

# Chapter titles in 『万延元年のフォットボール』 (*The Silent Cry*)

John Bester's translation of chapter titles differs significantly from the original titles of this work. Below are Bester's translations, a more literal (and complete) translation of original titles—some of which are quite long—and, at times, notes on those titles.

Bester's translation

原文

[Literal translation of Japanese, in blue](#)

Sometimes, vocabulary glosses and/or notes

## Chapter 1

In the Wake of the Dead

死者にみちびかれて

[Guided by the dead](#)

## Chapter 2

Family Reunion

一族再会

[Family reunion](#)

## Chapter 3

Mighty Forest

森の力

[Power of the forest](#)

## Chapter 4

Dreams within Dreams

Original: 見たり見えたりする一切有るは夢の夢にすぎませぬか。(ポー、日夏耿之介訳)

[All that we see or seem](#)

[Is but a dream within a dream.](#)

[\(Poe, translated by Hinatsu Kōnosuke\)](#)

Notes:

The translator cited above: 日夏耿之介 (ひなつこうのすけ) 1890–1971

From Edgar Allan Poe's "A Dream Within a Dream" (1849) (wiki). Poe frequently said that Poe has substantial influence on his own writing.

A comment on poets.org reads: "Representative of Poe's later work, 'A Dream Within a Dream' is a revised version of a poem Poe originally composed in the 1820s. It is considered one of the poet's finest shorter poems. In an article published in 1849, Poe wrote, 'It is by no means an irrational fancy that, in a future existence, we shall look upon what we think our present existence, as a dream.'"

Take this kiss upon the brow!  
And, in parting from you now,  
Thus much let me avow  
You are not wrong, who deem  
That my days have been a dream;  
Yet if hope has flown away  
In a night, or in a day,  
In a vision, or in none,  
Is it therefore the less gone?  
All that we see or seem  
Is but a dream within a dream.

I stand amid the roar  
Of a surf-tormented shore,  
And I hold within my hand  
Grains of the golden sand  
How few! yet how they creep  
Through my fingers to the deep,  
While I weep - while I weep!  
O God! can I not grasp  
Them with a tighter clasp?  
O God! can I not save  
One from the pitiless wave?  
Is all that we see or seem  
But a dream within a dream?

## Chapter 5

The Emperor of the Supermarkets  
Original: スーパー・マーケットの天皇

[Supermarket Emperor](#)

## Chapter 6

A Strange Sport  
Original: 百年後のフットボール

[Football after 100 years](#)

## Chapter 7

Procession from the Past

Original: 念仏踊りの復興

[Return of the Nembutsu Dance](#)

Vocabulary gloss:

念仏踊り（ねんぶつおどり） Nembutsu dance. To chant "namu amida butsu" while dancing. (wiki: 念仏踊). Pure Land Buddha sects believe that chanting this with faith helps one progress towards enlightenment. By the way, I do not think the YouTube links are representative of what Ōe has in mind. 復興（ふっこう） Return, resurgence.

## Chapter 8

Truth Unspeakable

Original: 本当のことを云おうか（谷川俊太郎『鳥羽』）

["Shall I tell the truth?" or "Maybe I'll tell you the truth"](#)  
(from Tanikawa Shuntarō's "Toba")

Notes:

"Tanikawa Shuntarō's (b. 1931) first book of poetry, Two Billion Light Years of Solitude (Nijūoku kōnen no kodoku), was published in 1952. Since then, he has remained one of Japan's most popular and prolific poets, and his poems also are among those most often translated into English. Tanikawa's influence and popularity are enhanced by his ability to engage poetry fans in public sessions." (The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature, Vol. 2, 437)

Tanikawa Shuntarō English wiki: [here](#)

The full poem is in a 1968 collection titled 『旅』（求龍堂）. That means, of course, it was just recently published when 『万延』 was written:

TOBA 1	鳥羽
I have nothing to write about My flesh is bared to the sun My wife is beautiful My children are healthy	何ひとつ書く事はない 私の肉体は陽にさらされている 私の妻は美しい 私の子供たちは健康だ
Let me tell you the truth I am not a poet I just pretend to be one	本当の事を云おうか 詩人のふりはしているが 私は詩人ではない
I was created, and left here Look, the sun cascades among the boulders making the sea look darker	私は造られそしてここに放置されている 岩の間にほら太陽があんなに落ちて 海はかえって昏い
Other than this quiet at the height of the day I have nothing I want to tell you about even if you are bleeding in your country Ah, this everlasting radiance!	この白屋の静寂のほかに 君に告げたい事はない たとえ君がその国で血を流していようと ああこの不変の眩しさ！

Vocabulary gloss:

放置（ほうち）ほうったままにしておくこと。また、置きっぱなしにしておくこと。 left just as is

造られ（つくられ） to be constructed

昏い（くらい） dark

静寂（せいじゃく） 静かなこと。ひっそりとしていること。 stillness, quietness

告げる（つげる） 言葉で伝え知らせる。 convey with words

不変（ふへん） unchanging

眩しさ（まぶしさ） blinding brilliance

## Chapter 9

The Freedom of the Ostracized

Original: 追放された者の自由

[The freedom of those who have been expelled](#)

Vocabulary gloss:

追放された（おいはなされた） 「追放す」 does not have a particularly negative meaning. It means "to let loose" or "to free" and is often used for animals.

## Chapter 10

Imagination in Riot

Original: 想像力の暴動

[A power of imagination riot](#)

Vocabulary gloss:

想像力（そうぞうりょく）. This is Ōe's standard way of writing "power of the imagination".

暴動（ぼうどう） 徒党（a gang, a group）を組んで社会秩序（ちつじょ、order）を乱すような行動をとること。「—をおこす」「—がおきる」NOTE: 明治期に作られた語。

## Chapter 11

The Power of the Flies

Original: 蠅の力。蠅は我々の魂の活動を妨げ、我々の体を食ひ、かくして戦ひに打ち勝つ。（パスカル、由木康訳）

["The power of flies: they win battles, hinder our soul from acting, eat our body"](#)  
(Pascal, translated by Yūki Kō)

Vocabulary gloss:

蠅（はえ） Flies.

魂（たましい）. Spirit or soul.

妨げ（さまたげ） 「妨げる」 is to prevent or hinder.

食ひ（くひ・くい）. To eat.

戦ひ（たたかひ・たたかい）. To fight.

Notes:

The translator cited above: 由木康（ゆうきこう）(1896–1985) minister and translator of more than 600 hymns including "Silent Night" (the number 600 and not about "Silent Night" is according to a Japanese Christian blog: [http://blogs.yahoo.co.jp/cjc\\_skj/23516443.html](http://blogs.yahoo.co.jp/cjc_skj/23516443.html)).

Blaise Pascal (mathematician and Christian philosopher, 1623–1662). From *Pensées* (Thoughts) (wiki). (Online Harvard Classics text via Bartleby go: [here](#); for this particular section go: [here](#); access French via the wiki)

367 — The power of flies: they win battles, hinder our soul from acting, eat our body. (La puissance des mouches, elles gagnent des batailles, empêchent notre âme d'agir, mangent notre corps.)

"they win battles": Montaigne, in his Essais, ii, 12, relates that the Portuguese were compelled to raise the siege of Tamly on account of the number of flies. (Project Gutenberg, Pensées, footnote)

## Chapter 12

A Way Beyond Despair

Original: 絶望のうちにあつて死ぬ。諸君はいまでも、この言葉の意味を理解することができるであらうか。それは決してたんに死ぬことではない。それは生まれでたことを後悔しつつ恥辱と憎悪と恐怖のうちに死ぬことである、というべきはなかるうか。(J=P・サルトル、松浪信三郎訳)

"To die within despair. I wonder, dear readers, if you have fully understood up until now the meaning of those words? This is not just to die. This is to die in fear and hatred and shame, while regretting that fact of having been born. This seems perhaps the best way to describe it."

(J-P Sartre, translated by Matsunami Shinsaburō)

Notes:

The translator mentioned above has translated Sartre extensively.

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905–1980)(wiki)

Vocabulary gloss:

絶望 (ぜつぼう) Despair or hopelessness.

諸君 (しよくん) "Gentlemen ..." "My friends ..." a polite way of addressing a large group.

後悔し (こうかいし) 「後悔す」 is to regret.

恥辱 (ちじょく) Shame.

憎悪 (ぞうお) Hate.

恐怖 (きょうふ) Fear.

## Chapter 13

Retrial

Original: 再審

[Retrial](#)