

Flotsam Jetsam

transcription of script

[Take Off]

Action!

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to China Southern Airlines.

The plane is about to take-off.

In case of emergency, or turbulence oxygen masks will descend.

Put the mask over your face.

In case of an emergency there is a life vest under your seat.

Please take it out. Put it on.

Pull the strings or blow to inflate.

[Woman Dreamer]

I was like a plane. I flew up in the sky.

Because when we were traveling we saw a lot of airplanes flying over our heads.

A lot of foreign tourists, all coming to see the Three Gorges Dam.

I flew and flew.

I flew up really high in the air.

Then I would soar down slowly.

I was coasting in circles in the air.

I was so happy.

It was so strange.

I am person how did I become an airplane?

I saw far below me.

The high rises were all so small.

[Boatman's Song]

Okay Professor Zhang please begin.

Most people have a pair of oars

To row their boat.

I only have one oar

To row my boat.

Its impossible to get anywhere

With just one oar.

Just like it is impossible

For a bird to fly with just one wing.

Half a moon

Still shines bright
Half a flower
Still smells sweet
But with half a house
Holding up only two walls
How could we ever use that
As a wedding chamber?

[Soldier Dreamer]

I dreamt that my little brother and I returned to our old army troop.
We saw our old army buddies.
We saw our sergeant, our captain
Also our respected teacher.

Our teacher said softly,
You two brothers have returned.
We've been here this whole time, waiting for you.

[Artist Couple on Submarine]

That classmate of yours, what is his role?
First mate.
First mate?
Yeah.
What does a first mate do?
The first mate...
Sails the boat.
...rows the boat.
Does he have lines?
I don't think he has any lines.
He's lucky.
No doubt.

[First Mate]

Jump over there. Jump over there. Jump over there.

[Father Dreamer]

How long did you wait before your daughter returned?
It was already nighttime, after midnight.
Midnight? What time did you get there?

In the afternoon, around five or six o'clock.

Five or six o'clock? So you waited almost six hours for her?

You stayed at her dorm the whole time?

Yes, I was looking at her bed.

Her bed?

Her books for studying.

I've been pushing her to learn English. Then there are some of her own books,

Her sheet music, things like that. You know, some song books for her studies.

She can't let go of her... You know, her dream.

Singing?

Her dream. Her dream is my dream.

[Tiger Play]

Roar!

Go hide in the cave!

You can't beat her!

Climb up!

Climb up and hide!

Daughter! Enter scene!

Stop your mother!

Cut!

[Coast Guard Incident]

Yes. It is.

We're finishing up.

We'll be leaving right away.

We're so sorry.

I'll speak to him. OK. OK.

It's really unclear who all these people are on the boat.

OK. These mates, They're hired actors. They're not working.

We're just loading some props.

You need permission if your boat is going to stay.

Yes, we're leaving right away.

If something happens then it's big trouble.

Yes, you're right.

[Loading Boat]

Slowly. Slowly.

[The Imaginary]

What is the imaginary?

In some ways, it is the beginning of a memory. A place you talk about, but can no longer visit.

The submersion of cities is real, talking about them as imaginary or subconscious is abstract. Well then that about simple loss and sadness over moving and the passing of time?

[Word Building]

What do you see?

Clear mountains, green water, white clouds. It's beautiful.

What else do you see?

I also see a building made from the word 华 China. It's built next to the river.

Actually it's an unfinished ruin, to memorialize the victims of the floods.

How did they make a word into a building?

The negative spaces of the character are the empty, wall-less rooms.

When did you see this building?

Last year. I took a photo of it last year. Maybe it's finished now. Or else maybe they tore it down.

[Baiji Dolphin News Report]

The Baiji Dolphin and the Finless Porpoise are two types of animals that should be familiar to people living alongside the Yangtze River.

They are rare water animals that only exist in our country, that are also faced with the danger of extinction. So how many Baiji Dolphins actually exist in the Yangtze?

In order to answer this question a team of experts and reporters from five countries is on an expedition currently searching the Yangtze for the Baiji Dolphin.

[The Imaginary and Submerged Landscapes]

Action!

Do you get any feeling from this landscape?

I feel calm in the water. Followed by struggle and the growing fear of drowning.

In poetics, there is a connection between mind/heart and nature. Landscape in traditional poetry is a representation of the state of heart/mind.

Where is the hear/mind of a submerged landscape?

It's in the idea of the landscape returning to the imaginary after it is submerged.

What is the imaginary?

In some ways, it is the beginning of a memory. A place you talk about, but can no longer visit.

The submersion of cities is real, talking about them as imaginary or subconscious is abstract. Well then that about simple loss and sadness over moving and the passing of time?

The river is a cutting tool. It insists that the past is only a story.

[Yang's Song- A Toast for My Country]

Action.

The sun raises a gold colored glass to you...give to you.

The moon raises a silver colored glass to you...give to you.

Yellow river raises a silver glass to you...give to you

...raises a silver colored glass to you...give to you.

[Stages of Breath]

In breath-holding, there are 2 phases:

The Easy-Going Phase and the Struggle Phase.

The Easy-Going Phase is a somewhat unconscious, undemanding experience.

The Struggle Phase, which can also be called the 'urge to breathe' phase, starts rather abruptly with involuntary gasping contractions of respiratory muscles.

Breath hold sequence includes:

The Easy-Going Phase

The Gasping Point

The Struggle Phase

The Breaking Point

The duration of the Struggle Phase is framed by the Gasping Point and the Breaking Point.

Two explanations exist for the break of the breath hold.

The will to hold your breath is overcome by the urge to breathe.

Or the breath hold stops as consciousness dims.

How can we describe this ill-defined breath before the loss of consciousness?

Tangled. Stubborn. Chaotic. Feisty.

It is reminiscent of something familiar.