

If you notice any mistakes in translation or grammar, please kindly point them out in the replies

Random facts:

- SOOOO was worried that overseas fans couldn't understand his speech but hoped that automatic captions would help ;w;
- He's always grateful for both overseas and Japanese fans and thanks them all for their interest in his music, kind words, and theories. Some fans say his songs saved them and encouraged them to do their best, but their words also support him, and he couldn't have achieved what he's achieved without his fans
- He wants to learn English
- Usually, SOOOO starts writing a new song from the lyrics
- SOOOO doesn't like horror or scary things, which might be surprising
- The name of the main character from nihil hill is Hiru/Hiru-kun (the Japanese pronunciation of "hill"). That was half-joking, though!
- SOOOO's never heard of creepypasta, but now he knows what it is
- As of now, you can't find SOOOO's songs at karaoke in Japan (T/N: but if you travel there and go to karaoke, I think you can fill in a form near the reception so the karaoke company will consider adding his songs to the list~)
- SOOOO isn't good at singing but enjoys going to karaoke
- SOOOO spoke about how comments from fans make him feel seen and less alone in his experience. Though he believes no one is able to completely relate to him, he notices that a lot of people sympathize with the song
- He's planning on releasing a new album, which will include songs starting with Happppy song. There will be about 4-6 more songs after nihil hill (he's still thinking about the exact number)
- The next song will be about "pleasure" (T/N: from 喜怒哀楽, see below in Lyrics). SOOOO warns us that his understanding of pleasure might be different from ours, so we shouldn't get our hopes up too much, lol
- SOOOO uses *very* polite language when speaking to people in real life! I honestly thought that he spoke this way only to his fans, but he confirmed that that's his usual manner of speech, which for me was a little bit surprising. There are quite a few levels of politeness in Japanese, and all of them have different grammatical and lexical structures. If I could rate SOOOO's politeness on a scale from 0 to 6, I'd probably give it a 4

About illloved:

- After releasing a new song, SOOOO usually speaks about it on his Twitcast channel, but he didn't do so for illloved. It's not because he didn't have anything to say at that time, but because he felt it was better not to create any strict rules for how to interpret the song. Many people shared their thoughts and feelings about illloved, and all of them are valid. That's why SOOOO, even though he wrote the song based on his own experience, didn't want to disregard any of the fans' ideas and interpretations
- In illloved's lyrics, there're numerous patterns: one song contains many different, self-contradictory emotions. SOOOO believes that being a person means to live with a lot for contradictory feelings in your heart, and he wanted to convey it through illloved
- illloved took SOOOO the longest to create, as the feelings and experience that he put into this song were the most painful/traumatic
- About 5% of the sounds are made using SOOOO's own voice

About nihil hill:

Lyrics:

- In Japanese, there's a four-character phrase 喜怒哀楽, which roughly translates as happiness-anger-sorrow-pleasure (aka four basic human emotions). If I understood SOOOO correctly, while in illloved he expressed all the different parts of 喜怒哀楽, in nihil hill he concentrated on the second part only — anger/rage
- There are a lot of first-person pronouns in Japanese. While usually, in both real life and his music, SOOOO uses "boku" (a more humble way to refer to oneself), in nihil hill he decided to use "ore," which makes phrases sound more rough and assertive
- Though SOOOO doesn't always stick to one pronoun, sometimes he switches between "ore" and "boku!" "Ore" is easier to pronounce, but "boku" is just more preferable for him
- The protagonist says quite a few harsh words like "I'll kill you" or "go die," but, as you might have noticed, they're directed at no one but himself. SOOOO doesn't want to use such strong words towards other people; he finds them cruel. However, it's easier for him to use them towards himself 😊
- SOOOO struggled for a long time with English lyrics, as not all the phrases sounded natural or grammatically correct (e.g., "I will end up rotting you")
- As for the title of the song, he chose it for its straightforwardness and simplicity, as well as for the spelling similarity between "nihil" and "hill"
- "Nihil hill" doesn't particularly mean "a hill of nothingness/emptiness." In the lyrics, there is a line about a sunlit hill, which you could interpret as a physical place, but another interpretation is "a peak," "the ultimate knowledge of nothingness," "the end result of pursuing nothingness," and so on
- There are a lot of really strong words used, but SOOOO thinks they can be interpreted as the protagonist being scared — the flip side of his fear
- Speaking about the part "I WANT, I WANT, I WANT TO TOUCH YOU": usually, you would interpret this part in a positive, light way, like "I want to hold you," but SOOOO wanted to make it sound more vivid and gruesome to evoke a sense of rejection. Every person radiates warmth, and when we touch them, we feel that there is someone next to us — someone alive and warm. This is the meaning of the verb "to touch." It doesn't need to be sexual; this need to touch another human being may be romantic, sexual, or simply born from pure love for the other person
- There are probably many different forms of love in the world. One way to express love is by wanting to touch someone. Although the main character desires this, he can't be accepted, so in the end, he ends up hurting people and being rejected
- This song itself isn't about love, but rather about the depth of the gap between you and the people around you, how you can never be accepted by others. It's about how you instinctively want to connect with the world but deem yourself unworthy and fail
- There are a few parts where you can hear SOOOO's own singing (ex. "GO FxxK MYSELF INTO NOTHING")

Music:

- For this song, SOOOO bought a guitar sound source, but since he wasn't used to it, it was very difficult for him to work with (it took him about 1/3 of the entire production time to get used to it)
- I'm sorry, I can't translate everything SOOOO said about the music production process, as I don't fully understand the topic, but to summarize, he mentioned that in music, he's always

preferred more intense live band sounds like hard rock or metal. However, it was his first time applying these types of instruments and sounds to his own song. He wanted to create a very fast, straightforward sound with lyrics that flow with the music and don't demand all of our attention. His goal was to make it as emotionally charged as possible

- The genre of nihil hill could be called black metal, though SOOOO hesitates to label it that way. From his point of view, his song lacks the contextual or historical background typically associated with this genre
- As always, he mixed in noise, industrial, J-pop, and a variety of other elements
- SOOOO thinks the sound that resonates the most with people is a human scream or just a human voice in general, which is why he uses his own voice in his songs to express strong emotions (you can try finding these parts in nihil hill!)

MV:

- SOOOO always wants to create music that doesn't lose to the MV, and an MV that doesn't lose to the music (T/N: so they match each other in their coolness, haha)
- Initially, SOOOO wanted to use his selfies with weird faces, edit, and combine them into one video, but it didn't go well with Len's voice
- In the end, he decided to create something between two-dimensional and three-dimensional videos: he added three-dimensional vividness to the 2D illustration. fracoco (the illustrator) did a wonderful job drawing an unsettling illustration of the human-like character, to which SOOOO attached his own soul. If you're familiar with Vtubers, SOOOO used a similar software that tracks his movements through the camera to make the character move. The body movements, the mouth movements — all of those are his own
- Hiru-kun is a semi-human entity: something between a human and a skeleton, a doll and a zombie, a person under a mask. There are eyes inside his eye sockets, so it's like another soul is residing inside the skeleton. As his eyes are visible to the public during the chorus, it feels as though the person gains his will and is full of emotions
- SOOOO didn't intend to make the MV horror-like; it just happened to look that way when he adjusted it to fit the lyrics
- This MV isn't based on any horror movie or anything like that

Question/Comment 1: Do you think many people relate to this song?

Answer 1: I don't think so? For me, it's the same with every other song. I don't write songs with the goal of making people understand them or relate to them in a particular way. I believe people can't fully comprehend each other's feelings because we all live different lives. I created nihil hill based on my own experience, but you can interpret it from your own perspective and relate it to your life. I'm always grateful for the different thoughts and comments I receive under the video.

Question/Comment 2: If I could read other people's minds, I think I wouldn't have had to live a life full of regrets.

Answer 2: Human relationships are difficult, aren't they? But what about the other way around? If you could read other people's minds, wouldn't you have been hurt even more? When other people's feelings enter you, isn't it a huge amount of information? Just managing your own feelings can make your head feel heavy, but if other people's feelings enter you, can you withstand that weight? I've wondered if my brain, mind, heart, or anything like that could withstand it. I really want to read other people's minds, but I feel like there are a lot of things I would regret knowing.

Question/Comment 3: Was there any inspiration behind the illustrations in the MV?

Answer 3: I originally wanted to do it in 3D, which means I wanted to project my face in full view and edit it, so maybe the original inspiration was 3D (T/N: real life?) images. I think there were probably a lot of close-ups of faces in the MVs of my favorite artists, and in movies I've seen in the past. It's possible that I got the idea from there. If you think of the front of your screen as a TV screen, it's like Hiru-kun desperately pressing his face against it. It's not really an inspiration, but let's say there's someone who's been arrested for some kind of crime, and there's a visiting room with a glass separating two rooms. In that kind of place, the criminal is pressing his face against the glass and is angry about something. You can't tell what he's saying through the glass, and his words may never reach you, but it's like he's desperately trying to plead for something. I wanted to express something like that, and it turned out like this.

Question/Comment 4: Is the story in nihil hill about being bullied?

Answer 4: There are some parts that can be interpreted that way, but overall, the story isn't about bullying. How should I put it? I live my life being aware of my disconnection from other people, so the image of "me versus people" naturally comes to mind. I can't help it. For me, it's expected that there may be someone who is hostile/hateful towards me, so, even if I didn't intend to portray a character being bullied, it's not strange that nihil hill could be seen that way. However, the song itself is about my feelings [of disconnection].

Question/Comment 5: Is there anything you would warn listeners about nihil hill? Or something you would want them to know about the song?

Answer 5: I've received quite a few comments from people saying that they are scared of the MV, that the thumbnail is scary, and they can't listen to the song, so I would be happy if you could just close your eyes and listen to the music itself. There are things in this world that you really don't need to force yourself to look at, and there are times when it's okay to run away, so yes, in this MV, if you think the thumbnail is scary, or the visual depiction is scary, it is perfectly fine to close your eyes and just leave everything to the music.

Question/Comment 6: The way you use your voice reminds me of Mariah Carey. I can't understand how you do it.

Answer: I'm not sure that I can be compared to someone as amazing as Mariah Carey, but yes, she is incredible, isn't she? For example, in the song where she uses a whistle voice — what was it called, "Emotions"? — her technique was extraordinary.

I'd like to expand the range of my voice a little bit more and hopefully use it during live concerts somewhere in the future, though my throat gets dry super fast.

Question/Comment 7: (Speaking about SOOOO's own voice in his songs and karaoke) I think SOOOO's screams are overwhelmingly more difficult than Len's singing.

Answer: Are you trying to imitate my voice? You don't have to. (laughing)

Question/Comment 8: I want to sing nihil hill, but I don't think I can handle it.

Answer: Eh? I'm not sure if I can sing it either... The fast-paced parts are surprisingly difficult, like the repeated part "I WANT, I WANT, I WANT TO TOUCH YOU." I think it's better to focus on expressing your emotions rather than singing the song perfectly, so you don't have to carefully pronounce every word.

SOOOO: I've never been able to say tongue twisters

Also SOOOO: *instantly proceeds to say a tongue twister* I did it! Woah, I did it now!

(laughing)