

Text

1 その日の夕方、テレビをつけると、サッカーの試合が放送されていました。2 南米のスタジアムでおこなわれているものを、衛星をつかって生中継していたのです。3 日本にいる私の体から地球一個分の直径、つまり一万二千七百キロメートル離れた場所で、リアルタイムにおこなわれている試合です。4 ほんとうに私の念力が、遠ければ遠いほど、強くなるのだとしたら、これだけの距離があれば、ボールの一個くらいはうごかせるはず。5 私は、テレビをにらみ、こぶしを、にぎりました。

6 ……うごけ!

7 すると、頭のなかにぼんやりと、サッカーボール周辺的光景がうかんだのです。8 ノイズだらけの映像のように、はっきりとしない光景でしたが、まるで神様の視点のように、ボールの上下左右、そして中身の構造まで、すべてが同時に見えたのです。9 私の意識が、透明で巨大な手となり、ボールに、そっとふれました。

生: as a prefix (なま) has the meaning "live", "raw", or "in person".

一個分: when using an object to indicate a relative quantity or extent, 分 gets attached to the counter.

例 にんじん一個分のビタミン one carrot's worth of vitamins

例 東京ドーム80個分の広さ an area equal to 80 Tokyo Domes

～としたら: marks a hypothetical statement: "if we suppose that ~". Related:

例 ～としても even supposing that ~

例 ～としよう let's suppose that ~

これだけの～: this (much) ~

すると: literally "when I did this". Also そうすると, そしたら

だらけ: covered with, full of. Often, but not always, has a negative connotation.

例 ゴミだらけの部屋 a room full of trash

例 クリスマスイブに、表参道に行ったらカップルだらけだった。When I went to Omotesandō on Christmas Eve, it was packed with couples.

まるで～: as if it were a ~, just like a ~

1 That evening, when I turned on the television, a soccer match was being broadcast. 2 It was a live relay via satellite of a game taking place in a stadium in South America. 3 At a location one Earth diameter in distance from me—in other words, 12,700 kilometers—the match was happening in real time. 4 If my psychokinetic ability truly becomes stronger with greater distance, then with this much separation I should be able to move something the size of a soccer ball. 5 I stared into the television and clenched my fists.

6 ……Move!

7 As I watched, in my mind there appeared a cloudy image of the scene around the soccer ball. 8 Like a static-filled picture, it was a hazy view, but it was as though I were looking through the eyes of a god; I could see the ball's surroundings and even its internal structure, all at the same time. 9 My thoughts formed an invisible, giant hand and gently brushed against the ball.

10 次の瞬間、いえ、衛星中継によるタイムラグの後、テレビ画面のなかで、仲間にもかつてパスされたボールが、急加速をはじめました。

11 地面すれすれを滑空し、私の想像したとおりの軌跡をたどって、何人もの選手の足をくぐりぬけ、ついにボールはゴールネットへ。12 観客は総立ちになり、ボールを蹴った選手は、ぽかんとした顔のまま拍手喝采をあげていました。

13 先輩、あの、まだ眠らないでくださいね。

14 だって、これ、ベッドタイム・ストーリーじゃないんですから。

15 これは、私の身に、ほんとうにあった出来事なんです。

16 「月の砂漠には、だれかが指先で描いたような落書きがあるんです。17 それは、兎と蛙の絵で、つまり鳥獣戯画の模写なんです」

～による: “according to ~” or, as in this case, “due to ~” or “caused by ~”

～とおりに: (just) as ~

例 先生の言うとおりにしなさい do as the teacher says

例 予定どおりに進む proceed just as planned

何人も: both も and か appear after indefinite counters (beginning with 何) and mean “several” or “many”, but も indicates the number is surprisingly large.

～(の)まま: in the state of ~

例 このままにしておこう let’s leave it like this (in this state)

例 いまだに昔のままの街 a town still just as it was (in the same state as it was) long ago

あの: filler, “uh” or “uhm”

10 The next moment—no, after the time lag caused by the satellite relay—on the screen the ball, which had been passed to a teammate, began to rapidly pick up speed. 11 It glided across the ground, tracing the exact trajectory I had imagined, and after slipping through the legs of several players, at last entered the goal. 12 The crowd rose as one, and the player who kicked the ball was left with a dumbstruck look amid a shower of applause and cheers.

13 Senpai...please don’t fall asleep yet, OK?

14 Because this story...it isn’t a bedtime story.

15 This is something I experienced, that actually happened.

16 “On the barren surface of the Moon, there is a sketch that looks as if someone drew it with his finger. 17 It is a picture of a rabbit and a frog: in essence, a reproduction of the *Chōjū-giga*.”

鳥獣戯画: The *Chōjū-giga* are a set of picture scrolls, created in the 12th and 13th centuries, sometimes referred to as the *Scrolls of Frolicking Animals* in English. See Wikipedia for more information.

18 そういうお話を、先輩が寝る前にしたことがあります。19 白状しますが、その落書き、私が描いたんです。

20 私の能力は、私自身の肉体から離れるほどに、強く、どこまでも強くなっていくという特性をもっていました。21 地球を離れ、月を越えたところにも、意識の腕をのばすことができました。22 太陽系を抜け、銀河系の星々まで距離を隔てたなら、私の能力は、際限なく強大になっていき、地球の何倍もある木星型惑星を、埃とおなじように、サッカーボールとおなじように、右にうごかしたり、左にうごかしたりもできるのです。23 銀河の外に出て、宇宙のずっと果てまで行けば、銀河そのものを、お手玉にすることだってできるでしょう。

が: not always used to introduce a contradictory statement. The same goes for けど, which appears with this usage in this classic tsundere sentence:

例 言っとくけど、あんたのために作ったわけじゃないんだからね！ Just so you know, it's not as if I made this for you!

自身: often equates to the use of "myself", "yourself", "himself" etc. after the corresponding pronoun, but sometimes goes untranslated. For inanimate objects ("itself"), use 自体.

例 私自身もそう思った。
I myself also felt that way.

例 彼自身の話によると according to his own story

なら: a version of "if" commonly used in setting up hypothetical situations or assumptions

～とおなじように: in the same way as～

ずっと: when used with time, "forever"; when used with distance, adds the connotation of being so distant as to be practically immeasurable

～そのもの: the very picture of～, a model of～, the actual～

18 I told you a story like this one night before you fell asleep. 19 I have to confess that the one who drew that picture was me.

20 My ability came with the special property that it becomes stronger, infinitely stronger, at distances further and further from my own body. 21 I was able to stretch the reach of my mind away from the Earth and even beyond the Moon. 22 Were I to leave the Solar System and add to my distance until I reached the stars in our galaxy, my ability would become powerful without limit, and I would be able to take even planets the size of Jupiter, many times larger than the Earth, and move them left or right exactly as I would move dust, or a soccer ball. 23 Were I to leave our galaxy and go to the very ends of the Universe, I imagine I would even be able to toss about the galaxies themselves.

Vocabulary

Beginner

1	夕方	evening
1	試合	game, match
2	行われる	take place
3	離れる	separate, part (from)
5	握る	grip, clench
7	周辺	surroundings, area
7	浮かぶ	float, rise; come to mind
8	中身	insides, filling, contents
9	そっと	gently, lightly
9	触れる	brush, come into contact
10	向かう	head (toward)
11	地面	ground
12	蹴る	kick
12	浴びる	be drenched (in)
15	出来事	event
21	伸ばす	stretch, extend
22	抜ける	remove; exit a location

23 お手玉 てだま juggling

Intermediate

1	放送する	broadcast
5	拳	fist
7	光景	sight, scene
8	映像	video, film, picture
8	構造	construction, structure
9	透明な	transparent
10	画面	screen (of a device)
10	加速	acceleration
11	創造する	imagine
11	選手	athlete, player
12	観客	spectators, crowd
12	ぼかんとした	perplexed, dumbstruck
12	拍手	applause
16	砂漠	desert
16	落書き	sketch, doodle
19	白状する	confess, admit (an act)

21 越える go beyond

22 隔てる separate, isolate

Advanced

2	衛星	satellite
2	中継	(transmission) relay
3	直径	diameter
4	念力	psychokinesis
11	滑空する	glide
11	軌跡	trajectory
11	辿る	follow, trace (a path)
12	総立ち	standing in unison
12	喝采	cheers
17	模写	reproduction
20	特性	mark, characteristic
22	太陽系	the Solar System
22	銀河系	the Milky Way
22	際限	limit, bound
22	木製型	Jupiter-class (gas giant)