

On Image, on the Sun, 5 Memories

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It was 2 years ago when a big French girl named Betty-chan came to stay at Chiba's place and we all had a couple of drinks. Since she is French, we were having a blast talking about the novel *The Stranger*.

The protagonist in the novel shot and killed a person with his gun on the beach. The judge asked him his motives and it was "because of the Sun," the protagonist said. Betty-chan seemed to have understood those words as "There is no reason," but I thought, "You're getting the whole story totally wrong!" The protagonist must have killed the person because the Sun was glaring down on him. I can understand, the glaring Sun is seriously annoying. I would never kill a person, though.

I had chills when I was watching a movie starring Buster Keaton on DVD the other day...but maybe they aren't thinking of separating things apart?! Wait, there is no difference in beauty, comedy, horror, porn and criticism towards something in the world? Huh? Perhaps they were the same things? Hm...Am I the one who's crazy?

Makken and Wada were very good friends when they were kids, so I instantly remembered their friendship when I met them in a reunion party. While we were talking, Wada said that he now became a police bureaucrat, so I jokingly said, "Yo Wada, Makken was just taking speed in the bathroom~," and everyone in the party became silent. Everyone knew except me that Makken just got out of jail~.

And the outfit Makken was wearing at the time was the same one that Keanu wore in the *Matrix Reloaded*. Like a leather long coat. Who wears something like that?...Makken struggled mightily, took a wrong turn in life, got jailed for inflicting injuries and showed up to the reunion party wearing that *Matrix* outfit right after he was released. Why?

When I was in kindergarten, I found my brother, who is 5 years older than me, messing with something on the veranda of our parents' house. As I got closer, he trapped a longhorn beetle and was painting it with his silver pen. This activity seemed to be popular among the elementary school kids in our neighborhood, just like skateboarding. I thought that was so cool when I saw it. Next day, I went to my kindergarten that is about 5 kilometers away and found a group of 20 or so silver longhorn beetles in the gloomy bush at the kindergarten's backyard.

The sunlight is shining through that damp bush and partially hitting those silver longhorn beetles.

Those silver longhorn beetles are painted with marker by my brother and his friends and they are here all at once! Why here?

About 15 years ago, when my friend was riding on a scooter in Machida, there was this retro-looking car driving along slowly and he got annoyed by it. This dumbass is happy with spending too much money on his stupid shabby chic car, looking down on a less-cultured poor human being like me, he thought and he tried to resolve his irritation by tailgating the car, driving recklessly like a motorcycle gang. But, as soon as he saw the retro car's driver's face, his anger went away. The driver was Hayao Miyazaki. When he saw his face, Miyazaki's works suddenly started playing inside his head. He said, "Especially Kiki's Delivery Service. I could clearly see her flying with her broom." Next moment, he yielded his way without hesitation like a defeated juvenile delinquent and said, "Have a nice day!" so that Miyazaki could hear it clearly. Since my friend was not really a fan of Studio Ghibli, I was surprised by how majestic and influential an animation artist can actually become, as if he had a halo over his head.