



Picture book

Mu shu butsu

"No-Owner-Substances"

This book is dedicated to all parents and all lovers of all life in the past, present and future.

In August 2011
in Tokyo Regional court,
the counsel for the defense of TEPCO said
"The radioactive substances that adhere to the greens and fairways are not ours,
they belong to nobody,
they are 'No Owner Substances'=Mu shu butsu."

A very, very cold day it was.

It was a winter's day.

Suddenly, a huge earthquake occurred, then a huge Tsunami occurred. So many things, so many people in this place were broken and swallowed by Tsunami.



**By the earthquake, the Gigantic man-made Heart was broken and distorted.
For long years, this heart was said to be safe,
and almost all of the people believed so.**

**So much poison came out from this Gigantic Heart,
and spread around and polluted the surround.**



**Men,
their names known to nobody,
rushed into the Gigantic Heart to repair,
then
staying known to nobody bathed in poison.**



People were freezing.

**He decided to cut a big man-made artery
which came from the Gigantic man-made Heart
and was connected to his stomach
with a Katana knife.**

As he cut, a lot of warm warm blood filled with plenty of nutrition fell on the ground, and a tiny pond of blood emerged.



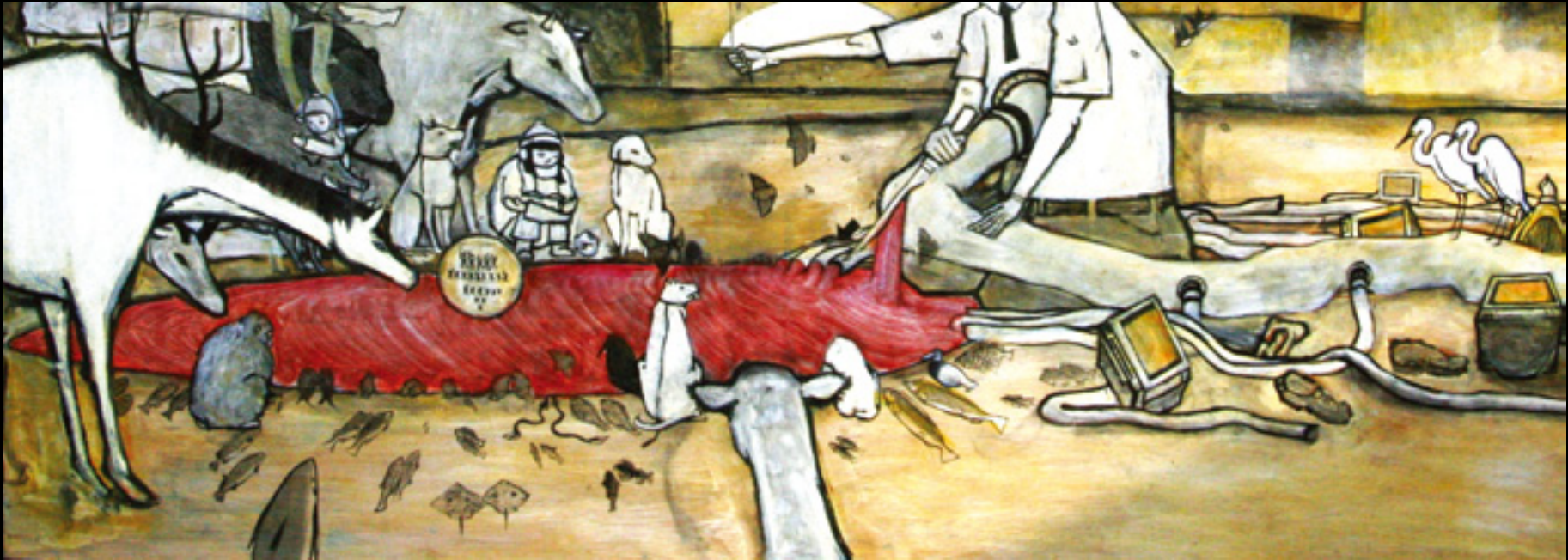
**This blood
which kept him warm and brought plenty of nutrition to him for long years was
originally
soaked up from the men known to nobody,
then stored in the Gigantic man-made Heart.**

**For a long long time this Gigantic man-made Heart
had sent blood gathered like this to society.
It was the Gigantic Heart's role.
Tons of blood made his body warm and huge like a little mountain.
He put on summer shirt.
As he felt no cold because of tons of warm blood.**



**Animals came here
to get warm from the tiny hot pond made from the blood spread on the ground.**

**Cow came.
Horse came.
Pig came.
Chicken came.
Dog came.
Cat came too.**



**Wild boar came.
Bear came.
Deer came.
Monkey came.
Rabbit came too.**

Fat greenling.
Kuro soi.
Flounder.
Righteye flounder.
Japanese Spanish.
Mackerel.
Black porgy.
Red snapper.
Kemushi kajika.
Komon kasube.
Rockfish.
Black tuna.
Lancefish.
Sea bass.
Cod.
Crab.
Shrimp.

Butterfly.

Sparrow.
Swallow.
Heron.
Narcissus flycatcher.
Blue-and-white flycatcher.
Duck.
Crow.

Frog.

Fresh water trout.
Rainbow trout.
Charr.
Landlocked masu salmon.
Japanese dace.
Minnnow.
Crucian carp.
Catfish.
Smelt.
Loach.
Eel.

**These Animals
had lost their master and were released from chain, then came out.**

**They were kept in the place,
which was polluted by too much poison for human beings to be
prohibited to leave.**

**As their master
could not take them when he left,
he set his animals free from chain to find food for themselves.**

**It was a first experience for these animals.
Animals whose master forgot to let them free
starved
from lack of food.**

**As mountains had been polluted by poison,
worried animals living in the mountains came as couples.
As the ocean had been polluted by poison too,
troubled fishes came as couples too.
Rivers.
Lakes too.
Various birds, frogs and butterflies
came too.**

**These animals bathed in much poison,
as well as men known to nobody.**

**This poison was a poison
which breaks the form of the living body.**

**Especially,
the form of a child's body.**

**Parents of animals and fishes
gathered around the pond of blood
hoping that their babies would be born with healthy bodies.**

**The design of life without disorder
was born from the pond.**

**As these animals,
the parents of human beings gathered with the same feeling.**



A couple holding a baby came.



The story of a mother of Fukushima

I lived with my family in Fukushima City.

My family is made up of my husband, three children and myself.

My husband and I built a home next to his parents' one and lived there.

I have evacuated with my two younger children to Yonezawa, which is in Yamagata Prefecture [located about 100km from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant; the radiation level is $0.05\mu\text{Sv/h}$].

Because of his work, my husband is still living there and my eldest son is now living in Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture.

I am very grateful to you for attending.

It is clear that you are deeply concerned about the situation in Fukushima.

I wish I could talk well to give you a better understanding of Fukushima.

But, sorry to say, I'm not good at making speeches.

So, please be patient with me.

Yesterday, graduation ceremonies were held at middle schools in Yonezawa.

My elder daughter is in her third year and graduated middle school in the city we have evacuated to.

You may think that we are living our lives as usual because we have moved to a safer place.

But we have had constant family quarrels for half a year.

Our evacuation has been an emotional ordeal.

There were some problems that my children could not accept.

But for my part, I had a feeling of self-justification:

"I am doing my best for you and you still don't appreciate my effort."

"I want to get my children to safety"—in my ardent desire, I brought them here.

However, I made this decision all by myself.

I spoiled my children's relationships with their friends.

I spoiled my family relationships too.

I always felt uneasy and worried.

But yesterday, when I saw my daughter with a delighted look on her face at the graduation ceremony, I was relieved.

I was right to not stay in Fukushima.

I guess I did all I could.

After the March 11, the government decided on a level of 20mSv/y as a Radiation Safety Standard for Fukushima.

Although it was justified as an emergency response to the extraordinary situation, the government is still applying this level for Fukushima even now.

Fukushima is not as densely populated as it is here in Saitama, near Tokyo, but it is still a big city.

If you visit Fukushima City, you will see people living their lives as usual.

They don't even wear masks to protect themselves from internal exposure.

Needless to say, no one wears protective clothing.

They live their lives in exactly the same way you do.

Their lives just go on as if nothing has happened. Children, babies, pregnant mothers and everyone else are living in an area where the radiation level is higher than that of the radiation controlled areas [areas exposed to 5.2mSv/y (0.6μSv/h) or more]. As I have evacuated my children from Fukushima City, I am a little relieved for now. Taking advantage of a natural parental desire to assume it is safe, the official publicity magazine of Fukushima, however, continues to run a safety campaign, saying, "100mSv per year is still safe." "The criterion of 20mSv per year is no problem." Similarly, lectures are frequently held as part of a safety campaign. Many people are inclined to believe such governmental safety campaigns. There are some who place priority on economics. "Evacuation would mean losing our livelihoods." There are people who, for various reasons, do not admit the necessity of evacuation. In such circumstances, it is hard for those who are anxious about the effects of radiation and are courageous enough to raise their voices, "We want our children to be evacuated." Such people now hold a minority position. When you talk about radiation, you will be criticized, "You worry too much." Most of those who are sensitive to radiation's effects have already left Fukushima. Therefore, Fukushima is now in a severe situation.

I moved to Fukushima from Sendai when I got married. At that time, I didn't know anything about nuclear power plants in Fukushima—how many there were or where they stood. I lived in Fukushima without knowing the danger of nuclear power plants. After the Earthquake, I saw on TV nuclear power reactors exploding one after another. It was just like in a movie; I couldn't believe that it had really happened to us. When the evacuation zone was extended to 20km and then to 30km from the nuclear plant, I wondered, "How many kilometers is our city from the nuclear accident?" I looked it up on the Internet and found out that Fukushima railway station was only 60km and our house 65km away from the site. At that time I vaguely thought, "Is it kind of dangerous?" After March 11, water supply was cut off in Fukushima City. My workplace was temporarily closed and I had to call work every morning: "Is it OK for me not to come in today?" On March 15, I became convinced that we really were in a danger zone. When I called my office, my boss told me, "There was a phone call from head office to get everyone back inside right away."

He continued,
“Plastic bags have been delivered and we are told to put all clothing you are wearing into the bags and leave it outside.”
When I heard this, all of a sudden I realized the dreadful danger of radiation.

“Even Fukushima City is in such serious danger.”

“Anyhow, I have to at least evacuate my children.”

I knew nothing about radiation.

But I felt a pressing need to get my children away from Fukushima City.

On March 16, when I talked with my friend over the phone, she said,

“I am taking my children to a hotel in Nishi-aizu [a town in the west of Fukushima located close to Niigata Prefecture].”

I promptly responded,

“I want to take my children there with you.”

At that time, my husband was busy with work and couldn't come home at all.

I told him that I wanted to evacuate with my children.

He agreed with me.

“Take them to Nishi-aizu.”

But my in-laws, living next to us, were against me:

“The neighbors are all staying here. Why are you alone running away?”

For about two hours

I protested in tears, and finally they reluctantly said yes to me.

I made a long drive in the snow with trembling hands.

After about three hours, we got to Nishi-aizu.

From that day on, I had to wait in line to refuel my car at the gas station for about 5 hours each day.

The rest of the time, I was glued to the TV.

Something had to be done.

All I wanted was a solution to the nuclear accident.

I couldn't take my eyes off the TV screen.

All my children's friends are still in Fukushima City and my husband too.

Please make every effort to address the situation— I really hoped for the things to get better.

After a while, we moved into my sister's home in Sendai City.

Sendai was also badly damaged by the Earthquake, but the water supply had already been restored.

So I took my children to stay there.

Then I alone left Sendai on March 22 because my workplace had started running again.

I said to my children,

“Don't come back to Fukushima until your schools start up again.”

I kept watching TV every day for information about the damaged nuclear power plant.

Sometime after March 20, however, the TV stopped reporting about the actual situation of the nuclear accident.

Instead, the news was all about the plan for rolling blackouts.

I was very much shocked.

“Why are people in Tokyo worrying about a lack of electric power and talking about the planned power outages, while only few days have passed since the explosion and the situation has not yet settled? There are still lots of people living in Fukushima who are being exposed daily to fairly high doses.”

I later knew that the people in charge of the nuclear power plant had kept all the information about the accident totally under their control. They prevented people from being aware that nuclear power plants are dangerous.

But at that time, my indignation was directed toward the people living in Tokyo:

“What on earth are they thinking? Don’t these damaged nuclear reactors belong to TEPCO? That is, the Tokyo Electric Power Company? Tokyo people should come to Fukushima to help contain the dangerous situation. There are lots of children living here who are being exposed to radiation daily.”

As I could no longer get information from TV, I came to learn about radiation by using the Internet and reading books.

I studied every day for about three or four hours.

In April, I was informed of schools starting up again.

I decided to get my children back from Sendai to Fukushima City.

I thought that it was important to let my children go to school despite the disaster.

At that time, I was not certain if I should keep my children out of school because of the danger of radiation, which I didn’t know enough

about.

I thought that the fact that the decision to start schools had been made had to mean that it was safe to let children go to school as usual. But I was still worried about their health.

I made my children wear masks with their long-sleeve clothes and trousers and drove them to school every day.

On April 19, the Fukushima City government announced that the maximum safe level for schools was $3.8\mu\text{Sv/h}$.

Until then, schools had refrained from outdoor activities, saying, “We don’t let children play in school yards.”

But shortly after the announcement, the schools changed their policy and let children play outdoors.

“The children have gone through a lot of things, so it is important now to let them live their normal lives as before. Radiation levels under $3.8\mu\text{Sv/h}$ evidently have no effect on them.”

Subsequently, the children have been put to play outdoors even though the radiation levels are as high as $2.2\mu\text{Sv/h}$ in middle schools and $3.1\mu\text{Sv/h}$ in high schools.

Decontamination of schools was done only after the summer vacation. The high schools are located mainly in the center of Fukushima City.

On my way to work, I pass by several high schools every day.

The principal of my son’s high school said at a parent-teacher meeting, “Students don’t play on rainy days.”

But even on rainy days, students were playing soccer or rugby—getting covered in mud.

I always felt distressed; it was painful to see them playing.
My son was in the third grade of high school and he wasn't in any of the sports clubs at that time.
So, I didn't argue with his school.
But I went to ask my daughter's middle school not to let children play outdoors.

However, the school refused to stop club activities outdoors.

The reasons were as follows:

"The radiation level of our school yard is under $3.8\mu\text{Sv/h}$. The other mothers do not worry too much about it."

My daughter belonged to the table tennis club and the members played alternately in the gymnasium and the schoolyard.

I said to my daughter,

"When it's time to play table tennis outdoors, you say you have to go to cram school and then, come straight home".

I told her not to run in the schoolyard.

Therefore, she wore a mask when she had to run outdoors.

But she was the only child wearing one.

My daughter was "summoned" to the bathroom and criticized by the senior members of her club.

"Why don't you come to play table tennis outdoors?"

"Why are you alone wearing a mask?"

She told me this story only after we moved to Yonezawa.

Schools in Fukushima used to be active in sports, especially in marathons.

Schoolgirls also take part in marathons.

There are some people outside the prefecture who are anxious about irradiation and raise their voices:

"Marathons should be stopped."

This is also helpful for Fukushima people.

Still, the children in Fukushima are forced to run outdoors everyday by their sports clubs.

You may think that people in Fukushima are staying mainly indoors because the elevated safety level of 20mSv/y was applied in response to an emergency situation.

But this is contrary to the facts.

The city and the prefecture make playgrounds, such as sandboxes or recreation halls, only for small children saying, "Children cannot play outdoors and so we make playgrounds for them."

However, for some reason or other, the children of elementary, middle and high schools don't deserve such treatment.

They are told that it is "safe" and forced to play sports outdoors.

Why?

The children could be protected.

Why should they be deliberately exposed to radiation?

I feel strong indignation about the current situation in Fukushima.

I protested against the school, then against the school board.

But nothing has changed.

At last I thought,

"I cannot let my children go to school in Fukushima anymore."

So I decided to move to Yonezawa.

During April, milk produced in Iwate Prefecture was offered for school lunches.

In that case the school lunch milk was safe, I thought, and I didn't care much about it.

But a mother then told me that school lunch milk had changed to that of Fukushima starting in May.

I was very much shocked to hear that.

“Don't drink the milk offered during school lunch.”

I stopped my children drinking school lunch milk anyway, but I could only do that for my own children.

Why should I take this so seriously?

I learned from another mother about the radiation testing of milk produced in Fukushima.

She said that the radiation testing of milk produced in Fukushima had ended.

Undiluted milk had been tested so far, but now all milk was mixed up—including milk produced in Aizu [100km away from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, where the radiation dose is relatively low].

The school board had offered milk produced in Fukushima for school lunches, saying the test result was under the maximum safe dosage.

It is obviously ridiculous to do such a thing and I could no longer believe the government.

I just wanted my children to stop drinking milk offered during school lunches.

Therefore, I strictly advised them not to drink it.

I was anxious not only about the milk but also the main dishes of the school lunches, but I couldn't tell my children not to eat lunch.

My daughter had to take part in club activities in her middle school.

I wanted her to take a water flask to school.

But the school didn't permit students to bring water flasks:

“Don't bring water flasks. Drink tap water.”

Concerned about it, I contacted her teacher, but the teacher responded,

“Please tell the assistant principal about such matters.”

I was so disappointed.

“We can't believe in schools anymore. Schools are neither safe nor reliable anymore.”

Around May 8th, I found an article in a newspaper in Fukushima.

It reported that radioactive strontium had been detected on the grounds of the Fukushima Prefectural Government building.

This was the first time that radioactive strontium had been found in Fukushima.

There are many high schools in that area, so I made a phone call to a prefectural radiation counseling room and asked,

“I heard that radioactive strontium has been found around the Fukushima Prefectural Government building. Aren't those high school students doing club activities outdoors covered with mud? Do you think it's all right?”

The man who responded over the phone was not an official of the

Fukushima Prefecture Government.

He was from an organization related to atomic energy and answered, "Cesium was released. So it's no surprise that strontium has also been detected."

I protested,

"What kind of measures will you take if children get leukemia? You can't take responsibility, can you?"

Then he answered,

"Nuclear power plants have been built in accordance with national policy. Therefore, you too have a responsibility for this situation".

When I heard this, I realized that we have to say NO to what we are opposed to.

Otherwise, we are regarded as giving our approval to governmental policy.

Since then, I have kept saying,

"NO to nuclear power plants."

You should declare flatly that you are against nuclear power.

If you remain silent, then you are deemed an advocate of nuclear power plants.

This is the reason why I make active efforts to protest against nuclear power.

In other words, the fierce outburst of my anger at that moment was the beginning of my activism.

In June 2011, elementary schools and middle schools decided that they would not hold outdoor swimming classes.

It is not because swimming in the radiation-contaminated water is dangerous for children, but because,

"There are concerns that the water discharged by swimming pools may affect agricultural work."

However, high schools still maintained their policy even after mid-June, and continued to hold outdoor swimming classes.

"That can't be right."

I made phone calls of protest to the members of the prefectural assembly and the school board.

"Why should swimming outdoors be continued at this time? Four reactors have exploded and our place is only 60km from the wrecked nuclear power plant. Why on earth can you act like that? Are you serious?"

But they only insisted,

"High schools will hold outdoor swimming classes."

At this response I cried out,

"If you insist on swimming in the outdoor pool, OK, I recommend you yourself jump into the contaminated water."

I was so furious I slammed down the phone.

That is the feeling of parents.

But I couldn't talk with other parents about such things.

I felt that Fukushima was no longer normal.

I could manage to transfer my children out of Fukushima schools.

Normally, the reasons for transferring schools parents' job-related transfers or something like that.

But my reason was that I feared possible health risks to my children.

It was really very hard to transfer schools for such a reason.

Schools have ties to people in the community.

Children live with those ties and have relationships with people in the community.

I had to cut my children's ties with their friends.

I felt uneasy about it, though I did it all of my own will.

I didn't ask my husband.

I alone went to Yonezawa and chose an apartment to live in.

After having gotten everything ready, I asked my husband for his approval.

I am thankful to him that he acknowledged my decision.

But I was mentally exhausted from doing all this by myself.

I think it is much harder than you could ever imagine.

I can really relate to the feelings of people in Fukushima who cannot decide whether to evacuate their children or not.

But I still don't want children to be exposed to such a high level of radiation.

So I earnestly hope the country and Fukushima Prefecture take responsibility and evacuate them.

I think it really dangerous for children to live as usual in radiation-contaminated Fukushima, where the criterion of 20mSv/y is still applied.

I want all people outside Fukushima to know about it.

I want all of you to have a much better understanding of how

dangerous the daily situation is for the children in Fukushima.

And then I proceed to ask all of you as Japanese adults whether we should permit the children of Fukushima to continue their normal lives in the radiation-contaminated situation of 20mSv/y, which corresponds to the condition of workers at nuclear power plants.

If all of you accept this situation, I might have to give up.

But is this really what the majority of the country believes?

Would people take their children or grandchildren to Fukushima and allow them to live under those conditions?

I want to ask everyone this question.

It is said that Japan's education level is high and the standard of living is also maintained at a high level compared to that of other countries.

In spite of that, it seems that Japanese people care nothing about children living in Fukushima where the radiation dose level is similar to that of nuclear power workers.

The Japanese media reports on the Olympic bid every day—as if nothing is going on in Fukushima.

I feel strong resentment toward those Japanese people who get excited over Tokyo's Olympic bid.

It is about time that we found out by ourselves what we really want to know.

We should think, make decisions and act for ourselves.

This is an issue that not only the people of Fukushima, but all the people in our country must deal with.

Our Fukushima children will soon face the continuing threat of getting sick and going through various forms of treatment.

They are the contemporaries of your children or grandchildren.

Do you think you can stick your head in the sand and ignore this issue?

I don't think so.

You will surely get involved.

It's not too late now to save the Fukushima children.

Why should they be kept in such horrible conditions?

I feel awfully bad about it.

Now in Fukushima, children are exposed to radiation by the government almost intentionally.

I came here today to raise a cry—"Everyone, please do something."

Diet members are now noisily talking about the "declining birth rate problem".

Unless they take care of the children now living, it makes no sense to deal with the low birth rate.

They do nothing.

I've made many phone calls to them, but they do not take any action.

I feel quite disappointed with them.

The other reason I came here today is to exchange opinions with you on the issue of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic.

Last spring (2012), I had difficulty finding a hospital to examine my

children for thyroid abnormalities.

One of my mom friends told me a story.

Her children had nosebleeds, so she took them to hospital.

"Is this an effect of radiation?"

Then the doctor immediately responded,

"We cannot examine patients with thyroid abnormalities here. Please go to Fukushima Medical University Hospital (FMUH)."

Where should I take my children then?

I definitely didn't want to take them to the prefectural thyroid exams conducted officially at Fukushima Medical University Hospital.

So I struggled hard to find an adequate one.

I knew that it is almost impossible to find a reliable hospital independent of the authority of Fukushima Medical University Hospital on the Web because such a clinic would surely be exposed to severe propaganda.

Finally, I managed to find a fine hospital by word of mouth.

I took my two daughters to the hospital in June 2012.

I didn't seriously anticipate my daughters having thyroid abnormalities because they had already been evacuated on March 16, 2011—soon after March 11—and there would surely be less possibility of contamination.

With an expectation of good result, I took my daughters to the hospital.

"They're fine, no problem."

I just wanted to hear such words from the doctor.

But the result was that both of my daughters have 3mm cysts.

I was really shocked when I was told this result and was close to tears. But, in front of my two daughters, I didn't want to give them cause for anxiety. So I fought to hold back the tears. I pretty much blamed myself.

"I have done really a terrible thing to my children. If only I had had a good knowledge of nuclear power plants and radiation, I could have evacuated them much earlier."

We are not asking the government or the prefecture to properly conduct tests for thyroid abnormalities without reason. Radioactive iodine and cesium were actually released from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant. So, we are worrying about their harmful effects. We have due cause to be seriously concerned about our children. But the authorities say, "No need to conduct tests so much, there is no problem. If your child develops cancer, it is surely not the effect of radiation but that of a naturally occurring carcinogen."

Are you really sure? Can you really say it with certainty?

NHK(Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai, official English name: Japan Broadcasting Corporation.Japan's national public broadcasting organization) reported that a tremendous amount of radioactive iodine was released from the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. This fact indicates that the radiation could lead to negative health

effects on children. We have good reason to be worried, but the authorities keep on saying, "No problem." We are getting more and more uncomfortable. We can no longer believe Fukushima Medical University Hospital. It was just at that time I heard that the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic was to open in December.

The tests for thyroid abnormalities conducted by the prefectural government inform us of the results in four stages—A1, A2, B and C. We, the parents, can neither attend the testing of our children nor see their x-rays. Only a summary is sent to us—one or two months later. I received a result consisting of only a single line: "The result is A2. No need for the second test." A lot of parents raised serious concern about the results, so Fukushima Medical University reluctantly held a briefing session in November. A professor, Shin-ichi Suzuki, told us two things:

"In the case of the Chernobyl accident it took four-to-five years for children to develop thyroid cancer. Judging from this example, we can conclude that the thyroid cancer found in children this time is not the effect of radiation." "Thyroid cancers have a good prognosis. Patients have a high survival rate after five years."

Thyroid cancers have a good prognosis?

Are you serious?

Thyroid cancer is not a mild illness; it's a serious disease—cancer.

The Mayor of Matsumoto, a city in Nagano Prefecture, whom I visited last November for a speech, told me that in Chernobyl thyroid cancer spread to lung in one out of six or seven affected children.

We only want the government to take urgent action before it is too late. We only desire a proper test and immediate treatment.

Still, they keep on saying,

“All you need is to just have a surgery. Thyroid cancer is well known to have a good prognosis”.

How on earth can they say such a thing so flippantly?

It's not that easy for a child to have surgery.

Have you ever considered the feelings parents have about their children's bodies being cut by invasive surgery?

Children are not to blame for all of this, and neither are parents.

It is nuclear power plants that caused this tragedy.

Their radiation is threatening the lives of our children.

In spite of this, the authorities completely neglected to take preventive measures against these dangers.

Iodine was not distributed to our children.

What's more, they never released the vital and necessary information about the System for Prediction of Environmental Emergency Dose Information (SPEEDI)—at the critical juncture immediately after the nuclear disaster started, when we should have been evacuated.

Instead, we were just kept in the disaster area and left completely uninformed.

I feel indignant toward their disingenuousness.

Last month, the media reported that three children were diagnosed with thyroid cancer and that seven more were suspected to have the disease.

How many children need to fall victim before the government admits to the facts of the fatal effects of radiation?

We have absolutely no faith in what the government is saying.

If we leave the matter to Fukushima Medical University, the serious effects of radiation will be intentionally hidden—just like in Hiroshima at the time of the atomic bombing.

It will probably take a while before all people are aware of the fact that radiation is dangerous.

This would perhaps require many of us to fall victim to the disease.

Only then would the evacuation of children start.

I'm afraid that, up until then, nuclear power plants won't be stopped.

I am asking the doctors of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic to clarify the effects of radiation on the human body and warn of its danger.

I want all of the children of Fukushima to move to safer places.

The Fukushima Collaborative Clinic was opened in December last year (2012).

The clinics facilities are very neat.

The doctors and staff are all kind and considerate.

They are reliable enough to have our children treated by.
I take my children to the clinic to routinely test their thyroid abnormalities without anxiety.

However, to my surprise, willful bashing of our precious and reliable Fukushima Collaborative Clinic began soon after its opening.

At first, I didn't quite realize what was happening.

The reason for the bashing is that some of the founders of the clinic belong to Chukaku-ha [a left-wing political organization].

I received vicious messages from the mailing list of a group that I belong to:

"I don't recommend Fukushima Collaborative Clinic because Chukaku-ha is engaged in its operation. I am scared of Chukaku-ha."

I know enough about the founders of the clinic.

They devoted themselves and got over every difficulty to establish it.

I felt so frustrated and exasperated at this groundless bashing that I couldn't stop crying.

It was in the summer of 2012 that I got to know the founders of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic.

They were planning to hold a briefing session for the clinic and I was asked to take a role at the reception desk.

Since that time, I have participated in several of their meetings.

I was very much moved to hear the thoughts and attitude of the doctors and founders.

They are really concerned about Fukushima.

Their thoughts are one and the same with ours—"We have to do something to make a breakthrough in the situation."

Despite that, those who know nothing about these doctors and founders are making false accusations against the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic.

I grew quite uneasy:

"How can you take responsibility for the health of children if people in Fukushima begin to refuse to go to the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic because of your slander?"

Until that time, I didn't have any knowledge about Chukaku-ha.

Probably younger people do not understand why Chukaku-ha is openly denigrated.

I want to say to those who are now bashing the people of Chukaku-ha.

"Is this the current fact?"

I earnestly hope that those people not bring up the past and deny today's Chukaku-ha.

Those people who are bashing Chukaku-ha use provocative and defamatory words to criticize the members of Chukaku-ha so that people may feel scared and uncomfortable.

But the Chukaku-ha members I know are all fantastic people.

If such people had not been involved in the establishment of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic, the clinic could not have been opened so soon.

It could be said that the clinic would not have been possible without their outstanding contribution.

After March 11, people have been getting united behind the common cause of antinuclear protest.

It seems to me that the recent defamatory move is a part of the attempt to split us.

Actually, Fukushima is now under the threat of being disrupted.

But that is not the point.

We need to unite behind the goal of saving children.

In spite of that, some adults say, "We are scared" and refuse to be get involved.

I want to say to them,

"What are you scared of? Radiation is the most horrible and abominable thing!"

Now, among a large number of people in Fukushima, the aim and purpose are intentionally obscured and a split is being intentionally brought about.

I want to ask to those people who criticize the clinic,

"Are you going to establish another clinic for us? Could you bring reliable doctors to Fukushima and operate an effective clinic?"

I think it is pure cowardice to launch a fierce verbal attack without doing anything valuable.

We mothers think the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic is desperately needed for our children and I will continue to actively support it.

Even though hundreds of people criticize the clinic, I don't care.

They cannot carry out even a single test for thyroid abnormalities.

No matter how many words they use,
even a child they will never save,
I think.

I don't care what they say, but I consider every doctor of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic the most precious people, so I can never accept those who slander the doctors.

They should realize that what they are doing now is the same thing as telling us to take our children to that notorious Fukushima Medical University Hospital.

The mothers of Fukushima are now worn-out both physically and mentally, suffering from a complex situation.

Why should we have to use our energy for such a stupid thing?

I feel deeply angry with them.

The majority of the doctors in Fukushima are obediently listening to what the Fukushima Medical University says.

Some of the doctors have already run away from Fukushima in fear.

There are only a few doctors who are conscientiously ready to examine our children.

But they are afraid of being targeted and seldom reveal their names.

The doctors of the Fukushima Collaborate Clinic reveal their faces and names and openly confront the authority of Fukushima Medical University.

I want everyone to understand how precious these courageous doctors are for the mothers of Fukushima.

They find time to come to Fukushima every week even though they have their own work elsewhere.

A large number of people all over the country and all over the world kindly raised money for the clinic.

The founders and supporters have strived hard to establish the clinic

and are now taking responsibility for the operation of the clinic.
It is really disgraceful to say such rude things to those praiseworthy people.
I want to say face to face to the people criticizing the clinic,
“What on earth are you thinking?”

Fukushima is now in a situation akin to real war.
We have difficulty in putting into words what is on our minds.
We are all patient and are trying to act and to live normally in our daily lives.

Although the most important thing for the clinic is to save children, we suffer the verbal violence of unfounded accusation.
In Yonezawa, where I have evacuated my daughters, I also have difficulty in finding a doctor to consult for the effects of radiation.
The doctors in Yonezawa may not have enough knowledge of radiation.
It is also hard for me to speak about my anxiety in Yonezawa where I have evacuated to get my daughters away from radiation.
The doctors of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic take into consideration the effects of radiation when they examine children.
They are also trying to expand their medical practice to other doctors in Fukushima.
The movement of Fukushima Collaborative Clinic is an attempt at something truly meaningful.
In that sense also, it is important to keep our clinic from collapsing.
I consider that it is up to us to decide the real value of the Fukushima

Collaborative Clinic.
Whatever other people say, I work to defend the clinic.
As a mother, I am much more scared of Fukushima Medical University and the government than Chukaku-ha.
To criticize the clinic means to expose the lives of children to danger.
I want those people who attack our clinic to think seriously about it and stop making thoughtless remarks.

When the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant exploded and an incredible amount of radiation was released from the wrecked reactors, we were left alone in the affected areas, not having been informed of anything else.
Iodine was not distributed to us.
We were kept in danger, exposed to high doses of radiation.
What is more, many authorities came over to Fukushima saying, “100mSv per year is still safe”.
They continued to run their “safety” campaign.
The community became divided into people who think it “dangerous” and those who place priority on economics.

The last thing I want to mention is that nuclear power plants will never be stopped unless people are properly informed of the extreme danger of radiation leaks.

I want people living in Tokyo to know that their current lives are being made possible by the sacrifice of others.

There are workers engaged in radioactive work at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant under exposure to high doses of radiation.

A large number of children have been forced to remain in the high-dose region of Fukushima without the means of evacuation to safer places.

Your life is sustained at the sacrifice of those people.

Please think seriously about this matter as your own.

It's not simply an issue of electricity supply.

Even after the nuclear accident, the media reported that the government was planning to build a new nuclear power plant in Fukushima.

This is totally abhorrent to Fukushima people.

If the government really wants to operate nuclear power plants, I recommend building them in the Tokyo Bay Area.

Of course, I hope nuclear power plants will never be built again.

But we are only a small voice against that of the nuclear power industry.

I want Tokyoites to stand up in opposition to this menace.

To say it straight, without fear of being mistaken: it might be difficult for you, living in the Tokyo area, to realize the danger of radiation unless you put yourselves in the middle of such a helpless and disastrous situation.

Most nuclear power plants are now built in remote, sparsely populated regions.

"We are OK living in a safety place."

You may think so.

But radiation released from the wrecked nuclear reactors flies everywhere.

You will learn only later through your own experience that Tokyo was also not a safe place.

Please think of it as your own problem.

Please know the fact that the children of Fukushima are now exposed to high doses of radiation daily.

Let us rise up together against nuclear power plants.

Let us speak out in a loud voice, together, to demand the evacuation of children.

Thank you very much for listening.

(This speech was given by a female resident of Fukushima at the event "Learn About the Current Situation of Fukushima and an Approach to its Problems," which took place on the occasion of a special exhibition of "Akira Tsuboi—MUSHUBUTSU" at the Maruki Gallery for Hiroshima Panels on March 17, 2013. Considering the importance of the contents of her speech, we provide them with only a minimum of editing.)



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Maruki gallery, Sachiko Murakawa, Tim Maloney and more...

Fukushima Collaborative Clinic located in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture, runs on funds donated by Fukushima citizens. After March 11, most doctors in Fukushima followed the order from Fukushima Medical Association and denied patients exams and treatments related to radiation sickness. In face of this adversity, having learned from the experience of Hiroshima A-bomb victims' independent efforts, the Fukushima citizens, who wished to have a reliable medical facility, decided to set up Fukushima Collaborative Clinic by themselves. From the opening days and still now, the clinic is consistently calling for the cooperation of doctors in Fukushima, but it seems to be hard for them to openly work cooperatively. Under these circumstances, the clinic is currently supported by the doctors voluntarily coming from all over the country outside Fukushima to examine patients. The doctors of the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic are now also striving to carry out their tasks in the intense situation and also trying to facilitate for the doctors in Fukushima to provide necessary standard medical care for Fukushima people.

Part of the sales of this book is contributed to
Fukushima Collaborative Clinic.

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