかつた。二人とも夜中に弾丸の發射せられた音を聞いた様に思つた。併しその方角については意見が一致しなかつた。朝になつて見たら、マコーラは何處かへ出掛けて、ゐなかつた。彼は晝頃昨日來た奴の一人と一所に戻つて來たが、カイヤーツが傍へ近寄らうとするのを、一々避けた。そして見た所變になつたらしかつた。カイヤーツは不思議に思つた。カーリエは、岸の上から釣をしてをつたが、戻つて來て、獲物を見せ乍ら云つた。「黒ん坊達はえらく、ざはついてる様だぜ。一體何が始まつたのかしらん。僕がまそこ

the stream.

**a deuce of a** = notable. (POD)

**what's up** = what is up = what the matter is.

fifteen canoes cross the river during the two hours I was there fishing." Kayerts, worried, said, "Isn't this Makola very queer to-day?" Carlier advised, "Keep all our men together in case of some trouble."

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**in case of some trouble**=lest some trouble should happen.

で釣をした二時間のあひだに、獨木舟が十五程も、川を横ぎつて行つたよ」、カイヤーツは氣を揉んで云つた。「このマコーラの奴、今日は實に變じやないか。」「何か面倒が起るといけないから此方でも、手を揃へて置けよ」、とカーリエは忠告した。

II

THERE were ten station men who had been left by the Director. Those fellows, having engaged themselves to the Company for six months (without having any idea of a month in particular and only a very faint notion of time in general), had been serving the cause of progress for upwards of two years. Belonging to a tribe from a very distant part of this land of darkness and sorrow, they did not run away, naturally supposing that as wandering strangers they would be killed by the inhabitants of the country; in which they were right. They lived in straw huts on the slope of a ravine overgrown with reedy grass, just behind the station buildings. They were not happy, regretting the festive incantations, the sorceries, the human sacrifices of their own land; where they also had parents, brothers, sisters, admired chiefs, respected magicians, loved friends, and other ties supposed generally to be human. Besides, the rice rations

**station men**=negroes in the service of the trading station.  
**and only**=and yet having only.  
**upwards of**=more than.  
**sorrow**=sorrow of defeat. 之は亞弗利加大陸が白人によつて征服せ

二

専務の置いて行つた、出張所附の黒奴が十人をつた。彼等は、(特に一箇月が何の位といふ見當は更につかなかつたが、而も一般に時間の甚だ漠然たる觀念だけはあつたので)、六箇月間の約束で會社に奉公した後、尙ほ二年以上も、進歩のために盡してをつたのであつた。彼等はこの暗黒と悲哀の大陸も、遠方から出て來た部落のものだつたので、逃げ去ることをしなかつた。これは、自分等が放浪の他國人故、下手をすると、この國の住民のために、殺されるだらうといふ、尤もな想像をした爲であつたが、この想像は當つてをつた。彼等は丁度出張所の建物の後で、蘆草が生ひ茂つた谷の傾斜面の上の藁小屋に住まつてをつた。彼等は不満であつた。そして自分達の故郷の祭の歌や、魔法や、人身御供のことをなつかしがつた。故郷には、彼等とても亦、父母、兄弟及び姉妹、崇拜する酋長、尊敬する魔法使、愛慕する朋友、その他誰が考へて見ても人間らしい、種々の係累があつた。のみならず、會社で配給する米のあてがひ扶持は

られゆく悲哀を云ふ。  
**naturally supposing**=for they naturally supposed.  
**in which they were right**=in which supposition they were right.  
**supposed generally to be human**=which one generally supposes to be human.

served out by the Company did not agree with them, being a food unknown to their land, and to which they could not get used. Consequently they were unhealthy and miserable. Had they been of any other tribe they would have made up their minds to die—for nothing is easier to certain savages than suicide—and so have escaped from the puzzling difficulties of existence. But belonging, as they did, to a warlike tribe with filed teeth, they had more grit, and went on stupidly living through disease and sorrow. They did very little work, and had lost their splendid physique. Carlier and Kayerts doctored them assiduously without being able to bring them back into condition again. They were mustered every morning and told off to different tasks—grass-cutting, fence building, tree-felling, &c., &c., which no power on earth could induce them to execute efficiently. The two whites had practically very little control over them.

In the afternoon Makola came over to the big house and found Kayerts watching three heavy columns of smoke rising above the forests. "What is that?" asked Kayerts. "Some villages burn," answered Makola, who seemed to have

*with filed teeth* = with teeth filed to a point.

*without being able* = but they were unable.

彼等の國にはない食物なので、彼等の身體にあはなかつた。また彼等の方から之に慣れて平氣になることも出来なかつた。随つて、彼等は身體を壊してみじめな生活を送つた。彼等が何處か他の部落のものであつたなら、死ぬ決心をつけ——なぜかと云へば或一部の蠻人達には自殺位易しいことはないのだから——そしてその様にして、惱ましい生活上の困難から、逃避したことだらうと思はれるが、事實は、齒に鑿をかけてまでとがらした、勇ましい部落のものであつたので、彼等はずつと膽力があつた。そして病を冒し、悲を嘗めて、愚かしい生活を續けた。そして彼等は殆ど仕事をせず、その見事な體格を、臺なしにした。カーリエとカイヤーツは、熱心に彼等を治療しては見たが、健康状態にまで、ひき戻すことが出来なかつた。彼等は毎朝召集をうけ、草刈、垣作り、木の伐採など、種々の仕事へと派遣せられたが、凡そ如何なる權力を以て強られても、彼等としては、これ等の仕事を充分に仕上げる事が出来なかつた。二人の白人は、事實彼等を使ひこなすことが、出来ないのであつた。

午後になつてマコーラが、大きな家の所までやつて来て見ると、カイヤーツは、三條の太い煙の圓柱が、森の上に立ち昇つてゐるのを眺めてをるのであつた。「あれは何だ」とカイヤーツは尋ねた。「數箇所の村落が焼けるのです」とマコーラは答へたが、彼はまた元通落ちついた様に見えた。それから彼はだしぬ

*condition* = right state.

*control* 統禦力。

regained his wits. Then he said abruptly: "We have got very little ivory; bad six months' trading. Do you like get a little more ivory?"

"Yes," said Kayerts eagerly. He thought of percentages which were low.

"Those men who came yesterday are traders from Loanda who have got more ivory than they can carry home. Shall I buy? I know their camp."

"Certainly," said Kayerts, "What are those traders?"

"Bad fellows," said Makola indifferently. "They fight with people, and catch women and children. They are bad men, and got guns. There is a great disturbance in the country. Do you want ivory?"

"Yes," said Kayerts. Makola said nothing for a while. Then: "Those workmen of ours are no good at all," he muttered, looking round. "Station in very bad order, sir. Director will growl. Better get a fine lot of ivory, then he say nothing."

"I can't help it; the men won't work," said

**we have got**=we have.

**bad six months' trading**=we have had bad six months' trading.

**Do you like get**=would you like to get. 土人の用ゆる言葉故、片言である。

**got guns**=have got guns.

けに云つた。「象牙が随分僅かですね。この半年は貿易が振はないですね。貴方も少し象牙が欲しいですかね。」

「欲しいとも」とカイヤーツは乗氣になつて云つた。彼は貧弱な歩合のことを、心に考へたのであつた。

「昨日来た連中はロアンダの商人で、家へもつて行き来れない程、象牙を持つてるんですが、買ひますかね。私は奴等の天幕を知つてますよ。」

「無論買つて呉れ。だがその商人で何んな奴かね」とカイヤーツは云つた。

「悪い奴等ですよ」とマコーラは無頓着らしく云つた。「あいつ等、人と喧嘩はする、女子供は捕へてゆく。悪い奴等で鐵砲をもつてゐるんです。此國ぢや、えらい騒さ。貴方象牙が要るんですかね。」

「さうさ。」とカイヤーツは云つた。マコーラは暫し黙つてをったが、やがて、「此處の職人はまるで無能だね。」と四方を見まはし乍ら呟いた。「出張所は亂脈ですぞ。専務が小言云ひますぜ。象牙のすばらしい奴を仕入れた方がいゝですよ。さうすれば専務も文句はなからう。」

「仕方がないさ。奴等、働かないんだもの」とカイヤーツが

**workmen of ours**=negro-workmen of ours.

**no good**=of no good=of no use=useless.

**Station in.....**=The station is in.....

**Better get**=we had better get.

**then he say nothing**=then he will say nothing.

Kayerts. "When will you get that ivory?"

"Very soon," said Makola. "Perhaps to-night. You leave it to me, and keep indoors, sir. I think you had better give some palm wine to our men to make a dance this evening. Enjoy themselves. Work better to-morrow. There's plenty palm wine—gone a little sour."

Kayerts said yes, and Makola, with his own hands, carried the big calabashes to the door of his hut. They stood there till the evening, and Mrs. Makola looked into every one. The men got them at sunset. When Kayerts and Carlier retired, a big bonfire was flaring before the men's huts. They could hear their shouts and drumming. Some men from Gobila's village had joined the station hands, and the entertainment was a great success.

In the middle of the night, Carlier waking suddenly, heard a man shout loudly; then a shot was fired. Only one. Carlier ran out and met Kayerts on the verandah. They were both startled. As they went across the yard to call Makola, they saw shadows moving in the night.

**plenty** "(dial.)=plenty of." (P.O.D.)

**gone a little sour**=which has gone a little sour.

云つた。「所で何時その象牙を手に入れるのかね。」

「ぢきですよ」とマコーラは云つた。「今夜位かな。貴方は萬事私に委せ、家の中にはいつて下さい。うちの職人には、今晚踊でも踊る様に、椰子酒を振舞つてやつた方がいゝですよ。面白く遊ぶ。あしたよく働く。少し味の變つた椰子酒澤山ある。」

カイヤーツはよからうと云つた。そこでマコーラは、自ら大瓢箪を自分の小屋の入口まで運んで行つた。瓢箪は夕方まで其處に置いてあつた。そしてマコーラの内儀が其を一々のぞき込んだ。職人達は日の暮にその瓢箪を貰つた。カイヤーツとカーリエが、寢室へ行つた時、大きな篝火が職人達の小屋の前に、ゆらゆらと燃えてゐた。二人は彼等の叫びと太鼓の音を聞くことが出来た。ゴビラの村の男も數人、出張所の職人達に加はつて、その振舞ひは大成功であつた。

眞夜中にカーリエは突然目醒めて、一人の男の聲高き叫びを聞いたが、それから銃が一發、發射された。唯一發。カーリエが室から駆け出して行くと、椽側でカイヤーツに出遇つた。二人とも吃驚した。彼等はマコーラを呼びに中庭を通過した時、人の影が闇の中に動いてゐるのを見た。と、影の一つは叫んだ。

**retired**=went to bed.

**heard a man shout** 一人の男が叫ぶのを聞いた。



One of them cried, "Don't shoot! It's me, Price." Then Makola appeared close to them. "Go back, go back, please," he urged, "you spoil all." "There are strange men about," said Carlier. "Never mind; I know," said Makola. Then he whispered, "All right. Bring ivory. Say nothing! I know my business." The two white men reluctantly went back to the house, but did not sleep. They heard footsteps, whispers, some groans. It seemed as if a lot of men came in, dumped heavy things on the ground, squabbled a long time, then went away. They lay on their hard beds and thought: "This Makola is invaluable." In the morning Carlier came out, very sleepy, and pulled at the cord of the big bell. The station hands mustered every morning to the sound of the bell. That morning nobody came. Kayerts turned out also, yawning. Across the yard they saw Makola come out of his hut, a tin basin of soapy water in his hand. Makola, a civilised nigger, was very neat in his person. He threw the soapsuds skilfully over a wretched little yellow cur he had, then turning his face to the agent's house, he shouted from

**It's me** 文法的には It's I なるも colloquial には普通 It's me といふ。

**you spoil all** あなた方は全體を臺なしにする。

**There are strange men about** = There are strange men here and

「射つちやいけない。私だ。ブライスです。」其からマコーラは二人のすぐ傍に顯はれ、「歸つて下さい。歸つて下さい。お願いだ。貴方がたが来ると、總てがぶち毀しになる。」と切に云ふのであつた。「そこらに見馴れぬ奴等が居るじやないか。」とカーリエが云つた。「大丈夫、私が吞込んでます。」とマコーラが云つた。其から彼は囁いた。「大丈夫、象牙を持つて来る。何も云つちやいけない。私の仕事にそつはないから。」二人の白人は澁々家へ戻つた。然し寝はしなかつた。彼等は足音や、囁やき、呻き聲を聞いた。恰も多數のものが入込んで、重いものをツシと地面に落し、長い間言ひ合つて、それから立ち去つたかの如くに思へた。彼等は堅い床の上に寝ながら考へた。「このマコーラは、とても調法な奴さね。」朝になつてカーリエは、寝呆けて出て来た。そして大きなベルの紐を引張つた。出張所の職人は毎朝ベルの音に應じて集まるのであつたが、その朝は誰もやつて来なかつた。カイヤーツも欠伸をし乍ら起きて来た。中庭を隔て、二人は、マコーラが石鹸水の入つた、ブリキの金盥を持つて、小屋から出て来るのを見た。マコーラは開けた黒ん坊で、身體をさつぱりとさせてをつた。彼は自分の飼つてる、貧弱で、小ぼけな小犬に、手際よくシャボン水をぶつかけ、それから白人の住居の方へ顔を向けて、遠方から、「職人は皆昨夜行つてしま

there.

**Bring ivory** = They will bring ivory.

**a tin basin of soapy water** = with a tin basin of soapy water.

the distance, "All the men gone last night!"

They heard him plainly, but in their surprise they both yelled out together: "What!" Then they stared at one another. "We are in a proper fix now," growled Carlier. "It's incredible!" muttered Kayerts. "I will go to the huts and see," said Carlier, striding off. Makola coming up found Kayerts standing alone.

"I can hardly believe it," said Kayerts tearfully. "We took care of them as if they had been our children."

"They went with the coast people," said Makola after a moment of hesitation.

"What do I care with whom they went—the ungrateful brutes!" exclaimed the other. Then with sudden suspicion, and looking hard at Makola, he added: "What do you know about it?"

Makola moved his shoulders, looking down on the ground. "What do I know? I think only. Will you come and look at the ivory I've got there? It is a fine lot. You never saw such."

He moved towards the store. Kayerts followed

**gone**=went.

**proper fix**=quite difficult position.

**what do you know about it?**=How much do you know about it?

ひましたよ」と叫んだ。

白人達には、かれの言葉が明瞭に聞えたが、吃驚したものであるから、二人とも一所に「何だと！」と喚いて、それから二人は、互にチツと顔を見合はせた。「さあ、ほんとに困つた事になつたぞ。」とカーリエは唸つた。「嘘だらう。」とカイヤーツは呟いた。カーリエは、「一つ小屋へ行つて見て来よう。」と云つて大股で出掛けて行つた。マコーラがやつて来て見たら、カイヤーツが一人立つてをつた。

カイヤーツは涙ぐんで云つた。「俺には殆んど信じられんよ。我々はまるで自分達の子供の様にあいつ等を世話したのだもの。」

「あいつ等は、海岸の連中と一所に行つてしまつたのです。」とマコーラは一寸躊躇ひ乍ら云つた。

「誰と一所に行かうと俺の知つた事かい——恩知らずの畜生達なんざ。」とカイヤーツは叫んだが、それから突然不審さうに、マコーラをチツと見乍ら、カイヤーツはおつかけて聞いた。「このことをお前は、何の程度まで知つてるのか。」

マコーラは下の地面を見乍ら、その肩をすくめた。「何の位知つてるかつて、想像にすぎませんや。まあ来て、あそこへ私が貰つて来た象牙を見て下さい。すばらしい揃ひですぜ。貴方はあんなのは決して見たことがないんだ。」

マコーラは倉庫の方へと歩いて行つた。カイヤーツは、部下

**moved his shoulders**=shrugged his shoulders.

**I think only**=It's a mere supposition.

**come and look**=come to look.

him mechanically, thinking about the incredible desertion of the men. On the ground before the door of the fetish lay six splendid tusks.

“What did you give for it?” asked Kayerts, after surveying the lot with satisfaction.

“No regular trade,” said Makola. “They brought the ivory and gave it to me. I told them to take what they most wanted in the station. It is a beautiful lot. No station can show such tusks. Those traders wanted carriers badly, and our men were no good here. No trade, no entry in books; all correct.”

Kayerts nearly burst with indignation. “Why!” he shouted, “I believe you have sold our men for these tusks!” Makola stood impassive and silent. “I—I—will—I,” stuttered Kayerts. “You fiend!” he yelled out.

“I did the best for you and the Company,” said Makola imperturbably. “Why you shout so much? Look at this tusk.”

“I dismiss you! I will report you—I won’t look at the tusk. I forbid you to touch them. I order you to throw them into the river. You—you!”

**What did you give**=How much money did you give.

**lot**=set of tusks.

**badly**=very much.

のものゝ、嘘の様な脱走のことを考へ乍ら、機械的に後からついて行つた。御本尊の入口の前なる地面の上には、六箇のすばらしい牙が置いてあつた。

「この代には何を遣つたのかね。」とカイヤーツは満足けに牙を検査してから尋ねた。

「普通の取引ぢやないです」とマコーラは云つた。「あいつ等が象牙をもつて来て、私に呉れたので、私は出張所にあるもので、一番すきな物を持つて行けと云つたのさ。美事な揃ひだものね。どこの出張所だつてこんな牙を出して見せる譯にや、行きますまい。所で商人達は運搬の人足が、非常に入用だつたが、丁度うちの職人も、此處ぢや役に立たなかつた、てな譯で。賣買ぢやないんで、帳面にや付けぢやなし。ちやんと話がついてます。」

カイヤーツは、いまいまして、胸が張裂けさうであつた。「ぢやお前は、うちの職人を、この牙と引換へに賣つたのだな。」と彼は叫んだ。マコーラは、平氣で何も云はずに、立つてをつた。「俺は——俺は——一つ——俺は。」とカイヤーツは吃り乍ら云つたが、しまひに「この悪魔奴！」と怒鳴つた。

マコーラは平然として云つた。「私は會社や貴方の爲に、出来るだけのことをしてあげたのですぜ。何だつてそんなに喚きなさる。この牙を御覽なさいな。」

「お前にや暇をやるからな。報告してやるぞ。そんな牙なぞ見るのもいやだ。お前も其に觸つちやならんぞ。そんなものは川の中へ、ぶち込んでしまへ。此の野郎——此の野郎。」

**why!**「おや、それぢや」驚きを表はす interjection である。

**impassive**=without showing emotion.

**You—you!**=You devil--you devil!

“You very red, Mr. Kayerts. If you are so irritable in the sun, you will get fever and die—like the first chief!” pronounced Makola impressively.

They stood still, contemplating one another with intense eyes, as if they had been looking with effort across immense distances. Kayerts shivered. Makola had meant no more than he said, but his words seemed to Kayerts full of ominous menace! He turned sharply and went away to the house. Makola retired into the bosom of his family; and the tusks, left lying before the store, looked very large and valuable in the sunshine.

Carrier came back on the verandah. “They’re all gone, hey?” asked Kayerts from the far end of the common-room in a muffled voice. “You did not find anybody?”

“Oh, yes,” said Carrier, “I found one of Gobila’s people lying dead before the huts—shot through the body. We heard that shot last night.”

Kayerts came out quickly. He found his companion staring grimly over the yard at the

**You very red**=You are very red.  
**contemplating**=looking fixedly at.

「あなた、顔大變赤い、カイヤーツさん。あなた、日向でそんなに腹を立てると、熱病に罹つて死にますぜ——前の主任さんの様に。」とマコーラは嚴かに云つた。

二人は恰も大變な遠方から、一生懸命見ても居つたかの如く、烈しい眼つきで睨合をしながら、靜かに立つてをつた。カイヤーツは身震ひをした。マコーラの云つた言葉に、他意はなかつたのであらうが、それがカイヤーツには、大に無氣味な威嚇を含んだものゝ様に思へた。彼はくるつと後を向いて、家の方へ歩み去つた。マコーラは自分の家族の懷へと退いた。そして置き放しにされた象牙は、日向でとても大きく、金目なものに見えた。

カーリエは椽側<sup>ザエラング</sup>へ戻つて來た。カイヤーツは居間の遠くのはづれから含み聲で尋ねた。「皆行つてしまつたのか。おい、誰もゐなかつたのか。」

「いや居た。僕は行つて見たら、ゴビラの村の奴が一人、小屋の前に死んでたよ——<sup>からだ</sup>身體をうちぬかれて。昨夜は、その一發が聞えたのだぜ。」とカーリエは云つた。

カイヤーツは、急いで出て來て見ると、カーリエは中庭越しに、向の倉庫の傍にある象牙を、むつつりとして見詰めてをら

**meant no more than**=meant only what.  
**muffled**=indistinct.

tusks, away by the store. They both sat in silence for a while. Then Kayerts related his conversation with Makola. Carlier said nothing. At the midday meal they ate very little. They hardly exchanged a word that day. A great silence seemed to lie heavily over the station and press on their lips. Makola did not open the store; he spent the day playing with his children. He lay full-length on a mat outside his door, and the youngsters sat on his chest and clambered all over him. It was a touching picture. Mrs. Makola was busy cooking all day as usual. The white men made a somewhat better meal in the evening. Afterwards, Carlier smoking his pipe strolled over to the store; he stood for a long time over the tusks, touched one or two with his foot, even tried to lift the largest one by its small end. He came back to his chief, who had not stirred from the verandah, threw himself in the chair and said—

“I can see it! They were pounced upon while they slept heavily after drinking all that palm wine you've allowed Makola to give them. A put-up job! See? The worst is, some of Gobila's people

**pounced upon** = attacked.

のであつた。二人はしばし黙つて坐つてゐた。それからカイヤーツはマコーラとの問答を語つた。しかしカーリエは何も云はなかつた。二人はその日一言も交さず、大きな沈黙が、出張所の上に低迷して、彼等の唇を抑へつける様に見えた。マコーラは倉庫を開かなかつた。彼はその一日を、彼の子供と一所に遊び暮した。彼は自分の家の入口の前なるむしろの上に、のびのびと寝そべつた。そして彼の子供等は、胸の上に坐つたり、或は身體中へ匂ひのほつたり、それは涙ぐましい情景であつた。マコーラの内儀は例の如く、終日料理で忙しかつた。白人達は夕方になつて、幾分餘計食べた。その後でカーリエはパイプを燻らし乍ら、倉庫まで歩いて行き、それから象牙を見下し乍ら、長いあひだ立つてをつたが、一つ二つの牙を足で觸つて見、一番大きい牙の細い方のはしをもつて、持ち上げやうとさへして見た。カイヤーツは、椽側から動かずに居つたが、彼の所までカーリエは戻つて来て、椅子にどつかと腰を下して云つた——

「僕にや目に見える様だ。あいつ等は、君がやつてもよいと、マコーラに許可した。椰子酒を飲み盡して、ぐつすり寝てをつたあひだに、襲はれたんだぜ。巧んだ仕事さ! 分つたらう? 一番困るのは、ゴビラの村の奴等も多少は居つて、確かに連れ

**put-up** = concocted.

were there, and got carried off too, no doubt. The least drunk woke up, and got shot for his sobriety. This is a funny country. What will you do now?"

"We can't touch it, of course," said Kayerts.

"Of course not," assented Carlier.

"Slavery is an awful thing," stammered out Kayerts in an unsteady voice.

"Frightful — the sufferings," grunted Carlier, with conviction.

They believed their words. Everybody shows respectful deference to certain sounds that he and his fellows can make. But about feelings people really know nothing. We talk with indignation or enthusiasm; we talk about oppression, cruelty, crime, devotion, self-sacrifice, virtue, and we know nothing real beyond the words. Nobody knows what suffering or sacrifice mean—except, perhaps, the victims of the mysterious purpose of these illusions.

Next morning they saw Makola very busy setting up in the yard the big scales used for weighing ivory. By-and-by Carlier said: "What's

**We can't touch it**=we can't touch the lot.

**grunted**=said in a complaining way.

て行かれたことさ。一番酔つてなかつた奴が、目を醒した所、  
素面<sup>しらふ</sup>だつた爲に撃たれたのだ。此處は變な國だぜ。君これから  
何うする。]

「無論、象牙には手をつけられないよ。」と、カイヤーツは云つた。

「無論さ。」とカーリエも同意した。

「奴隷制度てな怖ろしいものだな。」とカイヤーツは震え聲で  
吃り乍ら云つた。

「ひどいものさ。難儀がね。」とカーリエは確信を以て呟いた。

彼等は自分達の言葉を信じた。凡ゆる人は、自分か又は自分の仲間<sup>なかま</sup>のものが口にする、空な音聲に恭々しい敬意を表するものだが、その音聲それ自體について、人々は實際全く無知なのである。我々は或は憤慨し、或は夢中になつて語る。我々は壓迫、残忍、犯罪、忠誠、献身、美德を云々する。而も我々は言葉以上の握んだものを、何も知らないのである。何人も苦惱或は犠牲が、何ういふ意味合のものかを知らない。知るは唯これ等の幻の不可思議な目的のいけにえとなれるものゝみである。

翌朝白人達は、マコーラが中庭で、象牙を量るのに使ふ大天秤を、せつせと据え付けてゐるのを見掛けた、やがてカーリエは、「あのこぎたない野郎、何をしやうてのだ。」と云つてブラブ

**setting up**=placing upright.

that filthy scoundrel up to?" and lounged out into the yard. Kayerts followed. They stood watching. Makola took no notice. When the balance was swung true, he tried to lift a tusk into the scale. It was too heavy. He looked up helplessly without a word, and for a minute they stood round that balance as mute and still as three statues. Suddenly Carlier said: "Catch hold of the other end, Makola—you beast!" and together they swung the tusk up. Kayerts trembled in every limb. He muttered, "I say! O! I say!" and putting his hand in his pocket found there a dirty bit of paper and the stump of a pencil. He turned his back on the others, as if about to do something tricky, and noted stealthily the weights which Carlier shouted out to him with unnecessary loudness. When all was over Makola whispered to himself: "The sun's very strong here for the tusks." Carlier said to Kayerts in a careless tone: "I say, chief, I might just as well give him a lift with this lot into the store."

As they were going back to the house Kayerts

up to=going to do.

I say! O! I say!=By Jove, it is a fine piece!

ラ中庭へ出て行つた。カイヤーツも後からついて来た。二人は  
磅に立つて見てをつたが、マコーラは知らん顔をしてゐた。天  
秤が正しい釣合に揺れた時、彼は一本の象牙をもちあけて、天  
秤の中へいれ様としたが、其は重すぎた。彼は一言も云はず、  
困つた様に上を見あげた。そして一寸のあひだ、彼等は三つの  
立像の様に、口もきかず、静かに、その天秤の周圍に立つたが、  
突然カーリエは、「そつちの端をつかまへろ、マコーラ——やい  
こん畜生。」と云つた。そして二人して一所に、その牙を抛り上  
げた。カイヤーツは體中震へた。彼は「すばらしいぞ、やあ、  
すばらしいぞ。」と呟いた。そしてポケットに手を入れて汚なら  
しい紙片と鉛筆のきれはしを見付け、恰も之から何か悪たくみ  
でもするかの如く、他のものに背を向けて、カーリエが不必要  
な位聲高く、彼に向つて叫んだ目方を私かに書き留めた。全部  
済んだ時、マコーラは小聲で、「此處は日光がつよくて、象牙に  
やいけないな。」と獨語を云つた。カーリエはカイヤーツに向つ  
て、ぞんざいに云つた。「おい、主任さん、僕は、此奴が象牙を  
倉庫へ運ぶ手傳をしてやつた方が、よからうな。」

彼等が家へ歸る途中、カイヤーツは嘆息まじりに、「どうせ抛

I might just as well=I had better.

observed with a sigh: "It had to be done." And Carlier said: "It's deplorable, but, the men being Company's men, the ivory is Company's ivory. We must look after it." "I will report to the Director, of course," said Kayerts. "Of course; let him decide," approved Carlier.

At midday they made a hearty meal. Kayerts sighed from time to time. Whenever they mentioned Makola's name they always added to it an opprobrious epithet. It eased their conscience Makola gave himself a half-holiday, and bathed his children in the river. No one from Gobila's villages came near the station that day. No one came the next day, and the next, nor for a whole week. Gobila's people might have all been dead and buried for any sign of life they gave. But they were only mourning for those they had lost by the witchcraft of white men, who had brought wicked people into their country. The wicked people were gone, but fear remained. Fear always remains. A man may destroy everything within himself, love and hate and belief, and even doubt; but as long as he clings to life he cannot destroy fear: the fear, subtle, indestructible, and terrible,

**opprobrious**=abusive.

つちや置けなかつたのさ。」と云つた。カーリエは云つた、「之は慨嘆すべき事じやあるが、連れて行かれたのが会社の職人だもの、象牙も会社の象牙さ。始末はしとかなくちや。」「僕は勿論専務に報告するぜ。」とカイヤーツは云つた。「勿論さ、専務にきめさすがいよ。」とカーリエは賛成した。

晝に彼等はたらふく食べた。カイヤーツは折々嘆息した。二人はマコーラの名を口にする時、共に口ぎたない形容詞をつけたが、其で彼等の良心は落ちついた。マコーラは自分で勝手に半日を休にして、子供達に川で水浴をさせた。その日ゴビラの村からは誰一人出張所附近へ来なかつた。其次の日も、次の日も、まる一週間徑つても、誰一人来なかつた。ゴビラの村のものは、<sup>たし</sup>確かに生きては居たのだが、死んで墓の中に居たかの様に思へた。然し彼等は唯、悪い奴等を此國へ連れて来た白人の魔法で、何處かへ姿を消した仲間のことを悲んでをるにすぎなかつた。その悪い奴等は行つてしまつたが恐怖は後まで残つた。恐怖といふものは、いつだつて後まで残るのである。人は愛情、憎悪、信仰、その他疑念に至るまで、凡そ自己の心の中に起つて来るあらゆる感情を滅ぼすことが出来る。然し彼は、生に執着する限り、恐怖を滅ぼすことが出来ない。捕へ難く、滅し難く、

**might have all been dead**=It looked as if they had all been dead.



that pervades his being; that tinges his thoughts; that lurks in his heart; that watches on his lips the struggle of his last breath. In his fear, the mild old Gobila offered extra human sacrifices to all the Evil Spirits that had taken possession of his white friends. His heart was heavy. Some warriors spoke about burning and killing, but the cautious old savage dissuaded them. Who could foresee the woe those mysterious creatures, if irritated, might bring? They should be left alone. Perhaps in time they would disappear into the earth as the first one had disappeared. His people must keep away from them, and hope for the best.

Kayerts and Carlier did not disappear, but remained above on this earth, that, somehow, they fancied had become bigger and very empty. It was not the absolute and dumb solitude of the post that impressed them so much as an inarticulate feeling that something from within them was gone, something that worked for their safety, and had kept the wilderness from interfering with

**his being**=his soul and body.

**heavy**=dismal.

**Who could foresee—the best**=Gobila said to his people, "Who can foresee the woe those mysterious creatures, if irritated, may bring? They should be left alone. Perhaps in time they will disappear into the

耐え難い、彼の身心に浸潤する恐怖、彼の想念に色をつけ、彼の心のうちに潜み、彼の臨終の苦惱を唇頭にあつて見まもる恐怖、之を滅ぼすことは出来ない。恐怖のあまり、穏やかなゴビラは、彼の白人の友に乗移つた總ての悪魔に、餘分の人身御供を捧げた。彼の心は重く沈んだ。闘士のうちには、焼打ちと殺戮を主張したものもあつたが、その注意深い、年老いたる蠻人は、それ等のものを思ひとまらせた。怒らせた場合、それ等の不思議な白人達のもたらし得べき災殃を誰が豫想出来るか。彼等は觸らずに置くべきものだ。恐らく、いまに二人の白人達は最初の奴が消え失せた様に、地面の中へ消えて失せるだらう。我々は彼等から遠ざかつて、果報を待たねばならぬといふのがゴビラの意見であつた。

カイヤーツとカーリエは、消えて失せず地上にのこつた。そしてその大地が、何ういふものか、前よりも大きい、非常に空虚なものとなつた様に、二人は思ひなした。彼等にさういふ印象を與へたものは、その場所の完全な音もしない静けさよりも、寧ろ、何かしら或もの——即ち自分達の安全を助成し、且つ、荒野が彼等の心をかき亂さぬ様にと、仕向けて來た。何かしら或もの——が、自分達からはなれて、往つてしまつたとい

earth as the first one disappeared. You *must* keep away from them, and hope for the best."

**inarticulate**=indistinct.

**worked for**=was conducive to.

their hearts. The images of home; the memory of people like them, of men that thought and felt as they used to think and feel, receded into distances made indistinct by the glare of unclouded sunshine. And out of the great silence of the surrounding wilderness, its very hopelessness and savagery seemed to approach them nearer, to draw them gently, to look upon them, to envelop them with a solicitude irresistible, familiar, and disgusting.

Days lengthened into weeks, then into months. Gobila's people drummed and yelled to every new moon, as of yore, but kept away from the station. Makola and Carlier tried once in a canoe to open communications, but were received with a shower of arrows, and had to fly back to the station for dear life. That attempt set the country up and down the river into an uproar that could be very distinctly heard for days. The steamer was late. At first they spoke of delay jauntily, then anxiously, then gloomily. The matter was becoming serious. Stores were running short. Carlier cast his lines off the bank, but the river was low, and the fish kept out in the stream.

**Indistinct** 熱帯では日の光強きため陽炎がたつて周囲のものがゆらぎ朦朧と見えるのである。

ふ、漠然たる感じだつたのである。故郷の人の面影、自分と同じ様な人々、即ち、自分達がもといつも考へ且つ感じた様に、考へ且つ感じた人々の思ひ出なぞが、覆ふ雲もなき日光の烈しいきらめきのために、朦朧となつた遙か彼方へと遠退いた。そして周囲の荒野の、大きな静けさの中から、正にその心細さとわびしさが、抗し難い、馴々しい、而も、いまはしい熱心もて、彼等二人に近付き、彼等を静かにひきよせ、彼等を眺め、彼等を押しつつ、む様に見えた。

幾日かは延びて幾週かになり、また幾月かになつた。ゴビラの村人等は、また以前の如く、新月になる毎に、太鼓を鳴らしてわめいたが、出張所へは寄着かなかつた。マコーラとカーリエは、交通を開始しようと思ひ、一度、<sup>と</sup>試しに獨木舟に乗つて出掛けて見たが、雨と降る矢で向へられ、命からがら逃げ戻らねばならなかつた。その企は川の上下に互るその國を、幾日もの間、とても明瞭に聞こえる程、ざはめかした汽船は中々やつて來なかつた。彼等はその遅いのを、最初は氣輕に、それから心配相に、<sup>さら</sup>更に進んではいまいましげに噂した。事態は重大になつて來た。食糧の貯藏が缺乏して來たのである。カーリエは、岸の上から絲を垂れたが、川は水が減つてを<sup>つ</sup>つて、魚は遠くの流の中へ行つてを<sup>つ</sup>つた。二人は思ひ切つて出張所から遠方

**yelled to every new moon** 新月を喜び迎へて叫ぶのである。  
**low** 雨が降らないで川の水の少いことを云ふ。

They dared not stroll far away from the station to shoot. Moreover, there was no game in the impenetrable forest. Once Carlier shot a hippo in the river. They had no boat to secure it, and it sank. When it floated up it drifted away, and Gobila's people secured the carcass. It was the occasion for a national holiday, but Carlier had a fit of rage over it, and talked about the necessity of exterminating all the niggers before the country could be made habitable. Kayerts mooned about silently; spent hours looking at the portrait of his Melie. It represented a little girl with long bleached tresses and a rather sour face. His legs were much swollen, and he could hardly walk. Carlier, undermined by fever, could not swagger any more, but kept tottering about, still with a devil-may-care air, as became a man who remembered his crack regiment. He had become hoarse, sarcastic, and inclined to say unpleasant things. He called it "being frank with you." They had long ago reckoned their percentages on trade, including in them that last deal of "this infamous Makola." They had also concluded not to say

**occasion**=reason.

**spent hours**=passed time.

**bleached**=discoloured, whitened.

まで、銃獵に出掛ける勇氣がなかつた。のみならず、その足の踏み入れもならぬ森の中には、獵の獲物も居なかつた。一度、カーリエは川の中で、河馬を射たが、其を捕まへてくるボートがなかつたので、其は沈んだ。其が浮び上つた時、其は流れて行つて、ゴビラの村のものが其を手に入れた。そのために、その連中は國を擧げてお祝をする事になつたが、この事でもつてカーリエは、かつと怒つてしまひ、この國を住みよいものとなすには、すべての黒奴を絶滅することの必要なるを云々した。カイヤーツは黙つて、ぼんやりしてゐた。そして娘のメリーの寫眞を見ては、時をすごした。その寫眞には、長い、色の薄い髪の毛で、すこし愛敬のない顔をした小娘が寫つてをつた。彼の足は大分腫んでをつたので、彼は殆んど歩けなかつた。カーリエは熱病で身體をこはしたので最早、大またでは歩けなかつたが、其でも彼の居つた有名な聯隊のことを忘れぬ男に似つかはしくも、依然として勝手にしやがれ式に、ちよこまかし續けた。彼は聲が嘎れ、皮肉で、氣に障ることを云ふ様になつて來た。彼は其を「ざつくばらんにやる。」と稱した。二人はずつと前に、貿易の歩合の勘定をすませてをつた。そしてその中へは「けがらはいしいマコーラ」の最後の取引をも含めた。二人はま

**devil-may-care**=I don't care=reckless.

**the last deal**=the last bargain.

anything about it. Kayerts hesitated at first— was afraid of the Director.

“He has seen worse things done on the quiet,” maintained Carlier, with a hoarse laugh. “Trust him! He won’t thank you if you blab. He is no better than you or me. Who will talk if we hold our tongues? There is nobody here.”

That was the root of the trouble! There was nobody there; and being left there alone with their weakness, they became daily more like a pair of accomplices than like a couple of devoted friends. They had heard nothing from home for eight months. Every evening they said, “Tomorrow we shall see the steamer.” But one of the Company’s steamers had been wrecked, and the Director was busy with the other, relieving very distant and important stations on the main river. He thought that the useless station, and the useless men, could wait. Meantime Kayerts and Carlier lived on rice boiled without salt, and cursed the Company, all Africa, and the day they were born. One must have lived on such diet

**no better than**=as bad as.

**That was the root**=The fact that nobody was there, was the root.

た、このことに就ては、何も云ふまいと決めはしたが、カイヤーツも最初は躊躇した。——専務が怖かつたのである。

「専務は、こそこそした、もつと質の悪いことを見て知つてゐるぜ。」とカーリエは嘎れ聲で笑ひ乍ら主張した。「専務は大丈夫さ。君がしやべつたつて禮も云ふまい。彼は君や僕同然の悪人さ。我々が黙つてれば誰がしやべるのだ。誰も此處にや居やしまいし。」

其が面倒の根元こんげんなのであつた、そこには誰も居なかつた。そして意志が弱いのに、二人だけ共處へ置き放しにされたので、二人は日に日に親友と云ふよりも、寧ろ共謀者の様になつた。故郷からは、八箇月のあひだ、何の消息も聞かなかつた。毎晩二人は「明日こそ汽船が見えるだらう。」と話した。然し會社の汽船は一艘難破したので、専務はもう一つの方を忙しく乗廻して、主流に望んだ遠方の重要な出張所を救援してをつた。彼は無駄な出張所と無駄なてあひは待たしてもよい、と考へたのであつた。そのあひだ、カイヤーツとカーリエは、鹽も交ぜずに煮た米を常食とし、會社と、アフリカ全土と、自分達の誕生日とを呪つた。自分の食物を鶉呑みにせねばならぬといふ事が、一體

**weakness**=weak will.

**must have lived**..... 生活した経験がなければならぬ。

to discover what ghastly trouble the necessity of swallowing one's food may become. There was literally nothing else in the station but rice and coffee; they drank the coffee without sugar. The last fifteen lumps Kayerts had solemnly locked away in his box, together with a half-bottle of Cognac, "in case of sickness," he explained. Carlier approved. "When one is sick," he said, "any little extra like that is cheering."

They waited. Rank grass began to sprout over the courtyard. The bell never rang now. Days passed, silent, exasperating, and slow. When the two men spoke, they snarled; and their silences were bitter, as if tinged by the bitterness of their thoughts.

One day after a lunch of boiled rice, Carlier put down his cup untasted, and said: "Hang it all! Let's have a decent cup of coffee for once. Bring out that sugar, Kayerts!"

"For the sick," muttered Kayerts, without looking up.

"For the sick," mocked Carlier. "Bosh! . . . Well! I am sick."

ghast'y = horrible.

The bell never rang now 「鐘はもう決して鳴らなかつた」。汽船

どの位堪え難いことになるものかを発見するには、斯様な食物を常食とした経験がなければならぬ。出張所には米と珈琲の他は、文字通、何もなかつたので、二人は砂糖も入れずに珈琲を飲んだ。最後に残つた十五箇の角砂糖は、壘に半分残つたコニヤックと一所に、カイヤーツが箱の中へ大切に仕舞込んで置いたので、其時彼は「誰か病氣にでもなるといけないから。」と説明した。カーリエも賛成して、「病氣の時は、何でもさういふ一寸した景物が、元氣を附けるものだ。」と云つた。

二人は待つた。毒々しい草が中庭一面に、萌え出始めた。ベルはもう、まるで鳴らなかつた。月日は静かに、人の氣も知らず、遅々として過ぎた。二人は話するとき、唾み合ふ様な口のきゝ方をした。そして彼等の無言は、恰も彼等の想念の苦々しさによつて、多少色づけられたかの如く、苦々しかつた。

或る日の晝、煮た米を食べた後、カーリエは彼の珈琲茶碗を、口へもつけずに下へ置いて云つた。「あゝ、いまいましい、一度だけ、世間並の珈琲を飲まうぢやないか。おい、カイヤーツ、あの砂糖を出して来いよ。」

「病人用だよ。」とカイヤーツは上を見もせずにはいた。

「病人用だよか。」とカーリエは口真似をした。「馬鹿々々しいや。よしそんなら、俺は病氣だ。」

が来ると歓迎にベルを鳴らすのらしい。

Hang it all! imprecation の一種。

"You are no more sick than I am, and I go without," said Kayerts in a peaceful tone.

"Come! out with that sugar, you stingy old slave-dealer."

Kayerts looked up quickly. Carlier was smiling with marked insolence. And suddenly it seemed to Kayerts that he had never seen that man before. Who was he? He knew nothing about him. What was he capable of? There was a surprising flash of violent emotion within him, as if in the presence of something undreamt-of, dangerous, and final. But he managed to pronounce with composure—

"That joke is in very bad taste. Don't repeat it."

"Joke!" said Carlier, hitching himself forward on his seat. "I am hungry—I am sick—I don't joke! I hate hypocrites. You are a hypocrite. You are a slave-dealer. I am a slave-dealer. There's nothing but slave-dealers in this cursed country. I mean to have sugar in my coffee to-day, anyhow!"

"I forbid you to speak to me in that way," said Kayerts with a fair show of resolution.

**out with**=take out.

**Who was he?—capable of?**=Kayerts thought, "who is he? I know nothing about him. What is he capable of?"

「君は僕同然病氣じゃないさ。僕もなしで済ましてるのだ。」とカイヤーツは穏かに云つた。

「おい、砂糖を出せ。このけちな、奴隷商人の老耄奴。」

カイヤーツは素早く上を見上げた。カーリエは明かに失敬な微笑を浮べてをつた。すると突然カイヤーツには、前にその男を見たことが全くない様に思へた。これは誰だらう。俺はこの男のことを何も知らないぞ。この男にはどの位質の悪い真似が出来やうか、と考へたカイヤーツの心の中には、恰も何か夢想だにせぬ、危険な、死を暗示するものゝ前へ出てもした様に、烈しい胸騒が大きく颯とひらめいたが、やつと、さあらぬ體に落つき拂つて彼は答へた——

「その冗談は下らないぜ。二度と云ひ給ふな。」

「冗談だと。」とカーリエは椅子からぐいと乗出して云つた。「俺は饑じいのだ——俺は病氣なのだ——冗談なんぞ云ふものか。俺は偽善者が嫌だ。お前は偽善者だ。お前は奴隷商人だ。俺も奴隷商人だ。このいまましい國には奴隷商人しか居ないのだ。どうしても俺は今日珈琲へ砂糖を入れてやるんだから。」

「我輩に對するさういふ口のきゝ方は、禁止を命ずる。」とカイヤーツはかなり決心の程を示して云つた。

**surprising**=very great.

**emotion**=agitation.

**final**=suggestive of death.

“You!—What?” shouted Carlier, jumping up. Kayerts stood up also. “I am your chief,” he began, trying to master the shakiness of his voice. “What?” yelled the other. “Who’s chief? There’s no chief here. There’s nothing here: there’s nothing but you and I. Fetch the sugar—you pot-bellied ass.”

“Hold your tongue. Go out of this room,” screamed Kayerts. “I dismiss you—you scoundrel!”

Carlier swung a stool. All at once he looked dangerously in earnest. “You flabby, good-for-nothing civilian—take that!” he howled.

Kayerts dropped under the table, and the stool struck the grass inner wall of the room. Then, as Carlier was trying to upset the table, Kayerts in desperation made a blind rush, head low, like a cornered pig would do, and overturning his friend, bolted along the verandah, and into his room. He locked the door, snatched his revolver, and stood panting. In less than a minute Carlier was kicking at the door furiously, howling, “If you don’t bring out that sugar, I will shoot you at sight, like a dog. Now then—one—two—three.

**dangerously** = as if he meant to attack or kill.

**take that!** = take the punishment.

「貴様が！ 何だと？」とカーリエは叫んで跳上つた。  
カイヤーツも亦立ち上つた。「俺はお前の主任だぞ。」と彼は聲の震へるのを抑へ様とし乍ら、やり始めた。

「何だと？」と相手の男も喚いた、「誰が主任だと？ 此處にや主任なんざ居ないんだ。此所にや何も居ないんだ。お前と俺しきや居ないんだ。砂糖を持つて来い——この布袋腹の馬鹿野郎。」

「黙れ、室から出てゆけ。」とカイヤーツは叫んだ。「免職だぞ——悪黨奴！」

カーリエは椅子を振り上げた。突然彼は物騒なほどまで本氣に見えた。「このでおでぶな、ろくでなしの役人上り奴。こうだぞ！」と彼は咆哮した。

カイヤーツはテーブルの下へ俯伏したので、椅子は其室の草で編んだ内壁に當つた。それからカーリエがテーブルを覆へさうとしてをつた時、やけになつたカイヤーツは、追詰められた豚でもやる様な具合に、頭を低くして、盲目的に突進した。そしてカーリエを倒して、縁側傳ひに自分の室の中へと飛び込んだ。彼は戸に錠を下し、ひつたくる様にピストルを握み、息をはづませ乍ら立つた。一分も経たぬうちにもう、カーリエは無茶苦茶に戸を蹴つて喚いてをつた。「さあ、いゝか、一、二、三、

**droppe.l** = fell prone.

You won't? I will show you who's the master."

Kayerts thought the door would fall in, and scrambled through the square hole that served for a window in his room. There was then the whole breadth of the house between them. But the other was apparently not strong enough to break in the door, and Kayerts heard him running round.

Then he also began to run laboriously on his swollen legs. He ran as quickly as he could, grasping the revolver, and unable yet to understand what was happening to him. He saw in succession Makola's house, the store, the river, the ravine, and the low bushes; and he saw all those things again as he ran for the second time round the house. Then again they flashed past him. That morning he could not have walked a yard without a groan.

And now he ran. He ran fast enough to keep out of sight of the other man.

Then as, weak and desperate, he thought, "Before I finish the next round I shall die," he heard the other man stumble heavily, then stop. He stopped also. He had the back and Carlier the front of the house, as before. He heard him drop into a chair cursing, and suddenly his own legs gave

fall in=give way inwards.

出さないのか。一つ酷い目に合はせて呉れるぞ。」

カイヤーツは戸が中へ破れ込むだらうと思ひ、自分の室なる窓代用の四角な穴を、匍つて抜け出た。そこで二人の間には、その家の幅全體がはさまつた。然し、カーリエには、戸を押し破るだけの力は、明らかになかつたと見え、カイヤーツは、彼が迂廻して駆けてくるのを聞いた。

カイヤーツも、踵んだ足で一生懸命走り始めた。彼はピストルを握り、自分の身に何事が起りつゝあるのか、まだ了解も出来ずに、出来るだけ早く走つた。彼の眼には、マコーラの家や、倉庫や、川や、谷や、丈の低い灌木が、引續いて映つた。そして彼が二回目に家の周囲を走つた時、すべて之等のものが、またも彼の眼に映つた。其からまた之等のものが、彼と擦れちがひにピカとひらめいて過ぎた。其の日も午前の中は、呻き聲を出さないでは、一ヤードだつて歩けなかつたであらうのに。

それを今や彼は走つた。相手の男と顔を合はさずに済む位に早く走つたのであつた。

其れから力は抜けるし、自暴になつて、「もう一廻しきらぬうちに、俺は死んでしまふだらう。」と考へた時、彼は相手の男が躓いてひどくころび、其から立ち止るのを聞いた。彼も亦立ち止つた。前の通、彼は家の後、カーリエは家の前にをつた。彼はカーリエが悪口云ひ乍ら、椅子に倒れ込むのを聞いた。すると突然、彼の足の力が抜け、ずるずると走つて壁に背中を凭せ

In succession=one after another.



way, and he slid down into a sitting posture with his back to the wall. His mouth was as dry as a cinder, and his face was wet with perspiration—and tears. What was it all about? He thought it must be a horrible illusion; he thought he was dreaming; he thought he was going mad! After a while he collected his senses. What did they quarrel about? That sugar! How absurd! He would give it to him—didn't want it himself. And he began scrambling to his feet with a sudden feeling of security. But before he had fairly stood upright, a common-sense reflection occurred to him and drove him back into despair. He thought: If I give way now to that brute of a soldier, he will begin this horror again to-morrow—and the day after—every day—raise other pretensions, trample on me, torture me, make me his slave—and I will be lost! Lost! The steamer may not come for days—may never come. He shook so that he had to sit down on the floor again. He shivered forlornly. He felt he could not, would not move any more. He was completely distracted by the sudden perception that the position was without issue—that death and life

begin again=repeat.

たまたま、坐つた姿勢になつた。彼の口は薪の燃えさしの様に乾いた。そして彼の顔は汗——と涙で濡れた。一體このことは皆何が原因だつたのか。彼は其が恐ろしい幻に違ないと思つた。彼は夢を見てをるのだと思つた。彼は氣が狂ひ掛けてるのだと思つた。暫くしてから、彼は正氣にかへつた。何を自分達は云ひ争つたか。問題は例の砂糖じやないか! 馬鹿馬鹿しいや! よしカーリエに呉れてやらう——何も自分で要るのちやあるまいし、そこで彼は突然大丈夫の様な氣がし乍ら、這ふ様にして立ち上つた。然し、ちやんと眞直に、立ち上りきらぬうちに、常識的な考が彼の心に浮んで来て、彼を絶望の淵まで追戻した。彼は考へた、「もし俺がああの畜生の様な兵隊に、讓歩しようものなら、彼はこの恐ろしい騒ぎを、あしたも、其次の日も、毎日でも繰返すか、又は他の口實を設け、俺を踏付け、虐め、奴隷にするだらう——さうすると、俺は立つ瀬がない! 立つ瀬がない! 汽船は、これから先暫くの間來ないかも知れぬ——二度と來ないかも知れぬ。彼は身體が非常に震えたので、また床の上に坐らねばならなかつた。そして彼は頼なけに身震ひした。彼はもはや動くことが出來ず、また動くのもいやだと感じた。彼は自分の立場が、逃げるにも逃げられぬものだといふこと、及

without issue=without outlet.

had in a moment become equally difficult and terrible.

All at once he heard the other push his chair back; and he leaped to his feet with extreme facility. He listened and got confused. Must run again! Right or left? He heard footsteps. He darted to the left, grasping his revolver, and at the very same instant, as it seemed to him, they came into violent collision. Both shouted with surprise. A loud explosion took place between them; a roar of red fire, thick smoke; and Kayerts, deafened and blinded, rushed back thinking: I am hit—it's all over. He expected the other to come round—to gloat over his agony. He caught hold of an upright of the roof—"All over!" Then he heard a crashing fall on the other side of the house, as if somebody had tumbled headlong over a chair—then silence. Nothing more happened. He did not die. Only his shoulder felt as if it had been badly wrenched, and he had lost his revolver. He was disarmed and helpless! He waited for his fate. The other man made no sound. It was a stratagem. He

**deafened and blinded**=being deafened and blinded.

び、死と生とが、忽ちにして、困難で且つ堪え難きものになつてしまつたことを突然さとして、全く氣が顛倒した。

突然カイヤーツはカーリエがその椅子を後へ押遣るのを聞いて、いとも身輕に跳んで立上つた。彼は耳を澄ましたが、まごまごした。また駈けなきやなるまいが。右か、それとも左かな。彼は足音を聞いた。そこでピストルを握つて、左へ突進したが、正に其瞬間、と彼には思へた位すぐに、彼等は激しく衝突した。二人とも吃驚して叫んだ。大きな爆音が二人の間に起つた。其は赤い火と濃い煙を伴つた轟きであつた。カイヤーツは、耳も聞こえず、眼も見えなくなつて、「撃たれた。もうおしまひだ。」と考へ乍ら駈け戻つた。彼は相手の男が廻つて来て、彼の苦しむのを、小氣味よけに眺めるだらうと豫期した。彼は屋根の支柱につかまつた——「もうおしまひだ。」其からカイヤーツは、恰も誰かが椅子の上へ眞逆様どころけでもした様に、家の反對の側で、何かガタンと倒れるのを聞いたが——それから何の音もしなかつた。其以上何事も起らなかつた。カイヤーツは死にはしなかつた。が唯彼の肩は恰も酷く振れたかの如くに感じたし、其にピストルを失してしまつた。彼はもう武器はなし、手も足も出なかつた。彼は自分の宿命を待つたが、相手の男は全で音をたてなかつた。之は策だ。奴いまこつちへ忍び寄つて来る

**then silence**=then there was silence.

was stalking him now! Along what side? Perhaps he was taking aim this very minute!

After a few moments of an agony frightful and absurd, he decided to go and meet his doom. He was prepared for every surrender. He turned the corner, steadying himself with one hand on the wall; made a few paces, and nearly swooned. He had seen on the floor, protruding past the other corner, a pair of turned-up feet. A pair of white naked feet in red slippers. He felt deadly sick, and stood for a time in profound darkness. Then Makola appeared before him, saying quietly: "Come along, Mr. Kayerts. He is dead." He burst into tears of gratitude; a loud, sobbing fit of crying. After a time he found himself sitting in a chair and looking at Carlier, who lay stretched on his back. Makola was kneeling over the body.

"Is this your revolver?" asked Makola, getting up.

"Yes," said Kayerts; then he added very quickly, "He ran after me to shoot me—you saw!"

every surrender = even the most abject surrender.

のだな。どつち側を來るのかしら、多分丁度今狙ひをつけてゐるんだらう。とカイヤーツは考へた。

數秒おそろしくも、馬鹿馬鹿しく、苦惱した後で、彼は行つて自分の宿命に直面することに決めた。彼は何の様な意氣地の無い降伏でもする覺悟であつた。彼は片手を壁にかけて身體を支へ乍ら、角を曲つて數歩行つたが、殆ど氣が遠くなつた。其は、床の上に、もう一つさきの角から突き出た、二本の上向きに成た足が見えた爲なのであつた。其は赤い上靴を穿いた二本の白い素足であつた。彼は非常に胸が悪くなつて一寸の間眞暗闇の中に立つた。それからマコーラは彼の前に顯はれて靜かに云つた。「早くお出でなさい。カイヤーツさん。あの人は死にましたよ。」カイヤーツは思はず嬉し涙にくれ、聲高に啜泣をし出した。暫くしてから、カイヤーツは、自分が椅子に坐つたまゝ、仰向に身體をのばして横になつたカーリエを見てをるのに氣がついた。マコーラは、死骸を前に膝まづいてをつた。

「これは貴方のピストルかね。」とマコーラは立ち上り乍ら尋ねた。

「さうだ。」とカイヤーツは云つたが、其から早口でつけ加へた。「俺を撃たうてんで、奴俺を追掛けたんだ——お前も見たらう！」

sick = nauseous.

“Yes, I saw,” said Makola. “There is only one revolver; where’s his?”

“Don’t know,” whispered Kayerts in a voice that had become suddenly very faint.

“I will go and look for it,” said the other gently. He made the round along the verandah, while Kayerts sat still and looked at the corpse. Makola came back empty-handed, stood in deep thought, then stepped quietly into the dead man’s room, and came out directly with a revolver, which he held up before Kayerts. Kayerts shut his eyes. Everything was going round. He found life more terrible and difficult than death. He had shot an unarmed man.

After meditating for a while, Makola said softly, pointing at the dead man who lay there with his right eye blown out—

“He died of fever.” Kayerts looked at him with a stony stare. “Yes,” repeated Makola thoughtfully, stepping over the corpse, “I think he died of fever. Bury him to-morrow.”

And he went away slowly to his expectant wife, leaving the two white men alone on the verandah.

held up before Kayerts=offered to Kayerts’s notice.

「えい、見ましたよ」とマコーラは答へた。「一つしかピストルがないが、此の人ののは何處ですかね。」

「知らんよ」とカイヤーツは突然非常に滅入つてしまつた聲で云つた。

「行つて捜しませう」とマコーラは静かに云つた。彼は椽側<sup>ツエツツ</sup>傳ひに廻つて行つたが、其間カイヤーツは、ちつと坐つて死骸を見てをつた。マコーラは空手で戻つて来て、深く考へ乍ら立つてゐたが、やがて死んだ男の室へ、静かに入つて行つて、すぐにピストルを持つて出て来た。そして其をカイヤーツの前へさし出した。カイヤーツは眼を閉ぢた。あらゆるものが旋轉しつゝあつた。彼は生が死よりも、ずつと恐ろしくも、面倒なのを知つた。彼は武装しない男を射つてしまつたのだもの。

暫く考へてた後で、マコーラは、右の眼をうちとばされて、其處に横たはつた死人を指し乍ら、小聲で云つた——

「この人は熱病で死んだのだ。」カイヤーツは石の様な眼つきでマコーラを見た。マコーラは死骸をまたぎ乍ら、思案顔に繰返して云つた。「さうだ、熱病で死んだのだと思ひます。あした埋めませう。」

そしてマコーラは、二人の白人だけを椽側<sup>ツエツツ</sup>に残したまゝ、首を長くして待つてゐる内儀<sup>かみさん</sup>の所へ、のそのそと歸つて行つた。

stony=hard, unfeeling.

Night came, and Kayerts sat unmoving on his chair. He sat quiet as if he had taken a dose of opium. The violence of the emotions he had passed through produced a feeling of exhausted serenity. He had plumbed in one short afternoon the depths of horror and despair, and now found repose in the conviction that life had no more secrets for him: neither had death! He sat by the corpse thinking; thinking very actively, thinking very new thoughts. He seemed to have broken loose from himself altogether. His old thoughts, convictions, likes and dislikes, things he respected and things he abhorred appeared in their true light at last! Appeared contemptible and childish, false and ridiculous. He revelled in his new wisdom while he sat by the man he had killed. He argued with himself about all things under heaven with that kind of wrong-headed lucidity which may be observed in some lunatics. Incidentally he reflected that the fellow dead there had been a noxious beast anyway; that men died every day in thousands; perhaps in hundreds of thousands — who could tell? — and that in the

from himself = from his former self.

夜が来た。しかもカイヤーツは、椅子の上に身動きもせず<sup>すは</sup>に坐つてをつた。彼は恰も阿片を一服のみでもした様に静かに坐つてをつた。彼が経験した感情の激しさは、疲れた落つきの感じを惹き起した。彼は短かい一日の午後のうちに、恐怖と絶望との深みを極めた。そして生も死も、彼としてはもう何等不明の點がないといふ確信のうちに、安息を見出した。彼は死骸の傍に坐つて考へた。いままで考へもしなかつたことを盛んに考へた。彼は今までの自分からは、全然はなれてしまつた様に見えた。彼の今までの<sup>かみかへ</sup>想念、確信、好意、尊敬したものと忌み嫌つたものなどが終に眞の姿を顯はし、卑しむべく、小供らしいものに、また虚偽にして、笑ふべきものに、見えて来た。彼は自分で殺した男の傍に坐り乍ら、自分が急に賢くなつたのを得意がつた。彼は、あめがしたなる、すべてのものについて、一部の狂人に見らるゝ様な、頭の狂つたなりに透徹した論理で、我と自ら論争した。不圖、彼は、其處に死んでゐる男が、兎に角危険な奴であつたといふこと、人間は毎日何千も、恐らくは何十萬も……正確な數はとても分らないが——死ぬといふこ

noxious = dangerous.

number, that one death could not possibly make any difference; 'couldn't have any importance, at least to a thinking creature. He, Kayerts, was a thinking creature. He had been all his life, till that moment, a believer in a lot of nonsense like the rest of mankind—who are fools; but now he thought! He knew! He was at peace; he was familiar with the highest wisdom! Then he tried to imagine himself dead, and Carlier sitting in his chair watching him; and his attempt met with such unexpected success, that in a very few moments he became not at all sure who was dead and who was alive. This extraordinary achievement of his fancy startled him, however, and by a clever and timely effort of mind he saved himself just in time from becoming Carlier. His heart thumped, and he felt hot all over at the thought of that danger. Carlier! What a beastly thing! To compose his now disturbed nerves—and no wonder!—he tried to whistle a little. Then, suddenly, he fell asleep, or thought he had slept; but at any rate there was a fog, and somebody had whistled in the fog.

at the thought of—as he thought of.

と、其から又、その多數の中では、カーリエが一人死んだことなど、大局には恐らく、少しも影響があるまい——少くとも物を考へる人には、何の意味もある筈がないといふことなどを考へて見たりした。カイヤーツ自身は物を考へる人である。自分はいまゝですつと、他の愚かな人々の様に、多くの下らぬことを信じてをつたが、今や自分は物を考へる様になつた。自分は悟を開き、安心を得、最上智を修したのである、と彼は考へた。それから彼は、自分が死んだので、カーリエは椅子に坐つて自分を見てをるのだと想像して見たが、その試みは思ひも掛けぬ成功を収めたので、誰が死んで誰が生きてをるのか少しもはつきりしなくなつた。併し彼の想像のこの異常な成功に、彼はギョツとした。そして彼の頭の抜け目ない、時宜を得た努力で、彼はやつとまあ、カーリエにならずに済んだ。彼の心臓はどきどきした。そしてその危険を考へると、體中暑く感じた。カーリエ! 何といふ汚らはしい奴か! 自分の今や掻き亂れた神経を落ちつけるため、——其も不思議はないが!——彼は少し口笛を吹かうとして見た。其から突然、彼は眠つた。少くとも眠つた様に思つた、併し兎に角霧が懸つて、誰かゝ其中で口笛を吹いた。

no wonder—it was no wonder.

He stood up. The day had come, and a heavy mist had descended upon the land: the mist penetrating, enveloping, and silent; the morning mist of tropical lands; the mist that clings and kills; the mist white and deadly, immaculate and poisonous. He stood up, saw the body, and threw his arms above his head with a cry like that of a man who, waking from a trance, finds himself immured for ever in a tomb. "Help! . . . My God!"

A shriek inhuman, vibrating and sudden, pierced like a sharp dart the white shroud of that land of sorrow. Three short, impatient screeches followed, and then, for a time, the fog-wreaths rolled on, undisturbed, through a formidable silence. Then many more shrieks, rapid and piercing, like the yells of some exasperated and ruthless creature, rent the air. Progress was calling to Kayerts from the river. Progress and civilisation and all the virtues. Society was calling to its accomplished child to come, to be taken care of, to be instructed, to be judged, to be condemned; it called him to return to that rubbish heap from which he had wandered away, so that justice could be done.

accomplished = proficient 之は ironical に用ひたもの、眞の意味は

彼は立ち上つた。其日は来たのであつた。そして濃い霧が地上に下りた。浸渡り、覆ひ包む、音もなき霧。熱帯地方の朝の霧。人にまつはり、その命を奪ふ霧。白くして致命的な、清浄にして有毒な霧。彼は立ち上つて死骸を見た。そして、夢幻から醒めて、永久に墓の中へ葬られてをるのに気づいた人の叫びにも似た叫聲をあげ乍ら、腕を頭の上までなげ上げた。「助けてくれ! ……大變だ!」

ものすごい、響き渡る、突然の叫びが、鋭い投槍の様に、その悲しみの土地を包む白い屍布にも似た霧をつんざいた。三つの短い、いらだちしげな金切聲が続いて起つた。それから一時、霧の渦は、恐ろしき静寂の中を、しづかに逆巻いた。それから、何か激した、残忍な獣の吼聲にも似た、更に多くの急な、鋭い叫びが空気を裂いた。進歩が川からカイヤーツに呼び掛けてをつたのである。進歩と文明とすべての美德が。社會がその有能な子供に来て監督をうけ、教をうけ、審判をうけ、宣告をうける様にと呼び掛けてをつたのである。社會は公平なる裁きを下すため、カイヤーツがさまよひはなれし、もとの芥溜へ戻る様にと命じたのであつた。

good for nothing 「役に立たない」。

Kayerts heard and understood. He stumbled out of the verandah, leaving the other man quite alone for the first time since they had been thrown there together. He groped his way through the fog, calling in his ignorance upon the invisible heaven to undo its work. Makola flitted by in the mist, shouting as he ran—

“Steamer! Steamer! They can't see. They whistle for the station. I go ring the bell. Go down to the landing, sir. I ring.”

He disappeared. Kayerts stood still. He looked upwards; the fog rolled low over his head. He looked round like a man who has lost his way; and he saw a dark smudge, a cross-shaped stain, upon the shifting purity of the mist. As he began to stumble towards it, the station bell rang in a tumultuous peal its answer to the impatient clamour of the steamer.

The Managing Director of the Great Civilising Company (since we know that civilisation follows trade) landed first, and incontinently lost sight of the steamer. The fog down by the river was exceedingly dense; above, at the station, the bell rang unceasing and brazen.

thrown = put.

カイヤーツは聞いて其意味が分つた。彼は二人一所に其處へ置いて行かれてから、始めて、カーリエだけを残して椽側<sup>ツエラシダ</sup>から、まころび出でた。彼は霧の中を手探りで進み、何も分らぬ乍ら、~~見知らぬ~~ 目に見えぬ神に、過ぎたことを元へ還へす様にと願つた。マコ

ーラは霧の中をちらちらして、駈け乍ら叫んだ——

「汽船ですぜ。汽船ですぜ。向ちや見えないのです。汽笛でこつちを呼んでるのです。私が行つて、ベルを鳴らしますから、<sup>かんた</sup>貴方は船着場へ行つてください。私は鳴らします。」

マコーラは姿を消した。カイヤーツは静かに立つてをつた。彼は上を見あげた。霧は頭の上で低くさかまいた。彼は途に迷つた人の様に、そこらを見まはした。そして彼は清らかな、漂ふ霧の中に黒い、十字架型の汚點<sup>シミ</sup>を認めた。彼がその方へ、よろめき進み始めた時、出張所のベルは、汽船のもどかしげな騒音に對するいらへをけたましく轟かせた。

大開化會社（我々は、文明が商業に追従するものなるを知れば斯く云ふ）の専務は眞先に上陸したが、不覺にも汽船の姿を見失つた。下の川岸の霧は、非常に濃かつた。上の出張所では、ベルが絶え間なく、圖々しげに鳴つた。

smudge = stain.



The Director shouted loudly to the steamer.

"There is nobody down to meet us; there may be something wrong, though they are ringing, You had better come, too!"

And he began to toil up the steep bank. The captain and the engine-driver of the boat followed behind. As they scrambled up the fog thinned, and they could see their Director a good way ahead. Suddenly they saw him start forward, calling to them over his shoulder:—"Run! Run to the house! I've found one of them. Run, look for the other!"

He had found one of them! And even he, the man of varied and startling experience, was somewhat discomposed by the manner of this finding. He stood and fumbled in his pockets (for a knife) while he faced Kayerts, who was hanging by a leather strap from the cross. He had evidently climbed the grave, which was high and narrow, and after tying the end of the strap to the arm, had swung himself off. His toes were only a couple of inches above the ground; his arms hung stiffly down; he seemed to be standing rigidly at attention, but with one purple cheek playfully posed on the shoulder. And, irreverently, he was putting out a swollen tongue at his Managing Director.

who was hanging—as he was hanging.

専務は汽船に向つて大聲に叫んだ。

「下までは誰も迎へに来てゐないぞ。ベルを鳴らしてはゐるが、何か變つたことがあるのかも知れない。お前方も来た方がいゝ。」

そして専務は、峻しい岸を、一生懸命に、上り始めた。船長と機関手が後から續いた。彼等がよぢ上つた時、霧は薄れて二人は、かなり先に、自分等の専務を見ることが出来た。すると突然、二人は、「かけろ、家の所までかけろ。一人は目付けたが、もう一人探せ。」と肩越しに云ひ乍ら、専務が駆け出すのを見た。

専務は正に一人目付けはしたが、しかも種々の驚くべき経験を積んだ彼すら、かういふ行き方の発見には幾分面喰つた。彼はカイヤーツと向き合つた時、立ちどまつて、ポケットの中（にナイフ）を探つたが、カイヤーツは十字架から皮紐で垂れ下つてをつたのであつた。彼は明かに細長い墓によぢ上り、紐の先を横木に結び付けてから、首をくゞつたものらしかつた。彼の足のゆびは、地面から一二寸はなれ、腕はこはゞつて、垂れ下つてをつた。彼は固くなつて氣を付けの姿勢をしてゐる様に見えた。が併し、片方の紫色の頬を肩の上へ、ふざけた様に傾けてゐた。そし不謹慎にも、専務に對し、ふくれた舌を出してをつた。

which was high—though it was high.

THE IDIOTS

## THE IDIOTS

When he returned from his military service Jean-Pierre Bacadou found the old people very much aged. He remarked with pain that the work of the farm was not satisfactorily done. The father had not the energy of old days. The hands did not feel over them the eye of the master. Jean-Pierre noted with sorrow that the heap of manure in the courtyard before the only entrance to the house was not so large as it should have been. The fences were out of repair, and the cattle suffered from neglect. At home the mother was practically bedridden, and the girls chattered loudly in the big kitchen, unrebuked, from morning to night. He said to himself: "We must change all this." He talked the matter over with his father one evening when the rays of the setting sun entering the yard between the outhouses ruled the heavy shadows

with pain 「心を痛め乍ら」。

hands 百姓の「作男」工場の「職工」など。

practically やかましく云へば多少は起きてる時もあらうが「大體

## THE IDIOTS

### 白痴

ジャン・ピエール・バカドウが兵役から歸つてみたら、両親は非常に老込んでしまつてゐた。彼は農園の仕事が充分に行つてないのを見て、心を痛めた。父親は昔日の元氣がないので、作男達は主人の監督をうけてる様な氣がしなかつた。ジャン・ピエールは、中庭の家の唯一の入口前に積まれた堆肥が、申分ない程大きくないのに氣づいて、悲しく思つた。垣は壊れ、家畜は手が届かないので病氣をした。家では母親が大抵床へついた儘なので、若い女子達は朝から晩まで小言も食はず、臺所で大聲に喋つた。「之は皆改革せにやならぬ。」と彼は考へた。彼は或晩、納屋の間から中庭にさしいる、落日の光が、濃い夕闇の影に輝かしい綺をなけた頃、彼の父親とこのことを相談した。堆に於ては。

said to himself=thought.

with luminous streaks. Over the manure heap floated a mist, opal-tinted and odorous, and the marauding hens would stop in their scratching to examine with a sudden glance of their round eye the two men, both lean and tall, talking in hoarse tones. The old man, all twisted with rheumatism and bowed with years of work, the younger bony and straight, spoke without gestures in the indifferent manner of peasants, grave and slow. But before the sun had set the father had submitted to the sensible arguments of the son. "It is not for me that I am speaking," insisted Jean-Pierre. "It is for the land. It's a pity to see it badly used. I am not impatient for myself." The old fellow nodded over his stick. "I dare say; I dare say," he muttered. "You may be right. Do what you like. It's the mother that will be pleased."

The mother was pleased with her daughter-in-law. The wedding dinner was remembered for months. It was a splendid feast in the orchard. Farmers of considerable means and excellent repute were

opal 「蛋白石」。

**It is for the land**=It is for the land that I am speaking.

**I am not impatient for myself** 「何も自分一箇のために、もどかしくて急ぐのぢやない」之は嫁を貰ひ度いといふ相談と知るべし。

肥の上にはオパール色の、香はしい霧が漂つた。そして餌を漁る牝鶏は、時々、地面を搔くのをやめ、唼れ聲で話をしてゐる揃も揃つてひよろ長い親子を、その圓い眼で突然じろつと見るのであつた。リュウマチで身體がまるで曲つてしまひ、長年の仕事で猫背になつた老人と、骨ばつて身體の眞直な息子とは、百姓らしい、氣乗のしない調子で、身振もせず、重々しく、氣長に話した。併し、太陽の沈みきらぬうちに、父親は息子の筋の通つた議論に従つた。「何も自分のために、私は云つてるのぢやないですよ。」とジャン・ピエールは飽くまでも云つた。「地面のためですよ。地面が酷い扱をうけてるのは、見ると残念ですもの。何も自分のために待ち切れないのぢやありません。」老人は杖をついたまゝ點頭いて、「左様ぢやらう、左様ぢやらう。」とつぶやいた。「お前の云ふ通りかも知れん。好きにやるがよい。お母さんが満足ぢやらう。」

母親は息子の嫁に満足した。婚禮の宴は幾月も人の記憶に残つた。其は界樹園で催された、すばらしい饗應であつた。次の日の午後になるまで、トレギエに至る道に沿うた、到る所の溝

**I dare say**=I suppose so.

**It's the mother that will be pleased** 之は The mother will be pleased の emphatic form で It's=It is. 「お母さんこそは、大喜びだぜ」の意。

to be found sleeping in ditches, all along the road to Treguier, even as late as the afternoon of the next day. All the countryside participated in the happiness of Jean-Pierre. He remained sober, and, together with his quiet wife, kept out of the way, letting father and mother reap their due of honour and thanks. But the next day he took hold strongly, and the old folks felt a shadow—precursor of the grave—fall upon them finally. The world is to the young.

When the twins were born there was plenty of room in the house, for the mother of Jean-Pierre had gone away to dwell under a heavy stone in the cemetery of Ploumar. On that day, for the first time since his son's marriage, the elder Bacadou, neglected by the cackling lot of strange women who thronged the kitchen, left in the morning his seat under the mantel of the fireplace, and went into the empty cow-house, shaking his white locks dismally. Grandsons were all very well, but he wanted his soup at midday. When shown the babies, he stared at them with

**were to be found**=could be found.

**countryside**=neighbourhood.

**their due**「父母として當然受くべき分量」。

に、相應な身上で、堅いといふ評判をとつた百姓の眠つてをるのが見うけられた。界限の者は皆、ジャン・ピエルの幸福を願つた。彼は何所までも酒を飲まなかつた。そして、客人の敬意と感謝を然るべく父母にうけさせる様にした。そして自分はおとなしい新妻と一所に、出しやばらぬ様にしてをつた。併し次の日には彼大いに鋒鋦をあらはしたので、老人達は墓場のさきぶれともいふべき、暗い影が、終に自分等の上へ落ちて來たのを感じた。所詮、この世は若者の舞臺である。

双生児が生まれた時、ジャン・ピエルの母は、ブルーマールの墓地なる重い墓石の下に住まふため、あの世の人となつてをつたので、家の中は大分廣やかだつた。その日、息子が結婚してから始めて、父親は、臺所に集つたかしましい手傳の女達が、構ひつけないものだから、午前中に爐棚の下の席をはなれ、淋し氣に白髪を振り乍ら、空虚の牛小屋へはいつて行つた。孫もまことに結構だが自分もお晝にソツブが欲しいのであつた。赤坊を見せられた時、彼はヂツと見詰めてをつたが、「これは御町

**took hold**=asserted himself.

**On that day**「その日」とは twins の生れた日。

a fixed gaze, and muttered something like: "It's too much."

Jean-Pierre was happy, and so was Susan, his wife. It was not an ethereal joy welcoming new souls to struggle, perchance to victory. In fourteen years both boys would be a help; and, later on, Jean-Pierre pictured two big sons striding over the land from patch to patch, wringing tribute from the earth beloved and fruitful. Susan was happy too, for she did not want to be spoken of as the unfortunate woman, and now she had children no one could call her that. She thought that one of the boys ought perhaps to be a priest, but said nothing to her husband, who was a republican, and hated the "crows," as he called the ministers of religion. The christening was a splendid affair. All the commune came to it, for the Bacadous were rich and influential, and, now and then, did not mind the expense. The grandfather had a new coat.

**so was Susan**=Susan was happy, too.

**It was not an ethereal joy** It は welcoming 以下を anticipate する代名詞。

**ethereal** 「空気の様な」「取止めのない」。

**new souls** 「新しく生れた子供」。

**struggle**=struggle for existence.

**In fourteen years** 十四年経つうちには。

**In fourteen years—a help**=Jean-Pierre thought, "In fourteen

噂過ぎるわい」といふ様なことを呟いた。

ジャン・ピエルも妻のスーサンも満足であつた。新しい魂を生存競争にまで、而も恐らくは勝利にまで歓迎する悦びは、雲を掴む様な漠然としたものではなかつた。十四年経つと二少年とも手助けになるだらうと父母は思つた。また後になつてから、ジャン、ピエルは二人の大きな息子が、畑から畑へと地面を跨ぎ越えて、熱愛する、豊饒な天地から、貢を絞り取る様子を心に描くのであつた。スーサンは、不幸な女だと云はれたくないのだが、もう子供もあること故、さう云はれる氣づかひもあるまいといふので、之も満足であつた。彼の女は、息子達の一人を恐らく僧侶に仕立てるべきだらうと思つたが、夫には一言も云はなかつた。なぜかと云へば、彼は共和黨で、彼の所謂「烏」なる宣教師達が嫌ひだつたから。命名式は盛大なもので、村の衆が皆集つた。なぜかと云へば、バカドウ家は金持の有力者で折々は金錢に糸目をくれなかつたから。祖父さんは上衣を新調した。

years, both boys *will* be a help."

**patch** 「畑」。

**now she had**=now that she had=since she had

**who was a republican**=for he was a republican.

**"crows"** Roman Catholic の priests は黒衣をつけてる故「烏」云つたのである。

**now and then**=occasionally.

**did not mind the expense** 「入費をいとほなかつた」。

Some months afterwards, one evening when the kitchen had been swept, and the door locked, Jean-Pierre, looking at the cot, asked his wife: "What's the matter with those children?" And, as if these words, spoken calmly, had been the portent of misfortune, she answered with a loud wail that must have been heard across the yard in the pigsty; for the pigs (the Bacadous had the finest pigs in the country) stirred and grunted complainingly in the night. The husband went on grinding his bread and butter slowly, gazing at the wall, the soup-plate smoking under his chin. He had returned late from the market, where he had overheard (not for the first time) whispers behind his back. He revolved the words in his mind as he drove back. "Simple! Both of them . . . Never any use! . . . Well! Maybe, maybe. One must see. Would ask his wife." This was her answer. He felt it like a blow on his chest, but said only: "Go, draw me some cider. I am thirsty!"

She went out moaning, an empty jug in her

**the door locked**=the door had been locked.

**for the pigs**..... 之は「豚小屋まで聞えたに相違ない」と云ふ言葉に對する理由である。

**in the night**「夜更けに」cf. at night「夜に」。

**the soup-plate smoking**=with the soup-plate smoking.

**"Simple! Both of them—his wife."** 之は市場の人々の内証話。

數箇月後の或晩、臺所の掃除や戸締の済んだ時、ジャーン・ピエルは寢籠の方を見て、「あの子供達は何うしたのだね。」と彼の妻に聞いた。しかも、穩かに云つたこの言葉が、不幸の豫表でもあつたかの如く、彼の女は、庭をへだてた豚小屋の中でも聞こえたに違ひない位、聲高い哀泣をもつて答へた。何故ならば、バカドウ家では、その邊で一番美事な豚を飼つてたが、その豚がそんな夜更けに、動いて悲しげに唸つたから。夫は願の下に湯氣の立つソップの皿を置いたまゝ、壁をヂツと見詰めながら徐ろに、バターをつけたパンをもぐもぐ食べ續けた。彼は市から遅く戻つて來たのであつたが、實は市で、(其も今日始まつたことではないが) 後の方の内所話を小耳に挟んだのであつた。彼は馬車で歸る途中、その言葉を頭の中で繰返へして見た。「足りないのだよ! 兩方共。とても役にや立つまいよ! へえ如何さま、如何さま。氣をつけなきやならないな。嬾に聞きさうなもんだがネ。」だから聞けば彼の女の返事はこの通なのだ。彼は胸の上をどやされた様な氣がしたが、唯、「おい、サイダを出して來い。喉がかはいたから!」と云つただけであつた。

彼女は空の瓶を手にして、うめき悲しみ乍ら出て行つた。そ

**would ask his wife**=any one would ask his wife.

**This was her answer**=She answered with a loud wail.

**He felt it**=He felt her answer.

**Go, draw**..... =Go and draw.....

**an empty jug**=with an empty jug.

hand. Then he arose, took up the light, and moved slowly towards the cradle. They slept. He looked at them sideways, finished his mouthful there, went back heavily, and sat down before his plate. When his wife returned he never looked up, but swallowed a couple of spoonfuls noisily, and remarked, in a dull manner—

“When they sleep they are like other people's children.”

She sat down suddenly on a stool near by, and shook with a silent tempest of sobs, unable to speak. He finished his meal, and remained idly thrown back in his chair, his eyes lost amongst the black rafters of the ceiling. Before him the tallow candle flared red and straight, sending up a slender thread of smoke. The light lay on the rough, sunburnt skin of his throat; the sunk cheeks were like patches of darkness, and his aspect was mournfully stolid, as if he had ruminated with difficulty endless ideas. Then he said, deliberately—

“We must see . . . consult poeple. Don't cry . . . They won't be all like that . . . surely! We must sleep now.”

**sideways**=askance.

**thrown back**=throwing himself back.

れから彼は立ち上り、燈火を手に持つて、静かに寢籠の方へ近づいた。子供達は眠つてをつた。彼は彼等を横目で見、其處で口に頬ばつたものを食べ終へ、のろのろと戻つて来て、自分のお皿の前へ坐つた。彼の妻が室へ戻つた時、彼は上を見あけもせずソツブを二匙騒々しく飲んで、詰らなさうに云つた——

「眠てゐると、他所の子と同じ様だがな。」

彼の女は突然、傍の腰掛けに、腰を下した。そして口もきけず、忍音に烈しく啜泣いて、身を震はせた。ジャン・ピエルは彼の食事を終へた。そして眼を、天井の黒い桁の間に、さまよはせ乍ら、いつまでも、ポカンと椅子に凭れ掛つてをつた。彼の前には脂肪蠟燭が、赤く真直に燃えて、細い煙の絲を立ちのほらせた。光は彼の喉の肌理の荒い、日にやけた皮膚にあつた。彼の窪んだ頬は、闇のきればしの様であつた。そして彼の顔つきは、恰も其から其と頭に浮んで來ることを、やつと思案したかの如く、悲しげに沈んでをつた。其から彼は慎重に云つた——

「我々も氣をつけにや……他人にも聞いて。まあ泣くな。皆が皆こんなでもあるまい……ほんとにさ！もう寝る時刻だ。」

**his eyes lost**=with his eyes lost.

**ruminated**=meditated.



After the third child, also a boy, was born, Jean-Pierre went about his work with tense hopefulness. He watched the child, stepping up to the cot with a heavy clang of sabots on the stone floor, and glanced in, along his shoulder, with that indifference which is like a deformity of peasant humanity.

The mother watched with other eyes; listened with otherwise expectant ears. Under the high hanging shelves supporting great sides of bacon overhead, her body was busy by the great fireplace, attentive to the pot swinging on iron gallows, scrubbing the long table where the field hands would sit down directly to their evening meal. Her mind remained by the cradle, night and day on the watch, to hope and suffer. That child, like the other two, never smiled, never stretched its hands to her, never spoke; never had a glance of recognition for her in its big black eyes.

Susan's mother, Madame Levaille was a woman of business, known and respected within a radius of

**went about** = pursued.

**along his shoulder** = askance.

**that indifference which.....humanity** 百姓は神経の鈍いもので、その餘所、餘所しさは、彼等の肉體に顯れた不具位に眼障だといふ意。

**otherwise expectant ears** = ears expectant in other ways 母親は

三番目にまた男の子が生まれてから、ジャン・ピエールは、緊張した希望を懷いて仕事にたづさはつた。彼は石の床で木靴をカラコロさせながら寝籠まで歩み寄つて、その子供を見まもつた。そして、横目に、百姓達の肉體的の不具の様にも思へるよそよそしさでちよいと覗き込んだ。

母親は別の眼でみまもつた。そして趣の變つたことを期待して、耳を澄ませた。隅の上の、高い、天井からさがつてゐる鹽豚の脇腹をのせた棚の下で、鐵の自在にかゝつた鍋に氣を配り、作男がまもなく夕飯を食べに坐る長い食卓を拭き乍ら、彼の女の身體は大きな爐邊で忙しく働いてたが、その心は寝籠の傍にとゞまつて、日夜之を見まもり、その結果或は樂觀し、或は悲觀するのであつた。その子も上の二人の様に、決して笑はず、決してその手を母親の方へさしのべず、決して口をきかなかつた。そしてその黒い眼の中には、母親を認める様なまなざしがあらはれなかつた。

スーサンの母親のルヴァーユ夫人は、周圍少くも十五哩に亘つて有名な、そして人も尊敬する商賣人であつた。ずんぐりと父親と着眼點が異ふのである。即、彼の女は子供から慕つて貰い度いのである。

**sides** 豚の鹽漬は豚の sides 「脇腹」又は back 「背肉」で作る。

**radius** 半徑。

at least fifteen miles. Thick-set and stout, she was seen about the country, on foot or in an acquaintance's cart, perpetually moving, in spite of her fifty-eight years, in steady pursuit of business. She had houses in all the hamlets, she worked quarries of granite, she freighted coasters with stone—even traded with the Channel Islands. Latterly she had stayed for a few days several times with her son-in-law, arguing against sorrow and misfortune with composed face and gentle tones. Jean-Pierre felt the convictions imbibed in the regiment torn out of his breast—not by arguments, but by facts. Striding over his fields he thought it over. There were three of them. Three! All alike! Why? Such things did not happen to everybody—to nobody he ever heard of. One yet—it might pass. But three! All three. Forever useless, to be fed while he lived and . . . What would become of the land when he died? This must be seen to. He would sacrifice his convictions. One day he told his wife—

**Latterly** = of late.

**arguing against sorrow and misfortune** 神の御恵を説くのである。

**imbibed in the regiment** = which was imbibed in the regiment 即ち彼は聯隊になる内に坊主嫌ひになつたのである。

**thought it over** 「熟考して見た」。

肥つた彼の女は、その地方の此處彼處で、見掛けたが、徒歩のこともあつたし、知つた人の荷馬車に乗つてゐることもあつた。そして五十八になるのに、不相變、儲け口を求めて、絶えず活動してをつた。彼の女は到る所の小村落に家をもつて居り、花崗石の山を經營し、地廻の船に石を積込んで——海峽地方の島々とも取引をした。此の頃、數回、數日間、婿の家に逗留し、落ちついた顔と、穏やかな口調で、悲しみや、不幸を説破した。ジャン・ピエールは聯隊で吸入れた確信が胸の中から雀り取られるのを感じたが、これは議論のためではなく、事實が事實だつたからである。畑の上を大股に歩き乍ら、彼はこのことをよく考へて見た。三人居るのだ。三人だぜ！皆同しだぜ！何故だらう？こんなことは誰彼の差別なく起ることぢやない——俺の今までに聞いた者にやこんな者はない。それも、一人ならまだ——我慢も出来やうが、三人だぜ！三人が皆さ。いつまで経つても役にはたゝず、俺の生きてるうちは食はせにやならぬ。それで……俺が死んだら、地面はどうなるだらう。之はすて置けないよ。俺の確信位、すてゝもいゝと彼は考へた。そこで或日彼は妻に云つた——

**There were three of — his convictions** = He thought, "There are three of them. Three! All alike! Why? Such things do not happen to everybody—to nobody I even heard of. One yet [=up to the present time]—it may pass. But three! All three. For ever useless, to be fed while I live and.....What will become of the land when I die? This must be seen to. I will sacrifice my convictions."

“See what your God will do for us. Pay for some masses.”

Susan embraced her man. He stood unbending, then turned on his heels and went out. But afterwards, when a black *soutane* darkened his doorway, he did not object; even offered some cider himself to the priest. He listened to the talk meekly; went to mass between the two women; accomplished what the priest called “his religious duties” at Easter. That morning he felt like a man who had sold his soul. In the afternoon he fought ferociously with an old friend and neighbour who had remarked that the priests had the best of it and were now going to eat the priest eater. He came home dishevelled and bleeding, and happening to catch sight of his children (they were kept generally out of the way), cursed and swore incoherently, banging the table. Susan wept. Madame Levaille sat serenely unmoved. She assured her daughter that “It will pass”; and taking up her thick umbrella, departed in haste to see after a schooner she

**masses** 羅馬教の「聖餐式」。

**turned on his heels** 「廻れ右」の様な動作である。

**soutane** 佛語で「法衣」のこと。

**went to mass** = attended mass.

**his religious duties** 一家の主人としての宗教上の義務。

「お前のいふ神様はどういふ御利益があるかためして見ろ。金銭を出して彌撒をして貰へ。」

スーサンは夫を抱擁したが、夫は棒立ちになつた儘、やがて後を向いて、出て行つた。併し其の後、黒い法衣の僧侶が彼の家を訪れた時、彼は反對もせず、自らその僧侶にサイダーをすゝめさへした。彼は僧侶の話を、おとなしく聞き、二人の婦人にはさまつて、彌撒の式にのぞみ、基督の復活祭に於ける、僧侶の所謂「主人としての宗教上の義務」を滞りなく済ませた。その朝彼は魂を賣渡した人の様な気がした。そしてその午後、「坊主が勝つて、今、坊主食いを食らはうとしてゐるのだ、」と云つて冷やかした、近所にをる、昔からの友達と、大喧嘩をやつた。彼は髪を振亂し、血に塗れて、歸宅した。そして偶々、(いつもは見えない所に置いてある) 子供達を見、卓をたゞきつゝ、筋の通らぬことを罵りわめいた。スーサンは泣いた。ルヴァーユ夫人は少しも動じずに坐つた。彼は娘に「之は一時の事だらうよ、」と保證した。そして太い蝙蝠傘を手に持ち、石山

**a man who had sold his soul** 「悪魔に魂を賣つた人」即「神様に見はなされた人」の意。

**an old friend and neighbour** 一人で二人ではない。

**the priest eater** 坊主を食つてしまふ程の劍幕の男をいふ。

**It will pass** 「一時のことだ」 cf. passing shower 「通り雨」。

was going to load with granite from her quarry.

A year or so afterwards the girl was born. A girl. Jean-Pierre heard of it in the fields, and was so upset by the news that he sat down on the boundary wall and remained there till the evening, instead of going home as he was urged to do. A girl! He felt half cheated. However, when he got home he was partly reconciled to his fate. One could marry her to a good fellow—not to a good-for-nothing, but to a fellow with some understanding and a good pair of arms. Besides, the next may be a boy, he thought. Of course they would be all right. His new credulity knew of no doubt. The ill luck was broken. He spoke cheerily to his wife. She was also hopeful. Three priests came to that christening, and Madame Leveille was godmother. The child turned out an idiot too.

Then on market days Jean-Pierre was seen bargaining bitterly, quarrelsome and greedy; then getting drunk with taciturn earnestness; then driving home in the dusk at a rate fit for a wedding, but with a face gloomy enough for a

**One could marry** = He thought, "One can marry....."

**Of course they would be all right** = He thought, "Of course they will be....." they とは今生れた女の子と次に生れるかも知れない男の子を指す。

から切出した花崗石を積む筈の小帆船を監督しに、急いで出て行つた。

一年程後に、女の子が生まれた。女の子が。ジャン・ピエールは畑でその事を知り、気が非常に顛倒したので、境界の塀の上に腰をかけ、せがまるまゝに、歸ることもせず、夕方まで其所にとどまつた。女の子か。彼は半ば騙された様な気がした。併し、彼も家へ歸つた時には、幾分、諦めがついた。恐らく頼もしい男の所へかたづけられることも出来やう——やくざものでない相應物も分つて、腕節もつよい男の所へ。それに、この次は男の子かも知れない、と彼は考へた。無論皆が云ふ通なんだからといふ様な譯で彼の新しい盲信は僅かな疑の分子をも含まなかつた。不幸も之でおしまひだ、と彼は妻に向つて愉快氣に語つた。彼の女も、希望に満ちてをつた。三人の僧侶が、命名の式にやつて来て、ルヴァーユ夫人が教母になつた、所がこの子もまた白痴と判明した。

それから市の日に、人々は、ジャン・ピエールが、辛辣で、喧嘩腰で、慾深な駈引をしたり、それから、むつつりとした眞剣さで酔はらつたり、それから、結婚式にも相應はしい速力だが、葬式にも相應はしい、陰惨な顔で、闇の中を家へと馬車を驅

**new 「新しい」** とは「教會に出入する様になつてからの」を云ふ。

**Then on market days** — was seen..... = Then they saw on marked days —