A Forever Growing Antenna from a One on the Ground

Written by Aoi Tagami Translated by Mitsue Kitagawa, Tomoko Sato

breathing in through my nose to make my breath white deeply, deeply I breathe out

breathing in through my nose

It smells like a sea on a humid day in summer

in summer
a humid day
a day
the day
on the day

It happens on the day

little further to the south from here where the land ends and the sea begins

my map says so

little further to the south from here there is a sea of reclaimed land

without shore
walls standing, ships floating

a factory chimney, smoke, cicadas buzzing

the summer is invisible

the sea, the waves, sounding the sea, the waves, sounding

though it is unseen and unheard.

a smell of a sea coming through my nose the steamy air made it so

it is coming from the sea quite far away the edge of the island ends here, and the sea begins

though it is unseen and unheard the smell of sea coming through my nose in a humid summer

the smell of sea coming through my nose in a humid summer

if it is in summer

in winter,
my breath is white
my invisible breath breathed out white

white clouds breathed out from my mouth feeling like a boiling kettle feeling the heat inside of my body

white breathed out from the dark in my body from the dark

it is white

breath appears white on some days in winter

that is, the moisture of a breath heated inside of my body being as a gas while it is inside breathed out turning into a water being cooled down and it appears white

like a cloud, the principle is quite same as a steam appears white

from the spout of a kettle, clouds are breathed out

a rice cooker with the time set rice is being boiled

every morning, from a chimney far away rising up to the sky, slowly.

high above a long vapor trail of an airplane

little by little, the density of carbon dioxide is rising little by little, the density of carbon dioxide is rising well,

breath appears white on some days in winter

in summer, on some days, it smells like a sea

coming through my nose it smells like a sea in a humid summer

going little south from here where the land ends, and, there is a sea of a reclaimed land

from there on, there is a sea unfilled yet

through the sea is out of sight from here in a humid day with a south wind slightly it smells like the invisible sea

the land, without any special feature along the wide road tall pine trees are standing in a row tall pines making the woods.
in spring at the park near bottom hill sakura is fully bloomed side by side

on the site of the former supermarket a huge warehouse has built straight roads are endlessly crossing in right angles cars with moderate speed running on the roads a ramen shop,
a flashy pachinko parlor,
a convenience store with a big parking area,
a factory,
a freezing storage,
a warehouse

like that, a place you can find anywhere desolated? no, it is more like a place changing its type and is turning into a new town

there, that flowerbed, the flowerbed made by bricks, I took one brick from the frontside, then there were many eggs white and round and shiny eggs, laid together. those tiny eggs that were never hit by the sun, for the first time came under the sun It was an earwig's egg earwig, after laying its egg and till it hatches, the parent, it's unusual for an insect but it constantly takes care of its eggs,

so, when the bricks were lifted, and the sunshine lit the shadow, it is the parent earwig that hid under the bricks shadow anyway, there were, earwig eggs.

one day,
right in front of the flowerbed,
three kids, the boys, were together

I was watching curiously
then one of them, lifted the brick,
and using its surface he started squishing!
laughing, joking, for fun from here, I can't hear a sound.
But, ahh,
Once I notice they are squishing the eggs,
in my mind,
I hear the sound,
as if pricking an Ikura…

eggs that could not become adults white, round, and glossy white, round, and glossy

a fresh and glossy slug there is a slug

above a wet rock near the lake,
there was a white slug
I was a child back then,
I don't know, why I did it but, I used a leaf to scoop the slug and,
above the lake, I dropped it

then the slug, the white body, sank under the dark water at once he, no, it could be a she slug apparently doesn't have sex, well, he without any resistance, in the way I dropped, it just, sank.
as if no pain, it just, the white body,

as if water dropping right down, by its own gravity into the darkness

as if a light vanishes, the white body went under the lake at once and stopped, I guess, I think… I standing outside the water, could not see that far,

beyond the darkness, there is a deep deep, ground.

a ground,
like the night
very dark,
I cannot see well

apparently our eyes are useless here
but my feet, can feel the ground by its gravity,
so I guess, this is somewhere on earth
I can breath.
to the darkness inside my body,
I can pass this air

here, there is gravity and air
It feels a bit warm
am I sweating a little?
I gave up and closed my eyes
If I believe the sense of skin,
the feet wear a shoe,
the body wears clothes
but because of the shoe sole,
I don't know, where I am standing

stretching my arm,
reaching nothing
then, I believe the sense of ear

the sound from darkness

the atmosphere is moving the shadow in this front is the darkest

far away, seeing a slight light in the distance, I know the place far away

if I fly into the distance,
I take a long flight in this night sky

High and bright High and bright

a bright red huge fire in the silent blue night

rising up from the distant mountain rising, rising, or not

the shadow in this front is the darkest the place under a brick, bottom of a pond, in a kettle, under a stone, behind a cabinet, in a closed mouth,
in the touch between hands,
in the touch between a ground and a shoe

and this place

this darkness the darkness that darkness

without exception,
all darkness, being here
Melting together
merging with dreams behind the eyelids

the place under a brick,
bottom of a pond,
in a kettle,
under a stone,
behind a cabinet,
in a closed mouth,
in the touch between hands,
in the touch between lips!

opening its eyes, to the light from this darkness through a throat, tongue, and teeth

it became a song again

breathing in through a nose breathing out through a mouth

on the edge of your lip, in the sunny place, the edge of the island ends here

and the sea begins.