

## 第16章

### 亮子、前進!

<1970年10月23日、母より>

[今日の手紙も不安定です。

貴女の毎度のジム礼賛はかなり感情本位で、少々聞かされるほうは腹の立つこともある。他国にひとり居るあなたに、酷な言い方かもしれないけど、もっと理性的であって欲しいことがあります。もっとジムを突き放して見てほしい。あなたの年齢では、それが当たり前ではないかと思えます。

それに、かれこれ一年以上の付き合いだといふのでしょ。手紙の内容は千年一律、進歩もなければ後退もない、本当にその日暮らし、よくも飽きずに繰り返しの毎日、あなたもジムも共通点があるでしょ。なにも、無理矢理に結婚などという、男と女をがんじがらめに縛りつける生活を、こちらは望むわけではないけれど、一体どういうことになるのか、お父さんのほうは気になるらしい。その点、お母さんも同じだけれど、お父さんよりも根性曲がりの故か、本人同士が、せつなせつなを楽しんで、遠大の計画を持ちたくないのなら、側からおせっかい等焼くべきではない、とも思っています。

## Chapter 16

### Ryoko, Move Onward!

My Mother's Letter Dated October 23, 1970:

< Your letter today is, again, unsettling.

*You are forever singing to us the tune of admiration for Jim. It's all charged with high emotion and the listeners of your tune, frankly, get irritated, every now and then. It may be a little cruel of me to say this to you, who is living alone in a foreign country, but I wish you would exhibit in your letters a little more of the rational side of yourself, a woman in control. Step back a little, and look at Jim, unemotionally, from a distance. You are old enough, Ryoko, to be able to do it.*

*Also, you and Jim have been friends over a year now. Your letters are all the same; no untoward setbacks, but no noteworthy new events, either. You work hard every day, and you extol Jim to the skies every day. Your letters show no changes over the year. You and Jim are quite alike, I must say. I am not anxious for you and Jim to end up in a union called marriage quickly. Any marriage will bind a free-spirited couple hand and foot. I'm afraid your father is truly worried about your future, though. I'm not totally without worries, of course, but I have more guts than your father. I say to him, "If they prefer to keep enjoying each other's company and not to have any grand design for themselves, well that's their life. It's none of our business." I suspect that a*

あなたの様な性質の女は、気宇の広い男にとっては非常に扱い易く、二の次には結婚をもちかける、普通の女のつまらなさが無いのが魅力です。同時に扱い易くもあるのです。

将来の見通しなど誰にも分らないことだし、あなたが現在その調子で、結構楽しいのなら仕方がないけど、第三者的立場で眺めたら、やはり不安定な感じなのです。

しかし本当は、あなた自身も、心の奥の奥で、不安定におびえているのではないのでしょうか。ジムの事の羅列が多すぎるし、必要以上に、他の事にカんでみたりしているようです。いつも私が言うように、或る時三十分でもいいから、そのことをたった一人で、深く考えてみることで。そして、これは自分も深めないし、ジムのプラスにもならない、と気が付いたら、それを道草、長い道草と思い定めてほしいです。

こんなことを言っても、あなた自身が翻然と悟るのでなければ意味なしですが、、、。なにかこう、のんびりと、人生を回り道してゆく足取りは、我が家のお家芸なのかもしれない。二十年の精進が、なにほどの決定打もなく、十年一日の如く回り道読書を続けている明子。哲もまた同様、これという収穫もないのに、のんびりと、人の原稿依頼のおすそ分けに甘んじて、日々是

*high-minded man like Jim finds a woman of your personality attractive. A woman like you does not easily bring up the subject of marriage, and that's one of your charming points to men. You are in a way very easy to handle, however.*

*No one can guess what the future will bring. If you are happy and enjoy every minute of life the way it is now, no third-party should butt in and make comments. However, the third-party here cannot help having a sense of certain insecurity, or a lack of stability in your life. Indeed, I wonder if you yourself sense this insecurity deep within, and you are frightened by it now and then. For one thing, you talk about Jim incessantly. And, you are constantly trying to do other things unrelated to your current job, as if you were pursuing a certain unsatisfied desire. Please think, Ryoko, just for thirty minutes one day when you are by yourself, about what I'm saying.*

*If you come to realize that the friendship you and Jim share does not mean much in your life after all, and that the same goes for Jim, then you should realize that you have been tarrying on your road unwisely. You should be able to make a sensible decision. I just hope that all of this would suddenly become clear to you one day. Well, I don't know. The members of our family are known to take a leisurely roundabout course in life. Your sister Akiko does nothing but read books for twenty years, with a mediocre success in publishing some of her writings. Your brother Satoshi is satisfied with accepting leftover requests for writing for movies,*

好日の顔をしている。七十才の父と六十五才の母は、安心立命にほど遠いようです。

かなり強気の手紙になったようですが、「安定」はやはりほしいです。しかも、このゆれうごきの烈しい現代では、一層個人の安定は必要です。

我が家は、まだストーブ類を使っていません。お父さんの側の火鉢だけです。シカゴは寒いことでしょう。なにかのはずみで、夜おそく街にいるようなことがないように。日本の新聞はシカゴの事もよく伝えます。母より]

母の手紙はこういう調子でした。私は母の気持はよく分かりはしたのですが、一方、ジムの私に対する真情が、やはり母に伝わっていないことを知り、しばしば苛立ちを覚えました。また、手紙では母は一言も言いませんでしたが、後に帰国した時、次のようなことを、冗談交じりに私に言いました。

即ち、私がジムの写真を送るまでは、ちょうどその頃ジムのお母さんが、ギリシャにバケーションで行ったことを伝えたりしたので、そのことから、ジムはギリシャ人であろうか、アリストートル・オナシス式の女たらしでは、、、と憶測したそうです。私はジャッキー・ケネディみたいなトンマじゃないよ、まったく！ジムこそいい迷惑だ。

*never striking it big. Your 70-year old father and your 65-year old mother are far from attaining spiritual peace.*

*I may give you the impression that I'm getting tough with you today. I don't mean it. I just feel that "stability" in life is, after all, desirable for everyone. It is all the more desirable when one lives in this turbulent and restless world of today.*

*We have not yet started using heating utensils for all the rooms, except for the charcoal brazier next to your father's writing desk. I believe it's awfully cold in Chicago. Do not let yourself stay out late on a cold night by some chance or other. Japanese newspapers report news about Chicago very often. - Mother >*

Such were my mother's letters. I understood her every word, and the deep concern she had for me. However, I never stopped feeling somewhat irritated at her letters, for I sensed that she failed to understand Jim's pure and true sentiment towards me. There was another thing. My mother never mentioned this in her letters, but when I first returned home in 1972, she told me that she had earlier thought Jim was a Greek! I think I told her in one of my letters about Jim's mother's vacation trip to Greece around that time. My mother then did a little guess-work and decided that Jim's family was Greek. She told me that she had even speculated that Jim might be a womanizer like Aristotle Onassis. Good heavens! Imagine! Poor Jim.

この頃母は「もっと日米文化交流に貢献するよ  
うな仕事に就いたら」などとも提案してきていま  
す。おそらく私からは、仕事に対する不満を、こ  
とごとに伝えていたのにちがひありません。し  
かし私には、ジムとの交遊、ジムの存在こそが  
当時、まことの生き甲斐だったので『仕事は、あ  
る程度性分に合ってりゃ十分、面白くてならな  
い仕事なんてあるものか』、と母が薦めるような  
努力は全くせず、「秘書稼業」と自嘲しながら、  
十年一日、弁護士の秘書を続けていました。

ただ、この頃は、前章に述べた通り、太陽娘の  
メイがカナダへ帰ってしまったため、日系法律  
事務所は、急につまらなくなり辞め、今度はア  
メリカ人弁護士事務所の『カミングス・アンド・ワ  
イマン』で働いておりました。

<1970年 11月9日、母より>

〔、、、ジムのアパートの窓の外の街路樹や植  
え込みらしき物も、実に豊かで、樹木を切り倒  
してはビルを建ててゆく、東京のみみっちさが  
省みられます。屋内は夏の格好でいられるそち  
らに比べて、東京は同じく冬の気配を感じなが  
ら、石油ストーブ三個の手入れ、ガスストーブ  
一個の点検、炭火鉢の灰ふるい等と、私には  
仕事がいくらでも出てきます。どんなに日本が  
経済成長したといっても、まだまだこんな生活  
なのです。業者は盛んに「セントラルヒーティン

My mother suggested around that time  
that I seek a position where I could  
contribute to the cultural exchange  
between the U.S. and Japan. I'm sure I  
told her, in detail, how I was dissatisfied  
with my work in those days. However, the  
existence of Jim was my *raison d'être*.  
The job was not great, but I had something  
more important to live for in my friend, Jim.  
"As far as the job is congenial, that's good  
enough, for there cannot exist a job that  
gives me complete satisfaction," I declared.

I continued to work as a legal secretary,  
with a touch of self-derision, and did not  
follow my mother's advice. However, I did  
switch my employment to a different law  
firm called "Cummings & Wyman" simply  
because the Japanese-American law firm  
was no longer fun to work for, since my  
good friend May had gone back home to  
Canada.

My Mother's Letter Dated November 9,  
1970:

*< When I saw the pictures of the abundant  
trees and shrubbery outside the windows  
of Jim's apartment, I had to think about  
the pitiful practice of our great city Tokyo  
where they chop down beautiful trees  
every day so that one more unsightly  
apartment building can be built. You have  
the luxury of wearing summer clothes  
indoors in mid-winter. I busy myself every  
day, checking up on our old gas stove,*

グをどうぞ」などと言い出したようですが、なにぶん建築の前にすべき施設を後から、とゆうのですから、如何に日本の都会がゴテゴテと騒がしくなるか分かるでしょう。]

<1971年1月21日、母より>

[、、、正月4日、5日と雪がありましたが大したことありません。去る10日(日曜)、例によって分厚いあなたの報告手紙。ジムの写真入りで、家族達とのクリスマス・年末パーティの様子など、生活の消極面がいつもいつも詳細に書かれています。

東京は今、ラルフ・ネーダーがやって来て、こちらの消費者運動に活を入れているようです。今度の手紙には、ジムの仕事の話など聞きたいものと思います。

モームをお父さんに頼んだようですが、私が考えるに、アメリカ第二の大都会に住んでいて、その本が買えないとはおかしいではありませんか？立派な大学も幾つかある筈だし、その大学に近い書店街とゆうような所を、あなたが知らないのではないかと思います。

そういえば、中央公論一月号で、私は『日本・アメリカ・世界』とゆう論文を読みました。筆者は

*cleaning three kerosene stoves, and shaking out the ashes from the charcoal brazier. They say Japan has achieved great economic growth. Well, look at what I and all other Japanese wives do every day! The catch-phrase in the real estate industry these days is, "Let us enjoy the central heating in your house." Imagine, they are trying to install central heating systems in the houses and buildings already built, forgetting that the houses and buildings should have been designed at the inception to be equipped with central heating systems! What a mess! >*

My Mother's Letter Dated January 21, 1971:

*< We had snow on the 4th and the 5th days of this month. Not much, though. Your usual, voluminous report letter arrived on the 10th, Sunday. Again, it is filled with mundane reports of what you, Jim, Jim's family and his friends did or didn't do, in great detail, including the descriptions of Christmas and the year-end parties. Ralph Nader is currently visiting Tokyo. He is trying to shake up the Japanese populace, giving us his "consumer protection" pep talk.*

*I'd like you to write about, for example, Jim's professional work, once in a while.*

*I understand that you asked your father to send you some of the Somerset Maugham books. It is strange, in my mind, that you cannot buy them over there. You are living in the second largest city of the U.S. There must be bookstores galore,*

現在シカゴ大学の助教授で、入江昭とゆう政治学者ですが、大変精神的な論述なのです。これは、アメリカに住んでいる国際政治の研究者が、日本の識者に対して、アメリカを内部から観察して示してくれた忠言の如きものでしょうが、その中に脈打っている精神に興味を覚えました。貴女もアメリカに居て、アメリカの大要をちゃんと頭に入れ、庶民の中に没入することは立派なことだと思います。どうか忙しい中で、少しずつでも読んで、アメリカを分かって欲しいものです。そのことは、現在あなたが一番関心の深いジムとの個人問題にも、大きく関係のあることだと思います。

この手紙は、一週間ほど前に書き出し、そのまま今日(1月21日)まで持ち越しました。東京は寒中とも思えない暖かさが続いています。明子も哲も、例によって例の如し。週末二日の休みを、休みらしく。無理しないこと。母]

<1971年2月22日、父より>

[日本棋院、この三月一杯にて讖首(くび)。オネエが助けて呉れるし、食ふには困らぬから気を遣はぬよう。脚以外、躰(からだ)も丈夫也。ジムに直しく。]

*particularly near the topnotch universities that Chicago boasts. It may be that you just don't know it. Incidentally, I have recently read an article in the January issue of "Chūō Kōron," entitled "Japan, America, and the World." It's written by Akira Iriye, a political scholar who is an authority on American diplomatic history, and who is currently teaching at the University of Chicago. I was quite interested in the way he presents his dissertation, his spiritual angle, as it were. You could call it a piece of advice given to the Japanese intellectuals by a political scholar who lives in the U.S. and who observes the U.S. from within. You live in the U.S. You should have a clear-cut, unambiguous view of that country, standing on the same level as the average persons living there. Please read it, even a portion of it, and try to understand the U.S. as a nation. Understanding the U.S., I believe, has a great deal to do with Jim, the object of your greatest interest at the moment.*

*I started writing this letter about a week ago. It's already January 21. It's been unseasonably warm in Tokyo. Your sister and brother are the same as ever. Make sure that you rest over the two day weekend. Don't overwork. - Mother >*

#### My Father's Letter Dated Feb. 22, 1971:

*< I am being let go at the end of March this year. We are not going to starve. Your sister has a good income, too. Do not worry. I am also very healthy, even*

<1971年3月29日、父より>

[薄汚い東京にも、噫(ああ)また春がやってきた、どこか既に桜は散りはじめた様子、...]

オニイは東宝だかに夕刻出かけ、その間に三船プロより電話にて明朝十時までにと、別に日活よりも話あり、漸く方向定まれりに見ゆ。併し乍ら(しかしながら)この一匹兎(狼にあらず)の息子、人との競争などせぬよう、貧しくとも悠々行って貰いたいもの也。

写真嬉しかった。彼が儂等と余り違はぬ程にて、莫迦(ばか)デカくないのに何となくほっとした、...。

柳田国男の『明治大正史』を読み出した。「俺が」というところが比較的少ないので、読める。]

<1971年4月4日、母より>

[...、私も、お父さんほどではないが、年齢を重ねて気力の衰えを覚えるようになりました。積極性が無く、安穏な日々に安んじているらしい。例の如くの日々の生活に明け暮れ、目前わずかな庭の自然の変化だけに目を瞠るばかりです。このような中にも、他人の変化は、いく

*though the legs are getting a little weak. Please say hello to Jim. >*

My Father's Letter Dated March 29, 1971:

*< Our sordid town of Tokyo is starting to show the signs of spring. No, actually, the cherry blossoms are already falling.*

*Satoshi was called in to Tōhō early this evening. Mifune Production phoned also today telling him to come in and discuss his scripts. Nikkatsu is also interested in his scripts. It appears he is finally clear on his direction. (Tōhō, Mifune Production, and Nikkatsu are Japan's large movie houses. My brother was a screenwriter for movies.) I wish that my lone rabbit son (not a lone wolf) would not take part in competition. Don't strive to make money; just be comfortable. I was so happy to see Jim's picture. He is not a huge man like many Americans. I am currently reading Kunio Yanagida's "History of Japan." His writing style is not overly self-assertive, and that's agreeable to me. >*

My Mother's Letter Dated April 4, 1971:

*< ... I don't think I am as bad as your father, but I no longer have the strength and energy that I used to have. No drive. Satisfied with the uneventful days, repeating routines day in and day out. I never cease to be amazed, though, observing the changing nature in our small yard.*

*Well, there are some changes in the human lives, too. Uncle Maeda passed away in the early morning of March 30. I rushed to*

らか影響してくるものようで、3月30日の朝、前田叔父の死の知らせを受け、その日の午後、江戸川宅に駆けつけました。そしてお通夜、葬式、火葬場行きと続けざま、へとへとに疲れて二日目に帰宅、昨日あたりから元気快復、狭い庭の花々を楽しんでおります。

さて、明子の駒場高校時代の親友、青木義子さんが渡米し、シカゴに暫く滞在することとなりました。彼女はたしか大磯の医者の娘で、修道院に入ったことは記憶していましたが、現在聖心女子学院の仕事をしている由。今度の渡米は、経営学の勉強とのこと。将来は、一つの修道院の長になる女性ではないか、と私は思っています。組織の背景を持つての渡米ですから、特にあなたが手助けすることも無いでしょうが、人間関係の嫌いな明子が勇んでいるので、その積もりでいて下さい。

シカゴも春になりましたか？自動車事故などに備えた、保健等について、考えたことがありますか？]

<1971年5月19日、母より>

[シカゴ14日消印の長文拝見。

13日にはシスター青木より明子宛ての手紙を明子に見せてもらい、彼女の報告の文章から、今までと違った角度で照らし出された、ジムとあなたの映像を眺めた心地でした。

his Edogawa house that afternoon. The wake, funeral, and the burial. I came home after three days. I was completely spent. I am just getting back to the routine of enjoying the flowers in the yard.

A new topic. Ms. Yoshiko Aoki, your sister's best friend from Komaba High School, is going to Chicago for a while. A daughter of a practicing physician in Ōiso City, Ms. Aoki became a nun after college. She currently works at the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo. She is to study business administration at the Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Illinois. She is being sent there with the full support of the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo. I don't think she would expect any help from you, but your sister is all excited about her best friend going over there and possibly meeting you.

Is there a sign of spring in Chicago finally? Have you ever thought of buying auto insurance, or any other insurance? >

My Mother's Letter Dated May 19, 1971:

I have received your long letter postmarked May 14th.

Your sister showed me yesterday the letter she had received from Sr. Aoki. It gave me the images of you and Jim, lit up more clearly, viewed from a totally different angle, by a third party.

She tells about you and Jim with enthusiasm. There's a sense of comfort in her writing, that she must have felt meeting with you both.



シスター青木は熱心にジムとあなたのことを述べていました。あなたたちが喋ったわけでもないでしょうが、その雰囲気を感じ取られた、とゆう感じでした。

そして、ジムのお母さんとは意気投合(やはり宗教とゆう、仲介あつてのことでしょうか)の様子で、お母さんの、アメリカの中産階級らしい、屈託のない明るさは「貴女でも好意を持てるでしょう」と、明子に言ってるくらいです。初対面のあなたは、まるでお姉さんと違うと思い、又話しているうちに、否やはり同じところがあると思った、と書いてありました。それにしても青木さんの人柄とか職業?の純粋さが伺われる、心やさしい手紙でした。

すでに書いたことがあるかもしれないけれど、やはり秘書の仕事より、そこは大都会ではあるし、日米文化の交流の中での仕事の方が、あなたには向いているのではないかと思います。その意味でも、暇のときはぼんやりしていないで、色々勉強してほしいと思います。長い報告の手紙を私達に書くことも、私達には本当に嬉しいことだし、あなたにとっても自分を確かめることになって、有意義なことですが、人間的な甘えが漂っていることも事実ですから。ワイマン氏のことも色々非難しながら、こんな長文がオフィスで書けるとは、合理主義のアメリカでは、

*It appears she and Jim's mother hit it off swimmingly. (I wonder if her being a nun had a lot to do with it.) She says to your sister,*

*"Jim's mother's easy, light-hearted, middle-class American way is so charming. You simply can't help liking her!"*

*About you, whom she met for the first time, she thought, at the beginning, that you were totally different from your sister, but later, she discovered that there were after all certain similarity between you. All in all, it was such a personable and heart-warming letter, exhibiting Sr. Aoki's purity in person and her vocation.*

*I may have said this before, but you would be better off pursuing a career where you could contribute a little to the cultural exchange between Japan and the U.S. Chances must be abundant for it, living in one of the major cities of the U.S. When you have time to waste, don't just waste it, but try to use your time at all times for learning new things. We are very happy to receive your long letters reporting just about everything in your life over there. Letter writing is also good for you because by writing, you look into your soul. Your letters, however, show too often that you are still a big baby.*

*You complain about your boss, Attorney Wyman, quite often. Imagine, though, you are writing such long letters to us from his office, using work hours! I don't know if he is generous or what, but that's unthinkable from the viewpoint of the American*

ちよつと考えられないことではありませんか。

ジムはいよいよ多忙の様子ですが、具体的にはお母さんにはなにも分かりません。どうぞ交通事故などにあわないように祈ります。

どんどん暑くなることでしょう。健康第一。無理しないこと。心にいつもゆとりを持つこと。]

<1971年8月18日、父より>

[、、、蟬の音が申し訳のように聞こえる、、、ジム勉強障りなく続けおるや。元気があったら、今やりかけの最後の仕事を済ませてから、一度挨拶に渡米の事を、私に(ひそかに)(誰にも話していない)考へている。それにしても万事に関心が無くなった事、我ながら驚くのみ。70年の歩みと人生を思ひ、あとは酒なり。こちらの事は気にせず、亮子 Onward ! ]

～秋立ちて 幾日(いくか)もあらねど このねぬる

朝けの風の 袂(たもと)涼しき～

<1971年9月13日、母より>

[、、、あなたとジムの問題は、本質的には個人と個人の問題でも、その背景にある国家を無視するわけには行かないのですから、、、あなたが、自分自身のことと真剣であると同時に、

*business practice, I think.*

*Jim sounds like he is extremely busy in many ways. I don't know the details, but I simply pray that he would not be involved in a car accident or the like.*

*It must be getting warmer daily in Chicago. Stay well. Don't overwork. Live a rich spiritual life. >*

My Father's Letter Dated August 18, 1971:

*< ... I hear the distant chorus of cicadas... Has Jim been studying hard? I've been planning secretly (did not tell anyone) to fly to the U.S., after I've finished my current writing project, and if I continue to be healthy, to meet with Jim and say hello to him. Meanwhile, it is simply amazing that I am not much interested in anything anymore. I look back at my life of 70 years, and I drink saké. Don't worry about anything about us, though. My dear Ryoko, move onward! >*

(My father again quotes here the well-known beautiful Waka written by an ancient poet.)

My Mother's Letter Dated September 13, 1971:

*< The relation between you and Jim is naturally of a personal/individual nature, but I believe you, as a person, must not ignore the society in which you live. Just as you are very serious about yourself, I hope that you would have a deeper interest in the society. So that you can*

社会についての関心も、ある程度深めてもらいたいものです、、、。ジムをより深く理解するためにも、あなたはアメリカ国家を理解し、つまらぬ新聞の三面記事でも、アメリカ社会を知るためには、読むこと。

ジムの弁護士資格試験は、完全に終わったのですか？その後は？]

*understand Jim even more deeply, you must know, and have a deeper knowledge of, the United States as a nation. Read the newspaper; read even the cheap gossip column of the newspaper, so your knowledge of the United States would become deeper and wider.*

*Has Jim's bar exam been completed? >*

*< End of Chapter 16 >*