

## A Brief Analysis of Ryunosuke Wasagawa's World-Weary Thoughts

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**Abstract:** "Kappa", as a late work of Ryunosuke Wasagawa, contains the strong feelings of Ryunosuke Wasagawa's criticism of society, Sukekawa depicts a bizarre and fantasy Kappa country world, using the art of mapping, showing the darkness of Japanese society and the ugly side of society, this article analyzes the world-weary thoughts contained in the story through the storyline in the novel "Kappa" and the main characters in the story.

**Keywords:** Ryunosuke Wasagawa; Kappa Misanthropy

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### 1. Introduction

"Kappa", as a late work of Ryunosuke Wasagawa, contains the strong feelings of Ryunosuke Wasagawa's criticism of society, Sukekawa depicts a bizarre and fantasy Kappa country world, using the art of mapping, showing the darkness of Japanese society and the ugly side of society, this article analyzes the world-weary thoughts contained in the story through the storyline in the novel "Kappa" and the main characters in the story. Combined with the background of Ryunosuke Wasagawa, analyze the novel "Kappa" to explore Ryunosuke Wasagawa's dislike of humans, society, and himself, that is, world-weary thinking. In her essay "Ryunosuke Wasagawa and His Late Work Kappa" (Japanese Studies, No. 1, 1999), scholar Yu Liping analyzed Ryunosuke Wasagawa's thoughts, arguing that Ryunosuke Wasagawa was a desperate misogynist who had an aversion to society and himself, and it was this disgust profile that led to his suicide. Tong Xiangmin's "Desperate Posthumous Work: Reading Ryunosuke Wasagawa's Kappa" (Journal of Yanbei Normal University, No. 1, 1999) illustrates the artistic techniques, symbolism, innuendo, and black humor of Kappa. In the essay "Research on the Supremacy of Art and Human Nature: Centered on Ryunosuke Wasagawa's 'Hell Changes'", he explains the contradiction between human thought and human nature in Ryunosuke Wasagawa's heart, which leads Wasagawa to fall into a mental dilemma.

### 2. The life of Ryunosuke Wasagawa and his influence on Ryunosuke Wasagawa's thoughts

Born in Tokyo, Ryunosuke Wasagawa was born in Shinhara, eight months after birth, his mother became insane, so he was sent to the Wasagawa family as an adopted son, with excellent grades as a student, showed literary talent at an early age, loved literature, and was exposed to magical novels such as "Journey to the West" in the East in elementary school, which also laid the foundation for "Kappa", a fictional allegorical novel, in which the image of the sand monk is similar to that of Kappa, and may also be the inspiration for Kappa's novel. Ryunosuke Wasagawa has been trapped in the shadow of his mother's mental disorder all his life, and he has also been trapped in the fear that one day he will be as abnormal as his mother, so due to the defect of his own genes, he has developed his own disgust emotions, and the various unbearable status quos of society have spawned the emotions that Ryunosuke Wasagawa confides in, so "Kappa", a novel that reveals ugly society, vents anger in the heart, and expresses his misanthropy. He committed suicide four months after Kappa's creation. Kappa can be said to be Ryunosuke Wasagawa's last work, in this work it seems to vent his dissatisfaction with society, and it is created by the author under self-doubt, despair, and contradiction. There has been a depressing, depressive atmosphere throughout the article.

### **3. Analyze Ryunosuke Wasagawa's world-weary thoughts from the structure of the novel**

#### **3.1 In the form of animal fiction, critique of society**

Animal fiction is an art form widely used by writers, and is the main means for writers to satirize society and reveal the dark side, mainly using animals as the depiction object, through the anthropomorphization of animals, or through the artistic technique of innuendo from the perspective of animals to simulate, show human life and society. Animal novels were born in Europe in the nineteenth century, an era of rapid development of productivity and industrial technology, in this revolution, human nature was gradually exposed under the impetus of material desires, gradually lost its morality as a human being in the face of interests, and the conflict between man and nature was rising, so with the help of animal forms can temporarily withdraw from itself, vividly show contradictions from a third perspective, and better criticize human society. The novel "Kappa" takes the two characters of Madman and Kappa as the protagonists of the story, promoting the development of the story, these two characters are like the collision of humans and animals, and directly express the madman's mood changes in such a Kappa country from the perspective of God, contradictions, incomprehension and angry feelings intertwined, and finally end in a very ironic form. Successfully expressing oneself from the perspective of animal fiction and expressing one's own misanthropy is also the function of animal fiction. Scholar Fang Haiyan Qian Wenwen mentioned in "Dystopian Colors in Ryunosuke Wasagawa Kappa" that the main purpose of animal fiction is the criticism of power bullying and the idea of harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

#### **3.2 Compared to other animals, kappa is used to depict world-weary thoughts**

As a fictional animal image, Kappa brings together many elements, and the legend describes it as "a combination of many animals, with the beak of a bird, the limbs of a frog, the body of a monkey, and the shell of a turtle." In the novel, it is depicted as "with a mad face, the body can be assimilated with the color of the surrounding things, the whole body is smooth and difficult to capture, and there is an oval disc with recess on the top of the head, which changes its hardness with age." The author has not done much detail, he has brought the image of Kappa as close as possible to humans, which can be said to be the "incarnation" of human beings. In Japanese legend, Kappa is also brutal and feeds on humans, which should be the reason why Ryunosuke Wasagawa chose Kappa as the main character, Kappa's mad face reflects human desire, and Kappa Country exaggerates and replicates Japan's ugly society.

#### **3.3 World-weary ideas in dystopian artistic techniques**

The idea of dystopia is also clearly reflected in "Kappa", "Dystopian Colors in Ryunosuke Wasagawa" mentions that "Kappa" is Ryunosuke Wasagawa's dystopian masterpiece, Chen Yubing mentioned in "Research on Dystopian Human Nature" that dystopian can also help us better understand the author's creative intentions and the complex emotions contained in it to a certain extent.

Utopia is a Datong society depicted by human beings, everything tends to be idealized, but in a country like Kappa, it is a completely extreme, dystopian image, which has incomprehensible and unacceptable bad habits, is a factory-like society, working under the oppression of capital, losing value and re-participating in the cycle of this society in the form of food, in order to eliminate the defects in Kappa, under the slogan of eliminating "bad genetic factors", a fixed matching type of reproduction. Under such a heavy pressure in Japan at that time, society was also reduced to a factory, and the proletariat became the object of oppression in the face of interests, living in this huge factory, human beings lost their own power, it is this oppressive, ugly social situation, as one of the important factors, formed Ryunosuke Wasagawa's dislike of society, in the novel "Kappa" reveals Ryunosuke Wasagawa's world-weary thoughts.

### **4. "World-weary" in the content of the novel**

#### **4.1 The subtle characters of all classes appearing in the novel, and their respective meanings**

##### **4.1.1 "Madmen" in psychiatric hospitals**

Ding Shuo's investigation of Ryunosuke Wasagawa's "Kappa"—focuses on creative techniques and expression consciousness,

and mentions that the appearance of characters in the novel is the objectification of the self step by step. Sukekawa writes the novel from the first perspective of a madman, and the role of a madman also runs throughout the novel, and can be said to be the central character of the novel, traveling through Kappa Country from his self-narrated perspective. The madman criticizes the abnormal customs and ideas in the Kappa country with his own human concepts, but it is difficult to influence the entire society with the power of one person, and after witnessing the horrific events in the Kappa country again and again, he is constrained and stimulated by his own morality, and it is difficult to endure such an inhuman world, and finally returns to the human world, but the pressure and darkness brought by human society are even more unbearable and cannot be accepted by society, Kappa Country is like a brighter world than the real world, and finally he is sent to a mental hospital as a "madman" on the way back to Kappa Country.

Madman is a very contradictory existence, in the story, with "patient No. 23 of a mental hospital" as the beginning, indicating the identity of the madman as a psychopath, but in the subsequent narrative, the madman can describe his experience very clearly, and in each experience, there is his own correct opinion in line with normal people, so the madman is not "crazy", he is clear, the ugliness in the kappa society can boldly express his ideas, and the real numbness is the kappa in society.

To a certain extent, the madman is the embodiment of Ryunosuke Wasagawa's thoughts, and the late Ryunosuke Wasagawa has suffered from mental weakness, and the torment of various physical diseases has been like a madman, at this time, Ryunosuke Wasagawa has been deeply trapped in his own ideological dilemma, the despair of darkness in society, the fear of his own illness, and the helplessness brought about by his own sense of powerlessness. Finally, misanthropy is shown in the work "Kappa", which deeply satirizes the dark society.

## **4.1.2 The image of the poet in the novel and his vision of art and his disgust with himself**

There is a kappa named Tork in the novel, he advocates art, correspondingly, the novel appears "Superman Club", Superman as a new term in the field of art appears, the novel is explained that "the artist must be a superman beyond good and evil" and "art for art's sake", so that the concept of art supremacy is also the idea of Ryunosuke Wasagawa, he longs to be able to eliminate good and evil like "Superman", to be able to be an independent, existence, able to get rid of the shackles of worldly trivia. However, as a human being, such thinking has a contradiction with human nature, and this conflicting relationship also promotes Jiechuan's dislike of human nature and self.

## **4.2 Perverse habits in Kappa Country**

### **4.2.1 The world-weary feelings in Ryunosuke Wasagawa's heart**

Reflected in the elimination of bad genes and fertility in "Kappa". There is a genetic call to the Volunteer Corps in Kappa, which aims to call on Kappa with excellent genes to combine with Kappa with inferior genes, so as to achieve the purpose of eliminating bad genes and achieving a kind of social excellence. "Go to the unhealthy male and female contract to get married", with such a slogan to call on Kappa, Sukekawa in it vented his feudal dislike of social love thought, in Japanese society at that time, love thought is bound, people of different classes can not cross classes to love each other, Sukekawa's first love is a rare talented woman named Yoshida Yayoi, but the birth is mediocre, and Sukekawa is a famous scholarly family, because of the difference in social status, Sukekawa had to give up his love for Yayoi, such love and unbearable grief has been haunting Sukekawa, He was so deeply sad that the rest of his works were generally gray. In this novel, the catharsis of self-dissatisfaction, the disgust for feudalism of social thought, and the desire for free love are also expressed.

In Kappa Country there is also a view of fertility contrary to humans, unlike humans, Kappa can walk just after birth, has self-thoughts, and can decide whether they are born or not, which is also closely related to the thoughts of Jiechuan, the late Jiechuan has been living in fear of mental illness, the shadow brought by his mother accompanies him, in his opinion, his parents give birth to themselves without permission is a very selfish act, he always dislikes himself, disgusted with his genetically defective self, and thinks that he will be crazy like his mother one day, He hated the world of not being able to decide on his own birth.

### **4.2.2 Aversion to the dark side of capitalism in society**

The various habits in Kappa have lost their humanity in the eyes of human beings, it is a distorted concept of mercenary, they

laugh at the Kappa who carries the whole family by one person, in the eyes of human beings this is normal, do their filial piety and responsibility, but Kappa has always determined the value of Kappa's existence by whether it can bring benefits, putting value before morality, Kappa also has a terrible habit, they will make food for Kappa who have lost the value of labor, these Kappa have a twisted character, It was also Sukekawa who satirized Japanese capitalism at that time, arbitrarily dismissing people with no use value, resulting in the displacement of workers, and finally losing the motivation to survive and going to death, it was the sense of justice and mission held by Sukekawa that made Sukekawa see the ugliness of society.

After the October Revolution, the trend of socialist thought hit Japanese society, after the First World War, the crisis of capitalism also affected Japan, the capitalist oppression of workers, the exploitation of the use value of workers, in the secret collusion with the government, corrupt politics, such unbearable capitalist egoistic behavior, and the decaying society, led to the gradual dominance of Sukekawa's world-weary thinking, 35-year-old Sukekawa is witnessing the tragic state of society, and the ambiguous future, committed suicide in such a state.

## 5. Conclusion

Ryunosuke Wasagawa pinned his misanthropic thoughts on the novel "Kappa", from which it is not difficult to find the author's dislike of the world, so that we can better understand the late Ryunosuke Wasagawa.

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