

Chihayafuru 235 Translation

Pg 1

Yukie: Thank you for helping me out, Hisashi
Here, this is the biggest one from today

Pg 2

Shinobu: What? What is this pain....

Pg 3

Inishi is read, Chihaya takes it.

Pg 4

Crowd: Woahhh

Kuzuryuu, teary.

Some guy: What's wrong, Kuzuryuu-san?

Kuzuryuu: Is Yamashiro-san really going to quit being a reader after today?
Was that really her last 'Inishi e'?

Rando: Eh?

Carmel note: Here's the translation for Inishi e (Poem 61)

*Eight-fold cherry flowers
That at Nara--ancient seat
Of our state--have bloomed,*

*In our nine-fold palace court
Shed their sweet perfume today.*

Kuzuryuu, thinking: 'Ini' is a poem written by Ise no Taifu
Murasaki Shikibu was supposed to be the one to accept the eight-petaled sakura
that were being presented from Nara.

Murasaki Shikibu, to Ise no Taifu: You go try~

Murasaki Shikibu yielded the honour to Ise no Taifu
And that's how this poem was born.

From 100poems wordpress:

Lady Ise no Tayū, was another lady in waiting for Empress Shoshi, as was Lady Murasaki (poem 57) and Lady Izumi (poem 56), but was the newbie apparently.

According to Lady Ise no Tayū's own diary, she had to present a poem on the fly to the Bishop from the ancient capital of Nara and its Buddhist institutions, who had brought a lovely eight-petaled cherry blossom as a gift. Empress Shoshi's father, Fujiwara no Michinaga, had asked Lady Murasaki to do it, but she deferred to Lady Ise no Tayū because she was new.

Pg. 5

Kuzuryuu, thinking: To me
Suou, thinking: To me

Kuzuryuu or Suou? teary: 'Inishi e' is Yamashiro-san's poem
Who will she yield it to, I wonder?

The connotation for verb for 'yield' here isn't so much 'pass down' as it is, 'to let have', to give up (something that belongs to you). Really emphasizes Yamashiro's ownership.

Young Yamashiro flashback: For me, it's the sakura. It's only when I'm walking under the blooming sakura that I can truly breathe

Suou, thoughts: The '4-3-1-5' seconds that a poem is read in competitive karuta
Kyoko-tan is the only one who can heighten those seconds from a 'time', to a 'moment'.

Carmel's note: This line is a translator's nightmare, RIP! Here, Suou uses the two Japanese words for time, 'jikan' and 'toki'. Jikan is more concretely 'time', used in 'what time is it', 'do you have time' and 'toki' has more of a wider usage, and could mean occasion, moment, the times, the age, kinda dealio.

Pg. 6

Koi is read, Arata takes it.

Pg. 7

Sudo: What a quick lunge!

Shun: He covered it on 'Ko'!

Umpire: Without hesitating, he lunged into the Meijin's trajectory

Old people watching: To do that against the Meijin, who's good at all of the 'Ko' cards

Murao/Kuriyama: Even though 'Kore' is still on his territory
He's sending 'Kiri'

Pg 8

Tago is read, Arata takes it

Pg 9

Momo: Wow, so rough. **Alternatively, violent, fierce.** That's a surprise.
Wataya-san's karuta was like this?

Sudo, thinking: He's faster than before, he's moving like he's fully committed to go into the opponent's territory

The number of cards on Suou-san's side has decreased, and the flow of movement isn't as cramped

Using one card as an axis, he can move in three directions to anticipate.

He's sending...

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Arata sends Chiha, Taichi is shocked.

Pg 11

Arata exhales. #tension

Pg 12

Shun: Arata nii-chan never sends Chiha unless it's an exceptional circumstance
Like if there's a big gap in ability, or in the end game when he doesn't have a card to send...

He's trying to do a different kind of take... a different kind of attack
Even for Arata nii-chan, as fast as he is
Suou-meijin is the kind of opponent who he can't win against if he plays as he always does.

[January 1st, at a practice session at Arata niichan's house.]

Someone: What????

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Arata's karuta club kiddoes: Are you serious, Arata niichan? I've never heard of that kind of practice method!!

Arata: Sorry, I just wanted to try it out.

The reader girl draws a card, the boy next to her holds up a sign to Shun to show that 'Me' is about to be read.

Me is read, Shun takes it.

Arata: Ahhh

Shun: Well, of course you can't take it. Since I already know what card is going to be read
- There's no way...

Arata: No, let me keep trying

Pg 14

Shun, thinking: Me, who gets told what is going to be read, against Arata nii-chan who has no idea...

There's no way I'm gonna lose like this

Arata's father, bringing some snacks in: Here's some tea~ Though I really don't get why you're playing karuta right from New Year's Day...

Arata looks at his grandfather's portrait.

Kid holds up a sign that says Ho is going to be read.

Pg 15

Arata takes Ho.

Shun, thinking: But I still lost about half of the cards with short deciding syllables
To think that I couldn't take them even after being told
This kind of practice method is too crazy !!
My confidence is crumbling!!!

Arata proceeds to make the cutest lil pleading gesture to keep playing.

Shun: This is -

Pg 16, 17

Shun, continued: Wataya Arata's super-acceleration!

Arata takes Ho.

Pg 18

And the crowd goes wild Waaaaaa

Pg 19

Arata's club kids: There it is! Finally!

Umpire: He's showing that his approach is to attack the Meijin's territory
Sending two-syllable cards like 'Kiri' and 'Chiha' that the Meijin is particularly
conscious of
And on top of that, making sure to protect the one-syllable cards in his territory
With that super acceleration to the outer edges of his lower left

Club kids: There's no way anyone could get those!!

Shun thinking: Well, of course not. Even knowing what it's gonna be, you can't take it

Pg 20

Shun thinking: Because he's got his attack back, his defense is even more effective.
Murao/Kuriyama: He got three cards in a row and now the difference is only one card.
The flow of the game is changing.

Suou, thinking: So this is your karuta

Pg 21

Suou: Well, I thought it might be

Suou: There are about 100 things that I love about Kyoko-tan
But if I were to say what my favourite thing about her is

Suou, speaking in a flashback: Yamashiro-san, how is your reading so captivating?

Yamashiro, looking shocked: Ah..um... thank you...

Suou: You won the Queen title 8 times, and your strength is legendary
On top of that, being respected by everyone for setting the standard for reading...

Yamashiro: Uhm...

Pg 22

Yamashiro: I don't know about captivating but

Suou: It is captivating!

Yamashiro: I do have something that I endeavour to do
It's something quite simple but

Yamashiro: It's that I always record my own readings and listen to them

Yamashiro: Have you ever done it?

Your own recorded voice sounded different to what you thought your voice would be, doesn't it? You think, 'Was this how I sounded?'

It sounds very strange to your ears, doesn't it

Yamashiro: I had thought the voice resonating in my own ears was a nice one, but I was utterly mistaken.

I realized that that's not how it sounds to the people who listen to it.

Pg 23

Yamashiro: I wanted to lessen that discrepancy of my awareness as much as I could
So every month, I record myself reading and listen to it.

Suou: Every month?

Yamashiro: Even when I was a player, I was the type to watch videos of my games and reflect on them.

It's an extension of that.

Yamashiro: It's really quite simple.

Suou, thinking: That's the part that I love the most about her
And also the part that I thought was scariest.

Yamashiro reads Mu.

Pg 24

Suou takes it

Pg 25

Commentator:

Audience: Huh? Which took it just now?

I have no idea
It was way too fast....

Commentator: Which one took it...? We'll pull up the slow motion

Commentator: Ahh, incredible. It's by a slim margin but
Suou-meijin got there faster. And then in that moment, Wataya-san's hand hit Suou-Meijin's.

Challenger Wataya took Ho, and Suou-meijin took Mu. What incredible speed both players are displaying!

Pg 26

Suou, thinking: So what if you can sometimes take it faster
One card is one card

Yamashiro reads 'Mikano'

Suou, thinking: Aim for speed as much as you want
In the end, thinking like that is foolish

Pg 27

Chigiri ki is read.

Shun: A dead card. The Meijin covered 'Chiha' (it was clumsy though)

Sudo: ? Wataya didn't even move.

Arata exhales.

Asaborake u is read, Arata takes it

Pg 28

Murao: Good! He managed to make the Meijin visualize that he was going to sweep both 'Asabo' and 'Ashi'

Kuriyama: One card at a time, Arata-kun

Suou notices Taichi in the corner.

Pg 29

Suou, thinking: I want to be respected
I want them to think, 'How strong', and 'Oh, just as you would expect'

For the two of us who can't do anything else
Competitive karuta is our lifeline

Pg 30

Suou: Kyoko-tan's beautiful reading is
A conversation between your own self. A conversation with the cards.

Pg 31

Suou: It's not 'one card at a time'
It's a conversation with the destiny of the 100 poets

Suou: No matter how strong you and I might be

Pg 32

Suou: The truth is neither of us are really facing it head-on
Not karuta,
Or ourselves.

Pg 33

Male commentator: Now, the Meijin match has entered the final stages
The Meijin was one card. Challenger Wataya has three. No one knows what the outcome will be just yet.

Other commentator: What should we pay attention to here?

Commentator: For Wataya-kun, it's that he must absolutely get the Chiha card from the Meijin's territory.

For both players, they will no doubt go for 'Chiha' 'Momo' and 'Michi' on the first syllable. 'Ai' still cannot be taken on the first syllable so they have to be careful there...

Suou: I get it. I don't want to face myself either.
After all, I'm empty

Close up of the 'Ai mite' card by Arata's lower right.

Yukiko, in a flashback: Do you remember, Hisashi? When you were over at my house, there were so many times you would be up and wander around in the middle of the night.

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Yukiko: I didn't have any stories I could tell you. But I remembered the Hyakunin Isshu that I was taught at school.

Yukiko recites 'Ai mite'.

*I have met my love.
When I compare this present
With feelings of the past,*

*My passion is now as if
I have never loved before*

Damn Ai mite is fire. Can't believe I never rly paid attention to it before!

Suou remembering Yukiko reciting Aki no tano and Akenureba

Suou: That was definitely a lie.

Suou, thinking: There's no way you could memorize all one hundred poems like that. It was probably only a few of the 'A' poems, wasn't it?
You were definitely taught in the standard gojuon order...

Similar to English's alphabetical order, Japan also has a common order for organizing words, except instead of ABC, it goes a i u e o, then ka ki ku ke ko, etc. That means, rather than ordering the poems by their number in the Hyakunin Isshu, they were taught to her in that 'alphabetical' order. Ai mite would be the very first one in that order.

Suou: You probably just kept repeating those few ones to me, didn't you?

Yukiko: Oh dear, you figured it out? ^^

Close up of Ai mite again.

Suou: My favourite poem

Pg 35/36

The very first sound / that flowed into my emptiness

Yamashiro: A - i -

Suou takes it.

Suou: Between light or darkness

Pg 36

If I had to choose one to fill up my heart
I really do want to be light.

Even I -

'Even someone like me'. The Japanese really emphasizes how little Suou thinks of himself.

Flashback: Thank you Hisashi, thank you

Pg 37

Tomato cradled in Suou's hands.

I want to stay as the hope of the person precious to me.

I want to stay as the Meijin.

Tomato turns into the Ai mite card.

End of Chapter 235

HELP I'M CRYINGGG!!! CARMELA IS DECEASEDD.

