

# On Sexual Ethics and Sexual Morality in “Paradise Lost”

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## ABSTRACT

Watanabe's famous masterpiece “Paradise Lost” [1] reflects a profound social reality confusion. With a sharp and keen unique perspective, he analyzes the love problems of contemporary middle-aged people's lives, makes a deafening voice, and deeply reveals the diversity and complexity of human nature. Sex, secular prejudice distorts humanity and is marginalized, and the core is closely related to the theme of life and death of the characters, so as to shock the soul.

**Keywords:** Junichi Watanabe; "The Paradise Lost" Middle-aged and elderly emotional crisis; tragedy; death

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Junichi Watanabe (1933-2014), a famous modern Japanese writer, is known as a Japanese love master. Author of more than 130 novels and other literary works. For the literary masters of Japanese literature today. His works are colorful and deeply into the love novels of the essence of men and women, and are deeply loved by readers. "Paradise Lost" (1997) won the 32nd Fresh Wind Award, and the title of "Paradise Lost" won the Japanese Buzzword Award in 1997, and the Kikuchi Broad Prize in 2003. Around the age of 50, he began to get involved in love novels, that is, novels with the theme of love and sex, extramarital affairs. He pays attention to the hot issues of modern society and chooses the emotional crisis of the middle-aged and old people as the space that the novel strives to express and discuss, as Watanabe said: "Middle-aged people have a variety of complex relationships, real feelings, and a sense of crisis. , Expressing the truest aspects of real society in words, describing mature men and women pursuing the ultimate love." (Watanabe Junichi, 2010) Due to the background of doctors, he has not only aesthetics and implanted psychology in his works Analytical outflow of consciousness, and deep exploration and exploration of love novels from the perspective of physiology and social ethics, which is clearly different from the previous Japanese aesthetic literature Kawabata Yasushi and the demonist literature Yuichiro Tanizaki etc. Differences in the selection of literary thoughts in different eras also show novel literary style characteristics. The work literarily depicts the post-modern middle-aged and elderly people in pursuit of the perfect unity of pure love and sexual love. At the same time, shadow, pressure and resistance are accompanied by shadows. The protagonist floats in his sensitive spiritual world and deep inner world. With sorrow and helplessness, the failure to fight against the world, in order to maintain the ultimate love that is inseparable, they were forced to leave the paradise of the world and shake people's hearts with the ending of martyrdom. It can be called the "sorrow" story of

postmodern society. "Paradise Lost" (1995) released more than 2.6 million copies, and was later adapted into a TV series. Aroused great response and widespread attention, and the translation was introduced to our country. The writer Watanabe was evaluated as "the first person in the middle literature", "Watanabe literature as "intermediate literature" not only explores the contradiction and conflict between the development of human nature and the ethics and morality of modern society from a new perspective, but also integrates "natural" and "pure love" into the works aesthetically. "

Differential writing is not only a portrayal of Japan's contemporary social reality, but also makes the interaction between Hisagi and Rinko full of interest, making his deep reflection on the cruelty of modern society and the call for absolute love more profound and extensive, and making Hisagi and Rinko, the subjectivity and value of the two personality subjects, male and female, are confirmed at the same time, but the writing of this difference is not rigid." [2] The spokesperson of the modern man", "everyone in modern Japanese love literature" and so on. In his hometown, Hokkaido, Sapporo Nakajima Park, there is the Watanabe Junichi Literature Museum.

## 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT

### 2.1. The emotional crisis of the elderly

First of all, Junichi Watanabe's novel "Paradise Lost" (1995) is a novel depicting the love life of middle-aged and elderly people. The protagonists of the "window tribe", Kyuki Yuichiro (55 years old) and Rinko Matsubara (37 years old) The story of love is characterized by the overlapping of love and the spirit of "sorrow". On the one hand, they have a wonderful feeling, such as "flaming love" brings joy to both of them, intoxicating, "Trance feels that this small piece of heaven and earth is isolated from everything in reality, floating in a dream world" And even "in the stillness where all life seems to be extinct"

"feeling extremely calm and peaceful". But on the other hand, in the process of happiness and ecstasy, they couldn't get rid of the shadows. The shadowy ghosts floated in their brains from time to time. This floating ghost is what the heroine Rinzi said many times. "The male protagonist Jiu Mu also felt panic, his heart was fighting fiercely, and he seemed to feel "love is unbelievable, or a fate". "Front is a canyon and wilderness" "I will pay a huge price" "I hate this now, I can't hold myself, I am lost in lust and loss of reason" "I am retaliated" "Go to hell" "Sin" "Cliff" and "Immoral" "Contrary to ethics" "worry, worry", and the other voice is "but, conversely, what is wrong with two people in love with each other?" Thoughts rotate in the vortex of social morality and ethics. The writer very delicately describes the conflicts between the hero and heroine on the spiritual flesh, and uses the professional observation and imagination of the doctor to describe the sexual details, physiological reflection and spiritual pleasure in the *Paradise Lost*. If compared with works such as "Snow Country" by Japanese aestheticist Kawabata Kawabata and "Tattoo" by demonist aesthetic master Tanizaki Junichiro, "Lost Paradise" highlights the middle-aged and elderly people who are carrying a marriage that looks like a divorce. The inner contradiction and spiritual uneasiness during the impact of social morality and ethics.

## **2.2. Expelled from "Eden"**

The title of "Paradise Lost" (1995) is reminiscent of the long poem "Paradise Lost" by European writer Milton. The long poem "Paradise Lost" tells that Adam and Eve in the Bible were killed by God for stealing the forbidden fruit. The classic story of eviction from the paradise. In contrast, Junichi Watanabe's novel "Lost Paradise" (1995) clearly draws on it in terms of the theme and theme of the work. It is a metaphor for the two male and female protagonists Yukihiro Kumaki and Rinko Matsubara who are betrayed by people in the real world, such as Yuichiro Kumaki. Because the real love was expelled by the family, because the anonymous letter was reversed, and the black and white framing was dismissed in disguise by the so-called "mobilization" of the unit; and Rinko Matsubara, who was a living widow for 15 years, was chased by the husband-the suspect who wrote the anonymous letter and his natal family. Out of the blue, her mother insulted her daughter Rinzi as a "prostitute" even indiscriminately and even issued a threat of "severing the relationship between mother and daughter and never allowing her to enter the house". From this perspective, "Paradise Lost" has traces of existential humanistic care. Because in the post-modern era of high economic growth, it is not uncommon to be alienated. Due to the socio-economic downturn and fierce competition, the protagonist Kumaki Ichiro sighs that "it is not easy to do now". He was alienated by the brutal competition in the workplace, and felt that the "unenthusiastic state of boredom between husband and

wife" was "boring" and "the inner desire was suppressed and distorted." The protagonist's two other friends of the same age, one is "all day long only know the busy work outlet", but was suddenly transferred to a branch of the head office with poor economic efficiency, depressed and lost, and soon died of cancer. Hisaki said that he regretted "there was no talk of vigorous love". Rinko Matsubara was alienated by her distracted family, and her husband was a professor in a medical school; her husband was a decent "workaholic" professor who was "nearly ten years old and should be forty-eight or eighty" older than her. The husband's character is very cold, not only in the coldness of treating his wife, but also in the coldness of treating his wife's kittens. Rinko said, "He and I are people of two worlds anyway." The author also put forward in the article, whether marriage without love is moral, or extramarital affairs with true love is the moral antithesis proposition! The protagonist seemed to feel "the unbearable lightness of life". [3]When the husband of Professor Rinzi discovered the truth, he called Rinzi "an adulteress"; he also told Rinzi's mother about it, and Rinzi's mother issued a message of "do not recognize her daughter." Threatening, and also insulting her daughter as a "prostitute"; and his wife took the initiative to divorce him, and the daughter also supported her mother, but asked the father to take care of the house and property. That is, my father is required to leave the house! Although the heroes and heroines transcended the bondage of bondage and love, they actually fell into inevitable isolation, such as being afraid to meet acquaintances "to prevent others from pointing fingers" and "embarrassment."

## **2.3. The end of life**

"Junichi Watanabe is based on the "Abe Ding incident that really happened in 1936" as a reference background. Watanabe always regards the contradiction of morality and humanity as the subject of his literature. He skillfully combines the body and the spirit. Junichi Watanabe believes that in It is necessary to describe sex in his works. He hopes to show people a deeper connotation through sex. In Junichi Watanabe's view, sex is a natural state of beauty, which contains a very rich content, and people can appreciate the different meanings of life from it." [4] Regarding the fate of the heroes and heroines Yukihiro Kumaki and Rinko Matsuhara, the writer's description is that Yukihiro Kumaki accidentally discovered two major events that occurred in history at the same time, namely the "two two six incident" and "Abe" because of the editing of the history of Showa literature. "Events", especially "Abe Event" shocked the spiritual world of Yuichiro Kumaki and Rinko Matsubara. Later, they learned that the famous writer Yuki Takero and the beautiful female reporter committed suicide near the villa in Karuizawa. The process made them touched. They decided to go to a paradise in another world using the so-called "special suicide method that shocked the world." This result has puzzled many readers: since the two parties have gone through a formal agency for divorce and show off to

their families, although the male protagonist Yuki Yukio resigns angrily, there is still a pension available, and the female protagonist Rinko Matsubara has Since the father's estate villa is not economically unsustainable, does he choose to commit suicide? This tragic ending may be fictitious. The author himself once said: "The work has its own true feelings and fictional existence." The author personally believes that this result may occur for two reasons: (1) This is the author's consideration that the protagonist's destiny in the pen must meet the theme of the work Need, such a result is in line with the so-called "sorrow" spirit of traditional Japanese literature. Japanese culture likes to use cherry blossoms as a metaphor for the shortcomings of life. In fact, in the second half of *Paradise Lost*, the author does not know whether it is a coincidence or a deliberate choice at the moment of cherry blossoms falling, which symbolizes the protagonist's tendency to end the destiny, such as the protagonists Kyuki Yuichiro and Matsuhara Rinko. It's not enough, and it used the so-called "Abe Ding Incident" that happened in history, and even moved out the suicide martyrdom stories of famous writers such as Shima Takero and beautiful female reporters. The character's character has shaped "Rinzi is a certainty. People who can't turn back in one way." At this time, the foreshadowing was sufficient, so the heroes of "Paradise Lost" Yukihiro Kumaki and Rinko Matsubara actually died in the postmodern society near the end of the 20th century. Whether this work has a prototype story remains to be verified, but the reader has witnessed "the ultimate martyrdom with burning fire". The last two protagonists decided to die together at the apex of happiness of love, because they can only use their death to fulfill each other's love, they rushed to the afterlife paradise in the climax of sex, and completed the ultimate Love's swan song. "Both embrace strongly and are not easy to isolate." (Two people's autopsy report) "Please forgive our last willfulness, please bury us together." (Two people's suicide note) They "overwhelm everything beyond life", Regardless of the martyrdom, it is in line with Japanese cherry blossom culture of "sorrow" culture (Honju Shoujo, 2010) [5]

### 3. CONCLUSION

Overall, Junichi Watanabe's novel "Paradise Lost" (1995) is indeed a successful masterpiece, which is mainly reflected in the writers adopting a novel angle and discovering new narratives and expressions. Moreover, after carefully reading the works, you can find that the writers described the situation, and the harmony of nature and man is metaphorically innovative, and also implanted in the traditional Japanese classical culture and literary poetry. "Paradise Lost" has a variety of narrative techniques, and the writer has cleverly implanted in a variety of physical environments to contrast with the protagonist's mood. Such as the sun, the moon, flowers, trees, rain, etc., traditional Japanese culture, such as "salary" "crazy" "Nengju" "Feeding Pelican", Limi Mi or Kobayashi Hideo literati ink, large-character festivals and songs such as "Thank you With Jing Zi, Nakagi Fumiko",

Ishida Bo Township, Sishan Shuji, "Snow Country" (1935), Wanye Era (629), "Genji Story", "Moon Night Tasting", "Dream", "Van Grass" and other literary traditional mosaics In the boring post-modern industrial and commercial society, the works show the vitality and popularization of literature and art, which can be said to be relatively successful works. However, the author personally believes that Junichi Watanabe's novel "Paradise Lost" (1995) is obviously lengthy in terms of sexual details, physiological reflections, and descriptions of spiritual pleasure, with explicit naked traits, and even perverted sadistic and masochistic behaviors. In disguise, he borrowed the expression technique of the demonist aesthetic master Taniaki Junichiro. For example, he still wears a black mourning dress in the spirit-keeping Rinko, showing a bizarre and sexy sex with Hisuki. Afterwards, I felt "shocked and horrified." "Differential writing is not only a portrayal of the reality of Japanese contemporary society, but also makes the interaction between Hisagi and Rinko full of interest"[6]In addition, the work's description of details such as rose whip marks on Rinko's snow-white charming body can be sought after by readers for a while, but if Junichi Watanabe abuses these descriptions, it may affect his position in the history of Japanese literature and the history of world literature. stability. Of course, Watanabe Junichi's later work theme and writing techniques have been transformed, and he has written such masterpieces as "Happiness Master", "Under the Cherry Blossom Tree", "Purple Sunflower Diary", "Lilac Cold Street", and "Fuyuan".

If we analyze from another angle, we can also understand Junichi Watanabe's novel "Paradise Lost" (1995) as some kind of warning to the middle-aged and old people in real life. If the male protagonist Yuki Hisagi (55 years old) and the heroine During the development of extramarital affairs, Rinko Matsubara (37 years old) listened to the reminder of his friend Yi Chuan who "never involved in pornographic topics" and said, "I will accept it when I see it well." Otherwise, "maybe, he (Rinzi's husband) ran into the company. Here, tell you what happened to his wife." If the two follow his advice of "light love", the protagonists Kyuki Yuichiro and Rinko Matsubara will go to martyrs together, or will they be expelled from the paradise of the world by their families, work units, relatives and friends? Although there are many assumptions, the intertwining of emotion, reason, human nature, morality, and ethics is a very difficult life problem!

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