

「心綺楼」 — Heart, Elegance, Stage

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1 Origin

Original game: 東方心綺楼 ～ Hopeless Masquerade
Original title: 亡失のエモーション — Lost Emotion
Theme: Hata no Kokoro's (秦 ころろ) theme

2 Summary

‘In the wake of so many incidents beyond their control, the Human Village has fallen into a state of hopeless pessimism. Believing that religion can restore order, some of Gensokyo’s most prominent adherents of Buddhism, Taoism and Shinto all want to take this chance to expand their particular faith’s influence.’
-Touhou Wiki



Hopeless Masquerade’s Intro sequence, separate image in full resolution is also provided in the folder

Performed by mainly Hata no Kokoro — an emotionless youkai that needs to rely on her masks to express emotions and almost the whole cast of Hopeless Masquerade. This is the legend told by Kokoro about how the religion war came about and what the characters in Hopeless Masquerade were up to at the time, her parts can both be either a song or a Noh dance performance.

3 Lyric

3.1 Intro

い い
生きとし生けるものたちよ
To all living things, great and small
なが いのち も いか
その長き 命 を以って如何にあるのか
How do you spend those long lives of yours
なや なや こた え
悩めど悩めど 答えは得られず
Even though you worry and worry without having an answer
さ せつな かざ はな
ならば咲かせよ刹那に飾る花
If so, then mark the moment the flowers blooms
あまた おもう はな
数多の感情よ 花となれ—
Numerous thoughts and emotions — Become the flower

3.2 Verse #1: Hakurei Reimu

ようかい
そこな 妖怪
You youkai over there

はくれい みこ おまえ
博麗 の巫女の御前なら
You are in the presence of the Hakurei Shrine Maiden
おにんきょうだい
御人気 頂戴
Give me your popularity [1]
さいせん ちょうだい
ついでにお 賽銭 も 頂戴
While you're at it, I can make use of some donations too

3.3 Verse #2: Kirisame Marisa

はな かりよく
放つ 火力 は
Such firepower
たゆ ひび けっしょう
弛 まぬ日々の 結晶 だから
Is the fruition of my everyday diligence
しんぴ こ
神秘を越えては
What's obvious is
なってしまう 希望へと
To aim towards your goals and aspirations.

3.4 Verse #3: Ichirin Kumoi

おやじ いわ
親父の 曰く
According to my old man
たたか ぎ
この 戦 いの義にあってなお
Let this fight be fair and just
きさま すで
貴様は 既に
You have already lost
さ ま
スケールの差で負けていよう
From the difference in scale alone

3.5 Verse #4: Hijiri Byakuren

すく げんせ
救 おう現世
I'll bring salvation to this world
さいきょうそうりよ な
最強 僧侶 の名にかけて
I wager on my name as the strongest monk
ちから ふる
力 を 揮うは
To wield such power is to be expected
ぶつりてき なむさんぼう
物理的に 南無三宝
From the earthly treasure of the Three Jewels [2]

3.6 Kokoro's 1st Part: Intro

みだ しんこう あ かた
かき乱される 信仰 の在り方に
Corrupted faith's supposed way
かげ みつ て の まえ
その影 密か 手を伸ばす前に
That thick shadow reaching out its hand [3]
こころにまかせ 伝えよ！
Leave it to the Kokoro — I'll tell the story!

3.7 Kokoro's 1st Part: Chorus

せつな ゆ
この刹那うつろい行く
This ever-changing moment
いくえいくた おもひ
幾重幾多その感情
The piled up emotions
たい
それら平らかならずなら
that certainly seems to be calm
み しょうぶ
やって魅せよう — 勝負！
I'll make it fascinating — Let's have a showdown!
にんきばくはつ
さあ人気 爆発！
Now come on, eruption of popularity!
おおわきげきとつ
大技 激突！
Exchanges of blows
あまね こえ ぶたい はな
遍く歓声よ—舞台の花となれ。
Cries of joy from afar — Become the flower of the stage

3.8 Verse #5: Mononobe no Futo

われ こま
我は駒なり
Your servant is but a pawn
こころ くも
この心 に曇りなどはなく
There is no such thing as this heart becoming clouded or the likes
ごじん
そこな御仁は—
Yours truly over there—
てき ひ はな
敵か?! それならば火を放て
Enemy huh?! Then I'll set you on fire

3.9 Verse #6: Toyosatomimi no Miko

われ い
我から出でよ

The place we come from

あまね きぼう ところ
遍 く希望のある 所 は

Is one of faith spreading wide and far [4]

あらた おもて
新 たな 面

This new mask [5]

きぼう かたち
これぞ希望の 形 なり

Will be the figure of faith

3.10 Verse #7: Nitori Kawashiro

まつり
祭 りとあらば

When there is a festival

ゆる さいふ ひも ねら
緩む財布の紐を狙え

Gotta aim at loosened purse strings

あそ
遊 びじゃねえんだ

This is no time to play

じごく さた
地獄の沙汰さえもなんとやら

Even trials in hell have to runs on something [6]

3.11 Verse #8: Mamizou Futatsuiwa

つき で で
月 が出た出た

The moon has come out

さど ふたついわ とお
佐渡の ニツ岩 のお 通りじゃ

When I'm walking down the street of Sado

ひとざとある
人里歩 けど

I'm just a wandering villager

しょうたい し
その 正体 は知れぬまま

But not a soul would know the real me

3.12 Kokoro's 2nd Part: Verse #1

つぎ つぎ うつ しんこう
次 から次へ移ろう 信仰 に

One after another; constantly changing beliefs

みだ うば まえ
乱 され 奪われるその 前に

— being thrown into disorder — stolen right in front of our eyes

つた
こころのままに 伝えよ！

As for Kokoro, I'll tell you

3.13 Kokoro's 2nd Part: Chorus #1

さき み くら
先の見えぬ 暗がりに
In the darkness that can't be seen ahead
あす いのちおく
明日なき 命 送るなら
To live one's life without a future
わら なが
ただ笑って 眺めよう
Just laugh and admire the view
い
生きていれば ええじゃないか！
To be able to live, isn't it already great?
にんきばくはつ
さあ人気 爆発！
Now come on, eruption of popularity!
だんまくさくれつ
弾幕 炸裂！
Barrage of Danmaku
と か こえ ぶたい はな
飛び交う怒号よ—舞台の花となれ。
Angry soar flying at each other — be the flower of this stage

3.14 Kokoro's 2nd Part: Breakdown

いのち こころ あ ところ
命 は 心 の在る 処
There's a heart inside everyone
いくたいとな
幾多 宮 み
Various performances
ひと ひと もの もの
人から人へ 物から物へ
one person after another, one creature after another
か か ものがたり
斯く斯くの 物語
Every being with stories of their own
あした ゆくえし
明日は行方知らず
Without knowing how future would turn out
しんきろう なか
蜃気楼の中
Within this desperation [7]
なお こころ
それでも 尚も 心 のまま
Even still, this unchanging heart
あす つた い
明日へと 伝え行け
Will carry these tales towards tomorrow

3.15 Kokoro's 2nd part: Verse #2

はじ いた
その始まりより至るまで
From the beginning until the end
すべ おもい みわた
全ての感情を見渡せど
Take a glance into every emotion
なや みだ こち うつ
悩み 乱れて 心地 虚ろ
Agony; Confusion; Sensation; Emptiness
いま み
未だ満ちねば
Those yet to have matured
きぼう て
希望をこの手に！ Hope is in our grasp!

3.16 Kokoro's 2nd part: Chorus #2

うたげ たけなわ
宴も 酣 か
Party in full swing
あ のう おさ
悪しき能も見納めよう
My final play coming to an end [8]
さんみいったい と ふ
三位一体 調き伏せて
I'll keep the three factions at bay [9]
うら なか めんれいき
恨む 勿れよ 面霊気！
Don't come to resent me, masks of mystery [10]
しかしてこちら^まも負けられぬ
Now I cannot afford to be defeated
すべ きぼう
全ての希望がために
For the sake of every belief
ま いまいちど
舞ってみせよう 今一度
I'll dance for you once more
さあ'この名'の命^なずるまま！
I hereby call out my name!
にんきばくはつ
人気 爆発！
Now come on, eruption of popularity!
スベル と
符乱れ飛ぶ！
Spells flying wildly about
きぼう こえ ぶたい はな
希望の希求よ—舞台の花となれ。
Great desire of hope — Become the flower on this stage
はな
—花となれ。
— Become the flower.

4 Translation notes

[1]: using popularity in this context throughout the whole song sounds extremely weird at least to my opinion, I've tried to think of other alternatives but to no avail, because not only there is already so few synonyms to popularity, but also how popularity is in fact a core mechanic in the game and there really is no other equivalent. The goal of the religion war was in fact a fight for popularity after all, with all three fighting to be the most popular and beloved religion when the incidents at the Human Village were taking place, hence I've decided to leave it as is.

[2]: referencing herself, saying she is the physical manifestation of the Homage to the Three Jewels. Real life Three Jewels consists of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Source

[3]: hopelessness and pessimism from the human village in the wake of numerous incidents beyond their control, the black fog can be both the youkai's shadow or the humans' negative energy

[4]: in contrast to the hopelessness and pessimism taking place in the real game and also mentioned in parts of the song, there are mentions of hope specifically (希望), which can be inferred as faith which is the fuel to religious belief and also what the three factions are waging war over.

[5]: this is the symbol to the most ancient noh mask given from the legendary prince Shoutoku who is Miko's based off of. Source

[6]: This is the intentionally botched idiom 地獄の沙汰も金次第 (じごくのさたもかねしだい): money talks; money is the best lawyer in hell; even the verdict of hell is determined by money

[7]: 蜃気楼 and 心綺楼 are pronounced the same (しんきろう). The meaning of the word is mirage, but I decided to translate it as shroud of desperation as in Japanese this is a wordplay to both mean mirage (蜃気楼) — an object shrouded in uncertainty/mist/illusion and hopeless masquerade (心綺楼) — the game's title

[8]: Note on the word 能 (Noh) — Kokoro's performance in the human village. 舞台: Noh stages. Noh is a classical Japanese dance-drama. More on Noh can be found [here](#)

[9]: the three faction involved in the religion war are Taoism involving Miko and Futo, Buddhism involving Hijiri and Mamizou, Shintoism involving Reimu

[10]: A menreiki (面霊気, roughly 'mask essence') is a type of youkai in Japanese folklore, composed of Gigaku masks. -Touhou Wiki

4.1 Translator's comment

Everyone's including Kokoro's (albeit Kokoro's is a bit more monotone and straightfoward due to both of her personality as a extremely monotone character and also having the role of the narrator in this play) pattern of speech are different, translation with also an aim to deliver the correct context and characterization is essential.

Also a quite challenging one because there's literally almost a dozen people singing, but the already present context from the game and every character's depth were enough to make out who is who and the context they're trying to convey.

Reading RD-Sounds' lyrics is definitely recommended if you're enjoying their works and want to know more about the song's stories and narrations, as you wouldn't see subtle difference in meaning just from listening alone, for example throughout the choruses, こゑ is used but the lyrics are in fact 'cries of joy', 'angry roar' and 'hope' that supplies an extra layer of information to kokoro's lines