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Review on "One Snowy Night" story by Osamu Dazai from "Run, Melos and other stories"

I have read this story and it touched me immediately. There is something unique about Japanese literature - it doesn't need a clear action or dynamic events, but anyway leaves a long-lasting impression and lingering feeling in the heart which stays with you days after you've read the book.

It was the same case with this short story - the very simple plot of young girl going back home to her brother and his wife. She remembers the story her brother once told her that eyes can store the beautiful things you see. And she comes with idea of imprinting the beautiful sight of snowing night on her retinas, then come home and show it to brother's pregnant wife through her eyes so her baby is beautiful too.

I personally encountered such an entertaining thought for the first time and felt that author has really deep imagination and inner world (considering I was familiar with Osamu Dazai only through his most famous work No Longer Human which is pretty depressive and self-reflective, I was pretty surprised to read another perspective from him).

Even though the idea of preserving the landscape in your eyes looks unreal both to a heroine and us, it has a nice romantic meaning. If not literally by looking into other eyes, but by telling about our beautiful exciting experience we all are able to pass it to other people. I think it also shows the meaning and purpose of writer's job - I was able to see the girl, her family and dark Tokyo streets with fluffy snowflakes falling down thanks to vivid descriptions and small details in the text. So it seems it might be very possible that the things we look at remains in our eyes (memory, for sure) and we can pass this beauty to others, though not the literal way but from heart to heart.

It is short, simple but a powerful story and message author tried to pass to us. I was really moved by the story of one snowy night.

Thank you for giving us a chance to visit Embassy's Library and to get more familiar with Japanese literature!

ありがとうございます。
どうぞよろしくおねがいします。

Best regards,
Polina