

**PROTAGONIST'S ANXIETY IN OSAMU DAZAI'S NOVEL
NO LONGER HUMAN**

A THESIS

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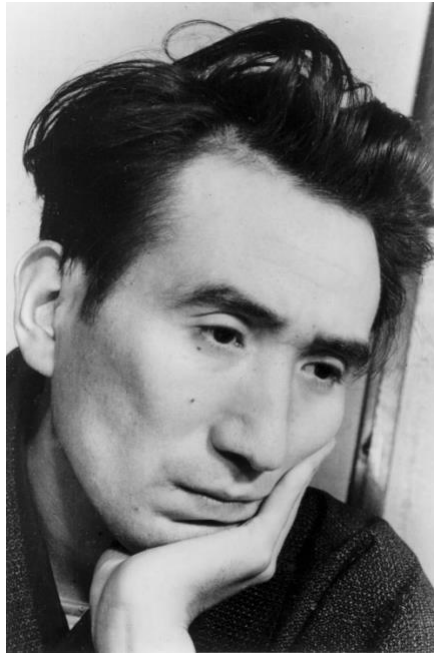
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APPENDIX

A. Biography Osamu Dazai



Osamu Dazai (太宰 治, Dazai Osamu, June 19, 1909 – June 13, 1948) was a Japanese author. A number of his most popular works, such as *The Setting Sun* (Shayō) and *No Longer Human* (Ningen Shikkaku), are considered modern-day classics. With a semi-autobiographical style and transparency into his personal life, Dazai's stories have intrigued the minds of many readers. His influences include Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, Murasaki Shikibu and Fyodor Dostoyevsky. While Dazai continues to be widely celebrated in Japan, he remains relatively unknown elsewhere, with only a handful of his works available in English. His last book, *No Longer Human*, is his most popular work outside of Japan.

Osamu Dazai for the first time in a short story called "Ressha" ("列車", "Train") in 1933: his first experiment with the first-person autobiographical style that later became his trademark. However, in 1935 it started to become clear to Dazai that he would not graduate. He failed to obtain a job at a Tokyo newspaper as well. He finished *The Final Years* (Bannen), which was intended to be his farewell to the world, and tried to hang himself March 19, 1935, failing yet again. Less than three weeks later, Dazai developed acute appendicitis and was hospitalized. In the hospital, he became addicted to Pavinal, a morphine-based painkiller. After fighting the addiction for a year, in October 1936 he was taken to a mental institution locked in a room and forced to quit cold turkey.

The treatment lasted over a month. During this time Dazai's wife Hatsuyo committed adultery with his best friend Zenshirō Kodate. This eventually came to light and Dazai attempted to commit double suicide with his wife. They both took sleeping pills, but neither one died. Soon after the failed attempt Dazai would divorce her. Dazai quickly remarried, this time to a middle school teacher named Michiko Ishihara (石原美知子 Ishihara Michiko). Their first daughter, Sonoko (園子), was born in June 1941. In the 1930s and 1940s, Dazai wrote a number of subtle novels and short stories that are autobiographical in nature. His first story, *Gyofukuki* (魚服記, 1933), is a grim fantasy involving suicide. Other stories written during this period include *Dōke no hana* (道化の花, *Flowers of Buffoonery*, 1935), *Gyakkō* (逆行, *Against the Current*, 1935), *Kyōgen no kami* (狂言の神, *The God of Farce*, 1936), an epistolary novel called *Kyokō no Haru* (虚構の春, *False Spring*, 1936) and those published in his 1936 collection *Bannen* (*Declining Years*

or *The Final Years*), which describe his sense of personal isolation and his debauchery.

Japan entered the Pacific War in December, but Dazai was excused from the draft because of his chronic chest problems, as he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The censors became more reluctant to accept Dazai's offbeat work, but he managed to publish quite a bit anyway, remaining one of very few authors who managed to get this kind of material accepted in this period. A number of the stories which Dazai published during World War II were retellings of stories by Ihara Saikaku (1642–1693). His wartime works included *Udaijin Sanetomo* (Minister of the Right Sanetomo, 1943), *Tsugaru* (1944), *Pandora no hako* (Pandora's Box, 1945–46), and *Otogizōshi* (Fairy Tales, 1945) in which he retold a number of old Japanese fairy tales with "vividness and wit."

Dazai's house was burned down twice in the American bombing of Tokyo, but Dazai's family escaped unscathed, with a son, Masaki (正樹), born in 1944. His third child, daughter Satoko (里子), who later became a famous writer under the pseudonym Yūko Tsushima (津島佑子), was born in May 1947. In the immediate post-war period, Dazai reached the height of his popularity. He depicted a dissolute life in postwar Tokyo in *Viyon no Tsuma* (Villon's Wife, 1947), depicting the wife of a poet who had abandoned her and her continuing will to live through several hardship

1946, Osamu Dazai releases a controversial literary piece titled *Kuno no Nenkan* (Almanac of Pain), a political memoir of Dazai himself. It describes the immediate aftermath of losing the second World War, and encapsulates how Japanese people felt following the country's defeat. Dazai reaffirms his loyalty to the Japanese Emperor of the time, Emperor Hirohito and his son Akihito. Dazai was a known communist throughout his career, and also expresses his beliefs through this *Almanac of Pain*. Along-side this he also wrote *Jugonenkan* (For Fifteen Years), another autobiographical piece. This, alongside *Almanac of Pain*, may serve as a prelude to a consideration of Dazai's postwar fiction. In July 1947, Dazai's best-known work, *Shayo* (The Setting Sun, translated 1956) depicting the decline of the Japanese nobility after the war, was published, propelling the already popular writer into celebrity. This work was based on the diary of Shizuko Ōta (太田静子), an admirer of Dazai's works who first met him in 1941. She bore him a daughter, Haruko, (治子) in 1947.

A heavy drinker, Dazai became an alcoholic; he had already fathered a child out of wedlock with a fan, and his health was rapidly deteriorating. At this time Dazai met Tomie Yamazaki (山崎富栄), a beautician and war widow who had lost her husband after just ten days of marriage. Dazai effectively abandoned his wife and children and moved in with Tomie.

Dazai began writing his novel *Ningen Shikkaku* (人間失格, No Longer Human, 1948) at the hot-spring resort Atami. He moved to Ōmiya with Tomie and stayed there until mid-May, finishing his novel. The novel, a quasi-autobiography,

depicts a young, self-destructive man seeing himself as disqualified from the human race. The book is one of the classics of Japanese literature and has been translated into several foreign languages. In the spring of 1948, Dazai worked on a novelette scheduled to be serialized in the Asahi Shimbun newspaper, titled *Guddo bai* (the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "Goodbye"). It was never finished. On June 13, 1948, Dazai and Tomie drowned themselves in the rain-swollen Tamagawa Canal, near his house. Their bodies were not discovered until six days later, on June 19, which would have been his 39th birthday. His grave is at the temple of Zenrin-ji, in Mitaka, Tokyo.

At the time, there was a lot of speculation about the incident, with theories of forced suicide by Tomie. Keikichi Nakahata, a kimono merchant who frequented the Tsushima family, was shown the scene of the water ingress by a detective from the Mitaka police station. He also speculates that "Dazai was asked to die, and he simply agreed, but just before his death, he suddenly felt an obsession with life.

B. Novel Summary

Oba Yozo is a man who experiences a lot of psychological problem within him. Oba Yozo was born in Tohoku village. Yozo is the youngest from ten siblings. Yozo's father is a politician, which makes his father being one of the respected persons in Tohoku. That's why his father wants his child to be a successful person like him. Like the life of a rich person in general, the Yozo family has a lot of rules at home, and the family is still ancient that makes them still adhere to the life of ancient Japanese. It makes Yozo feel depressed because he couldn't follow his house rules.

Even though Yozo couldn't keep up his house rules, he couldn't do anything but following his father's word. Yozo doesn't like to show his true feelings that's why he always joking to cover it up, so people around him always thinking that he is a cheerful child. In Japanese culture there is a term *tatemae*, is an act that their hiding their true colors around public, and act like the standardization Japanese society. Therefore, Yozo always hide his true feeling by droll around even though inside his feeling is being tortured.

Yozo move to Tokyo to fulfill his father wish, but the truth is his father will making his mental being pressured, because it contradict with what he want. In order to channel his desired, Yozo rarely goes to school. He spending his time on reading book and painting at home and sometimes he goes to painting workshop that's not far from his home at Tokyo. In that painting workshop he met with Horiki Masao (which he doubt to call Horiki as his friend or not). Since knowing Horiki he start to know how the feel of liquor, prostitute, and cigarettes are the powerful ways to calming the pressure inside him. Ever since Oba Yozo move to Tokyo and be plunged into misery of his self, his life getting messier and falling apart that causing him having depression and trying to suicide.