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Gatekeeper at Japan's 'Suicide Forest' hopes music can save lives

日本“自杀森林”的守林人希望音乐可以挽救生命

From his hut on the edge of Japan's "Suicide Forest", Kyochi Watanabe blasts John Lennon's "Imagine" into the night—hoping that music can lift people from their despair before it's too late. The 60-year-old musician has been waging an eight-year battle to banish the vast forest's morbid reputation by reaching out to those who come to end their lives.

从他位于日本的“自杀森林”边上的小屋，渡边京地（音）放着约翰·列侬的“Imagine”，歌声响彻夜空。他希望音乐可以在一切都变得太晚之前，让绝望中的人重新振作起来。这位 60 岁的音乐家的战斗，到现在已经持续八年了。他用音乐向那些来到这里了此一生的人伸出援手，试图驱散笼罩在这片广袤森林上空的死亡阴霾。

The forest, known as Aokigahara, made global headlines last year when YouTube star Logan Paul filmed an episode of his online series there, showing a suicide victim at the site.

这片名叫青木原树海的地方，因为去年 YouTube 红人罗根·保罗在此拍摄的一集系列视频而登上了国际头条。在这里，视频拍下了一名轻生者的遗体。

The footage sparked outrage and infuriated Watanabe, who was born nearby and has spent most of his life in and around the forest. He believes music is a way to reach people engulfed in inner turmoil, and describes seeing people turn around and leave the forest when they hear the blasting tunes.

这条视频引起了人们的愤慨，更激怒了在森林附近土生土长的渡边。他相信音乐能够触动那些陷入内心挣扎的人，并讲述了亲眼所见的情景：人们在嘹亮的歌声中，转身离开森林。

Aokigahara's long history dates back to the middle of the ninth century, when Mount Fuji erupted and lava covered wide areas that have since transformed into a 30 square-kilometre forest.

青木原古老的历史，可以追溯到 9 世纪的中期。当时富士山爆发，熔岩覆盖了大面积的地区，这些地方后来变成了一片 30 平方公里的森林。

It is a foreboding place, thickly planted with tall trees that block out the sun, and carpeted with moss and gnarled roots. That led in the 1970s to it being increasingly depicted in popular novels, movies and television dramas as the fictional setting for suicides. The association eventually became strong enough that suicidal people began travelling to the forest to die.

这个地方给人一种不祥的预感。茂密而高大的树木遮住了太阳，地面上则青苔满布，盘根错节。如此景象，让它在 1970 年代的畅销小说和影视剧的情节中，愈发被描绘成自杀的场景。这种联想的强化，最终导致轻生者开始来到这片森林结束生命。

Watanabe knows he faces an uphill struggle, but says he is committed to his campaign.

"Because I was born here, I have to protect this place," he says. "I'm a gatekeeper. I feel it's like my duty."

渡边知道，他面临一场艰苦的斗争，但他表示将全力投入行动。“我生在这里，所以我必须保护这片土地，”他说，“作为一名守林人，我觉得这是我的责任。”

——文章来源 / 法新社

重点词汇

blast/blæst/

v. 大声播放

- The blast of a truck horn is like an explosion of sound. (n.)

lift sb. from

使某人振作起来；让某人脱离（负面情绪、状态）

- Success in the big city may lift an entire family from poverty.

wage/weɪdʒ/

v. 发动（战役、行动）

banish/'bænɪʃ/

v. 驱逐，驱散

- banish thoughts/memories/fear

morbid/'mɔːrɪd/

adj. 病态的；对死亡着迷的

make (adj.) headlines

成为...的头条新闻

infuriate/ɪn'fjʊəriət/

v. 激怒

engulf/ɪn'gʌlf/

v. 吞没；使陷入

- The war might engulf the entire region.
- be engulfed in/by sth.

inner/'ɪnər/

adj. 里面的；内心的，私密的

- inner thoughts/struggle

turmoil/'tɜːrmɔɪl/

n. (情绪的) 迷乱，纷乱

- = confusion, chaos
- social/emotional turmoil

foreboding/fɔːr'boʊdɪŋ/

adj. 预示不祥的，有不祥预感的

block out

挡住，遮蔽

carpet/'kɑ:rpɪt/

v. 布满，覆盖

gnarled/nɑ:rlɪd/

adj. 扭曲的，盘根错节的

association/əˌsɒʊsi'eɪʃn/

n. 联想，关联

- = connection

suicidal/ˌsu:ɪ'saɪdl/

adj. 有自杀倾向的

uphill struggle

艰难的斗争

campaign/kæm'peɪn/

n. (有计划的) 行动