

The Mountain Pass of Blowing Snow (吹雪峠)(2)

- 1) The policeman asks Ayako (who had fallen off the cliff) to recall all the things she remembered up until that point. “So, you fell off the cliff, and you forgot the whole thing, right?” (asks the policeman). “Yes... I can’t remember anything,” (replies Ayako). “Hhmm, that’s a problem, isn’t it...?” (says the puzzled policeman). On the day of blowing snow, Ayako fell off the cliff, her and her baby going separate ways. She doesn’t remember her name, and can’t recall a thing about her baby.
- 2) “Well, I, if I stay here for 2 or 3 days, I might be able to recall. Until that time, please let me stay here.” “That will be best,” (says the policeman reassuringly).
- 3) “This is the coat you were wearing, right? “Ayako” is written in it – that means we can be certain of your name. Also, there’s a wallet, with 50,000 Yen in it” “Well...,” (says the policeman). But somehow, Ayako doesn’t know.

And so the story continues...

- 4) “Doctor, that person, said she can’t remember a thing,” (says the policeman to the doctor). “Ah, I see. That’s problematic isn’t it? Well there’s money, so I think it would be good if we kept her here for 4 or 5 days,” (says the doctor).
- 5) After the incident she spent five days in a dreamlike state. Anyhow, Ayako decides to head for Tokyo in her search for answers. This is because the coat she was wearing was made in Tokyo. Ayako is seen off by the policeman, and heads off with him to the station – leaving the village behind. Where was Ayako? What was she doing? Nobody knows.
- 6) Finally Spring has come, the snow has melted, and the brooks have once again begun to bubble.

- 7) Tenkichi is looking after the abandoned baby. “Tenkichi... this child is now part of our family, don’t tell anyone that she is a foundling,” (warns Otoyō). “Got it! I won’t tell a soul.” “Hitomi you’re a cute one. You’re my little sister. I’m going to sing you a lullaby, so go to sleep.”
- 8) While Tenkichi is singing the lullaby, he arrives in the village, and bumps into a friend. “Hey, Tenkichi, what’s up with that baby?” The fascinated village children begin to gather around. (Tenkichi begins to explain), “Yes, the, this baby... uhm, on the snowy day... on the snowy day... yes... my dad went and bought it in the town.” Just then Ōgawa the policeman passes by.
- 9) “Hey, hey – you said he bought the baby!? Where is that baby from? That’s not your family’s child,” (says the policeman). “This baby is my little sister!” (insists Tenkichi). “Her name’s Hitomi.” Tenkichi didn’t tell the truth.

Well...