

Text

1 ^{せんぱい}先輩、^き聞いてください。
 2 ^{わたし}私には^{ちようのうりよく}超能力があるのです。
 3 ^{じぶん}自分の^{ちから}力に^き気づいたのは、^{しょうがくせい}小学生のとき
 でした。4 ^{じゆぎょうちゆう}授業中、^{たいくつ}退屈だった私は、^{きょうしつ}教室
 にただよっていた^{ほこり}埃を、ぼんやりとながめてい
 たのです。5 ^{みぎ}右に行^いったり、^{ひだり}左に行^{たり}たりする
 埃を、ぼーっとと^め目で^お追いかけていたら、やがて、
^{みよう}妙なことに気づきました。

6 いつのまにか、埃と、それを追いかける私
^{しせん}の視線との^{かんけい}関係が、^{ぎやくてん}逆転していたのです。7 埃
 の^{さき}ほうが、私の視線の^{さき}先を追いかけて、右を^{むけ}むけ
 ば、埃も右に行き、左を^{むけ}むけば、埃も左につい
 てくるのです。8 ^{いしき}意識を^{しゅうちゆう}集中させると、埃を
^{くうちゆう}おもいのままにあやつって、^{もじ}空中で^か文字を書く
 ことだってできました。

聞いてください: literally "please listen" (informal: 聞いて)

授業中: ~中 is a common suffix meaning "in the middle of ~":

例 募集中 currently accepting (requests, submissions, etc.)

例 仕事探し中 in the middle of looking for a job (中 attaches to the stem form of the verb)

たり…たりする: incomplete listing of actions/states: doing things such as ..., sometimes doing one thing and then the other. The ~たり form can be used with a single verb (or adjective)—in these cases it translates as "sometimes".

いつのまにか: before I knew it, without consciously noticing it

が: が (not は) is used here because the emphasis of the clause is the dust—in general, が emphasizes what comes before it, whereas は emphasizes what comes after it.

先: the endpoint of a line or a path:

例 300メートル先: 300 meters ahead

例 あて先: address, destination of a letter

おもいのままに: as one pleases; also 意のままに: at will

1 Senpai, I have something to tell you.

2 I have a supernatural power.

3 I first became aware of my power when I was in grade school. 4 I was bored one day during class and idly watching the dust that drifted through the classroom. 5 As I let my gaze lazily follow the dust as it went from left to right and back again, I soon noticed something unusual.

6 At some point, the relationship between the dust and my gaze which chased it had reversed. 7 It was the dust that chased the point where I looked—if I looked to the right, the dust went to the right, and if I looked to the left, the dust followed to the left. 8 When I fixed my attention on it, I could manipulate the dust any way I liked, even to the point of drawing letters in midair.

9 でも、鉛筆や教科書といった重いものは、
ぴくりともうごかすことができません。 10 埃の
ように軽いもの限定の、あまりに非力な能力
です。 11 埃をあやつるのにあきてしまうと、こ
の力のことをすっかりわすれてしまい、中学、
高校と、平凡な日々をおくりました。

12 大学に進学して間もないころのことです。
 13 講義を聞きながらあくびをしていたら、目の前
に埃がただよってきました。 14 そういえば小学
生のとき、不思議なことができたつくと、ため
しに埃をにらんでみると、ぴくりと、埃がふる
え、空中でハートの形を描いたのです。 15 不
思議な力は、まだ備わっていたようです。 16 観察
をつづけていたら、この力の、ある特徴に気づ
きました。

17 たとえば、埃が私の体にちかづくとき、あ
やつることがむずかしくなり、体との距離がゼ
ロになると、もう完全にうごかせない。

といった: slightly more ambiguous than という; used when giving a partial list of examples.

あまりに: too, very. Generally (but not always) used with a negative connotation. (Think "to the point of excess.") Often paired with the particle も to add emphasis:

例 あまりに忙しい: extremely busy

例 あまりにもひどい: unfathomably horrible

こと: used this way, こと refers to the events of a certain time:

例 3年前のこと: the (an) event(s) of three years ago

[verb stem] + ながら~: while doing [verb], I~:

例 食べながらテレビを見る: watch TV while eating

例 走りながら音楽を聴く: listen to music while running

(つ)け: used like か: shows that the speaker is asking a question of herself:

例 あの本、どこに置いたけ?: Now where did I leave that book?

例 前に彼に会ったけ?: Have I met him before?

[clause] + よう(だ): Indicates the speaker is making an inference based on evidence.

との: combination of particles と and の:

例 家族との旅行: a trip with family

例 社長との対談: a talk with the company president

9 But when it came to heavy things, like pencils or textbooks, I couldn't move them even a fraction of an inch. 10 It's a terribly weak ability, limited to things as light as dust. 11 When I tired of controlling dust, I completely forgot about this power, and my days in junior high and high school went by just like anyone else's.

12 What I'm about to tell you happened just after I came to the university. 13 As I was yawning my way through a lecture, some dust drifted in front of me. 14 Seeing it reminded me of the strange trick I could do in grade school, and when I tried fixing my gaze on it, the dust quivered, and then formed the shape of a heart in midair. 15 It would seem I was still in possession of that curious ability. 16 As I continued my observations, I became aware of a certain distinct property of this power.

17 For example, when the dust came close to my body, it became harder to control, and when the distance to my body reached zero, I could no longer move it at all.

18 ^{はんたい} 反対に、埃が私の体から^{とお}遠ざかると、あや
つることはかんたんになり、^{じょうげさゆう}上下左右に^{こうそく}高速で
飛ばすことができる。

19 ^{もしや} もしか、私の体との距離が、力の^{つよ}強さに関
係しているのではないか？

20 私の体にちかいほど、力は^{よわ}弱まり……。

21 ^{とお}遠ければ、遠いほど、うごかす力は、強くな
るのではないか？

22 小学生のとき、鉛筆や教科書を、うごかせ
なかつたのは、目の前の、すぐそばに^お置いて^{じっけん}実験
していたからではないか？

反対に: by contrast, on the other hand

もしや: by any chance, maybe.
(Also もしかして and もしかしたら)

A ほど B: the greater the extent or degree of A, the more B

ではないか: common sentence ending to show speculation or hypothesizing. Sometimes followed by と思う to show that the speaker is expressing a personal opinion.

すぐ: here shows immediacy of location (also すぐそこに: just over there)

18 But then if the dust moved far from my body, manipulating it became trivial, and I could fling it about in any direction.

19 Might it be that the distance from my body is connected to the strength of my ability?

20 The closer to my body, the more my power weakens……

21 Might it be that the further away something is, the stronger my power to move it becomes?

22 Might it be that the reason I couldn't move pencils or textbooks in grade school was because I was experimenting with something set in front of me, within arm's reach?

Vocabulary

Beginner

3	<small>ちから</small> 力	power, ability
4	<small>なが</small> 眺める	gaze (at)
5	<small>お</small> 追いかける	chase (after), follow
6	<small>かんけい</small> 関係	relationship
7	<small>む</small> 向く	face (a direction)
8	<small>もじ</small> 文字	letter
9	<small>うご</small> 動かす	move, push
11	<small>わす</small> 忘れる	forget
14	<small>えが</small> 描く	draw, paint
16	<small>つづ</small> 続ける	continue
17	<small>ちか</small> 近づく	approach, come near
17	<small>かんぜん</small> 完全に	completely, perfectly
18	<small>はんたい</small> 反対	opposite
18	<small>とほ</small> 遠ざかる	move (far) away
18	<small>と</small> 飛ばす	send flying
20	<small>よわ</small> 弱まる	weaken, lose strength
22	<small>お</small> 置く	put, place

Intermediate

1	<small>せんぱい</small> 先輩	upperclassman
4	<small>たいくつ</small> 退屈	boredom
4	<small>ほこり</small> 埃	dust
4	ぼんやりと	lazily, idly
5	ぼーっと	in a spaced-out manner
6	<small>しせん</small> 視線	line of sight
8	<small>いしき</small> 意識	consciousness
8	<small>しゅうちゅう</small> 集中する	focus
8	<small>くうちゅう</small> 空中	midair
9	ぴくりと	with a small twitch
10	<small>げんてい</small> 限定	limit, qualification
10	<small>のうりよく</small> 能力	ability
11	<small>あ</small> 飽きる	tire (of)
11	すっかり	entirely, completely
11	<small>おく</small> 送る	send; lead (a life)
12	<small>しんがく</small> 進学する	advance (usu. to college)
13	あくびをする	yawn
14	<small>ふしぎ</small> 不思議な	curious, mysterious

14	<small>ため</small> 試しに	for a test, as a trial
14	<small>ふる</small> 震える	quiver, tremble
16	<small>とくちょう</small> 特徴	(defining) characteristic
18	<small>かんたん</small> 簡単な	simple, trivial
18	<small>こうそく</small> 高速	high speed

Advanced

2	<small>みょう</small> 妙な	odd, unusual
6	<small>ぎやくてん</small> 逆転	reversal (of positions)
8	<small>あやつ</small> 操る	manipulate, control
10	<small>ひりき</small> 非力な	powerless
11	<small>へいぼん</small> 平凡な	unremarkable
13	<small>こうぎ</small> 講義	lecture
14	<small>にら</small> 睨む	stare (at)
15	<small>そな</small> 備わる	be equipped (with)
16	<small>かんさつ</small> 観察	observation
17	<small>きより</small> 距離	distance
18	<small>じょうげさゆう</small> 上下左右	up, down, left, and right
22	<small>じっけん</small> 実験する	(perform an) experiment