

『きのこ会議』

ゆめの
夢野 久作 作

V20210513

初茸、松茸、椎茸、木くらげ、白茸、鷹茸、ぬめり茸、霜降り茸、獅子茸、鼠茸、皮剥き茸、米松露、麦松露なぞいうきのこ連中がある夜集まって、談話会を始めました。一番初めに、初茸が立ち上って挨拶をしました。

「皆さん。この頃はだんだん寒くなりましたので、そろそろ私共は土の中へ引き込まねばならぬようになりました。今夜はお別れの宴会ですから、皆さんは何でも思う存分に演説をして下さい。私が書いて新聞に出しますから」

皆がパチパチと手をたたくと、お次に椎茸が立ち上りました。

「皆さん、私は椎茸というものです。この頃人間は私を大変に重宝がって、わざわざ木を腐らして私共の畑を作ってくれますから、私共はだんだん大きな立派な子孫が殖えて行くばかりです。今にどんな茸でも人間が畠を作ってくれるようになって貰いたいと思います。」

皆は大賛成で手をたたきました。その次に松茸がエヘンと咳払いをして演説をしました。

「皆さん、私共のつとめは、第一に傘をひろげて種子を撒き散らして子孫を殖やすこと、その次は人間に食べられることです。が、人間は何故だ

か私共がまだ傘を開かないうちを喜んで持って行ってしまいます。そのくせ椎茸さんのような島も作ってくれません。こんな風だと今に私共は種子を撒く事が出来ず、子孫を根絶やしにされねばなりません。人間は何故この理屈がわからないかと思うと、残念でたまりません。」

と涙を流して申しますと、皆も口々に、

「そうだ、そうだ」

と同情をしました。

するとこの時皆のうしろからケラケラと笑うものがあります。見るとそれは蠅取り茸、紅茸、草鞋茸、馬糞茸、狐の火ともし、狐の茶袋などという毒茸の連中でした。

その大勢の毒茸の中でも一番大きい蠅取り茸は大勢の真中に立ち上って、

「お前達は皆馬鹿だ。世の中の役に立つからそんなに取られてしまうのだ。役にささえ立たなければいじめられはしないのだ。自分の仲間だけ繁昌すればそれでいいではないか。俺達を見ろ。役に立つ処でなく世間の毒になるのだ。蠅でも何でも片っぱしから殺してしまう。えらい茸は人間さへも毎年毎年殺している位だ。だからすこしも世の中の御厄介にならずに、繁昌して行くのだ。お前達も早く人間の毒になるように勉強しろ」

と大声でわめき立てました。

これを聞いた他の連中は皆理屈に負けて「成る程、毒にさえなれば
こわい事はない」と思う者さえありました。

そのうちに夜があけて茸狩りの人が来たようですから、皆は本当に
毒茸のいう通り毒があるがよいか、ないがよいか、試験してみる事にして
わかれしました。

茸狩りに来たのは、どこかのお父さんとお母さんと姉さんと坊ちゃん
でしたが、ここへ来ると皆大喜びで、

「もはやこんなに茸はあるまいと思っていたが、いろいろの茸がずいぶん
沢山ある。」

「あれ、お前のようにむやみに取っては駄目よ。こわさないように大切に
取らなくては」

「小さな茸は残してお置きよ。かわいそうだから」

「ヤアあすこにも。ホラここにも」

と大変な騒ぎです。

そのうちにお父さんは気が付いて、

「オイオイみんな気を付けろ。ここに毒茸が固まって生えているぞ。よく
おぼえておけ。こんなのはみんな毒茸だ。取って食へたら死んでしまうぞ」

とおっしゃいました。茸共は、成る程毒茸はえらいものだと思ひました。

毒茸も「それ見ろ」と威張っておりました。

処が、あらかた茸を取ってしまったってお父さんが、

「さあ行こう」

と言われますと、姉さんと坊ちゃんが立ち止まって、

「まあ、毒茸はみんな憎らしい恰好をしている事ねえ」

「ウン、僕が征伐してやろう」

といううちに、片っ端から毒茸共は大きいのも小さいのも根本まで木っ

端微塵に踏み潰されてしまいました。

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The Mushroom Council

by Yumeno Kyūsaku

The Hatsutake mushroom, the Matsutake mushroom, the Shitake mushroom, the Wood ear mushroom, the Monk's head mushroom, the Blusher mushroom, the Butterscotch mushroom, the Wood Blewit mushroom, the Scaly Hedgehog mushroom, the Crown-tipped Coral mushroom, the Late Oyster mushroom, the White Earthball, Brown Earthball and all manner of fungi gathered together one evening to hold council.

The evening began as the Hatsutake rose to give the opening remarks.

"Esteemed mushrooms. The season has grown cold, and soon, it will be time for us to return to the soil. Tonight, is our farewell banquet, so I invite you all to speak freely. I shall record everything to publish in the Mushroom newsletter."

As the mushrooms all applauded, Shitake mushroom rose to speak.

"Esteemed mushrooms. My name is Shitake. It is in this season that the humans treasure us greatly. They even inoculate logs to create for us rich breeding ground. Thanks to their gracious efforts, we produce many descendants, great and splendid. It is my hope that the humans will make such rich breeding ground for mushrooms of all types."

The council cheered in agreement. Next, Matsutake cleared his throat and spoke.

"Esteemed mushrooms. Our duty, first and foremost, is to expand our cap, spread our seed, and continue our lineage. Secondary, comes our duty to be eaten by humans. Yet, the humans gleefully take us from the ground before our caps have a chance to grow! What's worse, they do not provide for us rich breeding ground as they do for Shitake. If this continues, not only will we be unable to spread our seed, we may go completely extinct! What a shame the humans seem unable to grasp this basic logic!"

As Matsutake spoke, tears began to run down his face.

"He's right! How true!" the other mushrooms seconded.

Just then, a high-pitched cackle came from the back of the group. There stood the Fly Catcher mushroom, the Scarlet Hood mushroom, the Fly Agaric mushroom, the Banded Mottlegill mushroom, the Dog Stinkhorn and Common Puff Ball and all manner of poisonous fungi.

The largest of the bunch, the Fly Catcher mushroom, stood up.

“What a bunch of fools!” he blurted out.

“You’re harvested precisely because you so helpfully provide the humans with food! If you did not serve as such a nice snack, you’d be left alone. If you and your own can grow and thrive, isn’t that enough? Just look at us! Forget tasty—we’re poison! I kill everything, one after the other, down to the smallest flea. Superior mushrooms even kill humans, year in and year out. We ask nothing of no one—we just grow and thrive. Learn from us and be poisonous to humans.”

The other mushrooms were rendered silent by the logic of the Fly Catcher’s words. Some even seriously considered, “If we were poisonous… there would be nothing to fear.”

Soon night broke into dawn and some mushroom hunters arrived. The mushrooms saw their chance to test this new thesis: to poison, or not to poison?

Among the mushroom hunters were a father, a mother, their daughter and her little brother.

The family was thrilled by the bounty of mushrooms before them. The father was astonished.

“I didn’t think there would be so many mushrooms already, but they’ve everywhere!”

“Now, don’t be rough!” the mother scolded. “Be gentle so as not to break them.”

“Leave the lil’ ones,” said the daughter. “So they have a chance to grow.”

“Hey! Look over here!” exclaimed the little brother. “Wow! And over there!”

Just then, the father noticed the poison mushrooms.

“Hey, be careful now!” the father warned. “These mushrooms growing all clumped together here are poisonous! Remember this spot. These are all poison mushrooms. Eat one, and you could die.”

The mushrooms watched in silent amazement as the wise words of the Fly Catcher came true before their very eyes.

“Ha! Told ya so!” the poison mushrooms boasted.

The family continued to gather all the mushrooms they needed.


“Alright, let’s head back!” beckoned the father.

That’s when the daughter and her little brother stopped and eyed the poisonous mushroom patch.

“What detestable little things, those poison mushrooms…” said the daughter.

“Yeah,” her little brother agreed. “I’ll show ‘em!”




And with that, all the poison mushrooms—the big ones, the small ones, and everyone in between—were stomped from cap to stem into itty bitty pieces.

 = accent point

This mora is slightly emphasized, and the following mora is lower in tone.

 = unvoiced

The accompanying vowel sound is not pronounced. Your mouth should be shaped as if to say the full mora, but only utter the consonant sound.

E.g., く (ku) ,  (hard C from coup)
 し (shi) ,  (Sh from sheep)
 き (ki) ,  (K from keep or key)

 = nasal G

A soft version of か・ぎ・く・げ・ご that uses the nasal passage.
Transition in from ん. Think Curly from the Three Stooges

[verb]+[conditional]+[negative]+ならない

A double negative to indicate something must happen.

The general idea is:

引き込む to pull(引) back fully(込), draw back, retreat ↘

引き込まない to not pull back ↘

引き込めば if one were to pull back ↘

引き込まねば if one were not to pull back ↘

引き込まねばならぬ it cannot be that one does not pull back ⇒ one must pull back

思う存分【おも・う ぞんぶん】

The full extent of the existing(存) portion(分) that you think(思)

To your heart's content

重宝がる【ちょうほう・がる】

To treat as treasure(宝) of great importance(重)

To treasure, to prize

重 can refer to both physical weight and metaphorical weight, as in importance. Another example of this usage is the compound 'precious' 貴重【きちょう】.

腐る【くさ・る】 to rot ↘

腐らす【くさ・らす】 to cause to rot

In the case of preparing logs for mushroom growth, the term is "to inoculate"

根絶やしにされる【ねだ・やしに される】

To be severed(絶) at the root(根)

To be eliminated completely

口々に【くちぐちに】

Mouth(口) and mouth(口) together

(To say) in unison, all together, one after the other

ケラケラ

The sound of a high-pitched laugh, with mocking undertones

御厄介【ごやっかい】

Trouble, inconvenience, burden

征伐する【せいばつ する】

To mete out punishment

Both 征 and 伐 mean to strike an enemy and punish wrongdoing

木端微塵【こっぱみじん】

Tree(木) edge(端) shavings like minute(微) dust(塵) particles

Bits, tiny pieces, atoms, etc.

Usually in terms of something being obliterated