

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

A. Character

After the Banquet involves many characters. Each character has his/her own uniqueness, but it was not fully mentioned by the author. There are two main characters that became the most concerned in the novel. These two main characters play important role in the story. The conflicts that happen were mostly between them. So, the character that will be discussed in this thesis is the main characters. These two main characters were husband and wife and they were old. They met when they were over sixty years old and fifty years old and soon got married. The first main character is the wife, Kazu Fukuzawa. The second main character is the husband, Yuken Noguchi.

A.1 Kazu Fukuzawa

Kazu Fukuzawa is fifty-year old woman who might have been a little older or slightly younger. She is the proprietress of a restaurant called the Setsuguan. She is an attractive figure who always bursting with energy and enthusiasm which makes people with complicated motives who came before her feeling ashamed of their complexity. Some curious blessing of heaven had joined in one body of a man's resolution with a woman's reckless enthusiasm. Kazu is not an ordinary woman in spite of her ability to compare what is men usually do. It won't be easy to find that typical woman at that peculiar time and since she was a woman she

got plenty of natural endowments. Kazu is head-strong, wealthy and not ashamed to use her money to get what she desires.

Kazu is an independent woman and she is used to have her own way of life without interventions from other people. She also prefers to control the situation. Ever since she was a child she preferred to love rather than be loved. Her air of innocent rusticity concealed a considerable determination to have her own way. (p.4)

Kazu is not a type of person that is easily being coaxed especially when dealing with romance. Kazu does not put a great attention when dealing with love. Love no longer disturbed her private life.

Kazu does not worry about her old age for her savings and well-positioned in her society. She has got a huge garden and house, deposits in the bank, negotiable securities, powerful and generous customers from the world of finance- these and all were adequate guarantees for Kazu's old age (p.7).

Kazu is stubborn; it appears when an incident happened at the Setsugoan involving a member of the Kagen Club, Mr. Tamaki, who suddenly got sick. His wife wanted him to be brought to the hospital, but Kazu insisted of letting him in the Setsugoan until he recovered as her responsibility to her guest. Another member of the Kagen Club, Yuken Noguchi, told her about his feeling upon her toward the situation. She is also headstrong temperament.

She was born in the country in Niigata. After losing her parents, she was adopted by a relative whom was a restaurant owner as his daughter. Then she ran off to Tokyo with the first man she had romantic relations. She had trough

hardships for many years before she attained her present position. She have a belief that she can do anything and success on it as long as she put her mind to it. She considered her marriage with Noguchi as her tomb.

Kazu was torn between the modern Japanese woman and the traditional role of the Japanese wife. Since in 1960s after the World War II, Japan had undergone a numerous change in all aspect of life included the role of women in society as can be seen in an equal rights clause in the 1947 Constitution and the revised Civil Code of 1948. The law enables women to have the same position with men in all aspect.

A.2 Yuken Noguchi

Yuken Noguchi is a man age over sixty years old. Noguchi has manly face with thick, strikingly long eyebrows juttet above his sharp clear eyes. His outfit is totally lack of affectation or dandyism.

Noguchi is a former government cabinet minister and also one of the Kagen Club members and an advisor to the Radical Party.

Noguchi is a man full of respect and integrity. For him, both respect and integrity are more important than “commercial” success. He is honest and noble. But his noble mind lacked sufficient powers of discernment. He has high and unyielding moral sensibilities. He is idealistic and stubborn, wanting to stick to win the election on his own. He considered his marriage with Kazu as his final abode. As the member of the Radical Party, Noguchi adopt the same ideology with his party that involved in a movement that advocates extreme change of

political and social institutions. The term radical afterward indicated those in support of parliamentary reform. Radicals advocated reason over belief in faith, free inquiry over tradition, equality over hierarchy, individualism over collective values, and secular law over natural law. It was not an easy thing became the member of the Radical Party at that time since in post-World War II Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) became the dominant political party. The LDP was created in 1955 from the union of the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party, two conservative parties that emerged in the aftermath of the war. Since the LDP was the dominant party in the election, Noguchi felt that he had to maintain his integrity, nobility, and also courage in order to win the election.

B. Plot

The plot consists of three parts, the beginning, the middle, climax and the ending. The story begins with the introduction of the first main character, Kazu Fukuzawa. It tells about whom she is, her age, occupation and basic nature of her. It reveals about Kazu's love life, hopes and beliefs. It also tells about the Setsugouan, a restaurant which owned by Kazu. The beginning part also tells about the second main character, Yuken Noguchi, about his physical appearance and basic nature of him. Kazu have no intentions of building a relationship with a man until she met Yuken Noguchi. The encounter between Kazu and Noguchi in the second chapter also belongs to the beginning of the story. After the encounter, Kazu and Noguchi are getting closer to each other, planning a journey to Nara and fell in love with each other. Noguchi was also a guest of a friend, a newspaper

executive. Kazu found it difficult to understand why Noguchi invited her, while it seemed to be a semi-official excursion; since Noguchi always distinguishes between public and private life. Both Kazu and Noguchi are learning about their as a couple. Kazu finds out that as a former government cabinet minister, Noguchi does not regard finance as something very important. While Noguchi finds out that Kazu is stubborn. In Nara, Kazu felt lonely. She is afraid that nobody would mourn her when she died. So she needs to find someone to take care of her. To do so she has to go through the formalities of love. Then, they talked about marriage and agreed on living separately on weekdays and rejoin on weekends. This agreement since Kazu does not want to give up her business in Setsugoan, no matter what happens. While, it is impossible for a man like Noguchi to live in a restaurant. Kazu is so excited with her marriage. For her, it is the goal of a lifetime; becoming the wife of distinguished a man. A week after the journey, Kazu returns the invitation by asking her companions; Noguchi and friends to have dinner at the Setsugoan. In that occasion, Noguchi announced their marriage. On the twenty eight of May, Kazu and Noguchi were married.

The middle or conflict begins with the life after marriage. Kazu had successfully kept her husband in freshly laundered shirts. She also suggested him to make new suits, but he firmly rejected. Noguchi was afraid that people might acquaint the matter with the meagerness of his income. After a few days of marriage, Kazu heard a malicious gossip about her concerning her act as Noguchi's wife without caring for Noguchi's friends at the journey. Noguchi's reaction toward the gossip is furious, but his explanation did not satisfy Kazu.

Kazu felt that the gossip was a wife's attempts to divide her husband from his old friends. One night, a thief came to the Setsugoan. But he did not succeed bringing something out of the Setsugoan. Kazu told her husband about the incident and she was safe from it. Instead of receiving expression of relief, she was blame for her reckless action of not closing the door properly. She was offended. Another conflict happened when Kazu tried to introduce changes into the routine of their lives were all rebuffed by her husband.

The climax of the story is when it comes to Noguchi's anger because Kazu had done a pre-campaign election with her own money and loans without his permission. Noguchi's high and unyielding moral sensibilities are offended. He told Kazu to shut the Setsugoan and stay at his house or he would have to divorce her. Kazu who always imagining to be buried in Noguchi's family grave yard had no choice but to obey him. The climax continues at second anger when he found out that Kazu has circulating among various people in the cabinet and the financial world a subscription book for the reopening of the Setsugoan. Once again Noguchi offers her to stop her action or to be divorced. She is forced to choose between his very narrow code of conduct and the independence and way of life she has come to cherish.

The ending of the story or the resolution comes to the events of Kazu decision of remain in the reopening of the Setsugoan and to get a divorce from Noguchi. She feels that she had done a good job on the Setsugoan. She runs it by her own efforts and she insists of paying her debt even it means that she have to work from the flesh from her bones.

C. Setting

The setting is used to gain a better analysis toward the problems that connected with the setting of a particular society which is Japan in 1960. The setting analyses that build up the story divided into four points which are:

C.1 The actual geographical location of the story

The mainly places discussed are those that have most frequently used as setting. The setting of the story is in Japan. Specifically in Koishikawa district of Tokyo where the Setsugoan takes place. The Setsugoan is where Kazu lived. The Setsugoan is also a place where Kazu and Noguchi first met. It is also a place that became a patron for the Conservative Party.

Another place that becomes important place is Noguchi's house in Shiina section. It was an old house where Noguchi lives with his maid.

C.2 The occupations and daily manner of Kazu and Noguchi

The occupation and daily manner of living characters is discussed only for the two main characters, Kazu and Noguchi.

Kazu is the proprietress of a restaurant called the Setsugoan. She runs the restaurant for the Conservative Party in other words the Setsugoan is a patron for the Conservative Party. She is also the wife of Yuken Noguchi. Kazu is used to work very hard to gain success in life, even if it meant acting in an immoral way.

Noguchi is a former government cabinet minister and also an advisor to the Radical Party. He is also the husband of Kazu Fukuzawa. He has been born

into an easier life than Kazu; therefore respect and integrity are more important to him than “commercial” success.

C.3 The time or period in which the action takes place

There are no clues of the year when the story took place. It only mention about the seasons and months. But from the outside the story, since the novel was first published in 1960, informs what happened around the year of 1960. Another specific reason for mentioning the year of 1960 was because the novel was regarded as being very controversial due to the light Mishima cast on Japanese political, social and sexual life. While at that time, after the World War two ended, Japan was re-building their regulation including about women position in society as well as in politics. The political situation in Japan was in transition era. In post-World War II Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) became the dominant political party. The LDP was created in 1955 from the union of the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party, two conservative parties that emerged in the aftermath of the war. The party’s philosophy is not well defined, but traditionally it emphasized economic development and close ties with the United States.

In winter in November, it was the time when Kazu met Noguchi in the Kagen Club’s annual meeting which was held at the Setsugoan.

Kazu received word from a certain cabinet member that the Kagen Club would like to hold its annual meeting at her establishment.

The Kagen Club was a kind of association of former ambassadors

who were roughly contemporaries and who met once a year on the seventh of November (p. 11).

In spring in February, it was the time when Kazu and Noguchi went on a journey to Nara in order to witness the Omizutori ceremony.

In the same year in summer, specifically on the twenty-eight of May, Kazu and Noguchi were married.

Around the month of June Kazu met Yamakazi to ask for advice for running the pre-election campaign and soon started the campaign.

In early of July, the governor of the prefecture resigned from office which means that the election was immediately proclaimed. So that around the twentieth of July, fifteen days up to the tenth of August, the election campaign was held.

The fifteenth of August was the Election Day. In the same month, Noguchi lost the election.

In September, Kazu intended to reopen the Setsuguan.

In October, Noguchi was informed that Kazu had a subscription book delivered to some members of the Conservative Party in order to reopen the Setsuguan. Kazu and Noguchi were divorced in this month too.

C.4 The general environment of Kazu and Noguchi

The general environment of the characters is discussed only for the two main characters, Kazu and Noguchi.

Kazu is always bursting with energy and enthusiasm. She is considered to be heartened or else completely overpowered, and stubborn. As the owner of the

Setsuguan, he never worries about her old age for her excessive savings and her well-positioned in her society. She was born in the country in Niigata. After losing her parents, she was adopted by a relative whom was a restaurant owner as his daughter. Then she ran of to Tokyo with the first man she had romantic relations. She had trough hardships for many years before she attained her present position. She have a belief that she can do anything and success on it as long as she put her mind to it. She considered her marriage with Noguchi as her tomb.

Noguchi is a man full of respect and integrity. For him, both respect and integrity are more important than “commercial” success. He is honest and noble. But his noble mind lacked sufficient powers of discernment. He has high and unyielding moral sensibilities. He considered his marriage with Kazu as his final abode.

D. The marriage

Since Kazu have to run the Setsuguan, it is impossible for her to live in Noguchi house. Kazu no matter what happened she will not giving up the Setsuguan. While, it s impossible for a man like Noguchi to live in a restaurant. From this agreement can be seen that how a man refuse to stay at his wife’s place since he considered himself as a breadwinner and the head of the family. And so they agree on living separate in weekdays and rejoin on weekend, the new life after marriage begins. The news of their wedding was published in newspaper and magazines. Apparently, the world has still not forgotten Noguchi. On the other hand, this is Kazu’s first experience with the assaults of it. Their “irregular”

wedded life begins after their honeymoon in the Gamagori Hotel and visited the Yaotomi Shrine on Benten Island. Kazu soon employ her three best-trusted employers at the Setsugoan to replace Noguchi's servant. She would convene them to report Noguchi's daily activities. Kazu's attempt in becoming wife start as every Saturday evening Kazu return home and always kept Noguchi household filled with unnecessary supplies liquor and food.

One day, Kazu is surprised that Noguchi's friends that were in journey to Nara spread malicious gossip about her. The gossip is that during the trip Kazu had posed as Noguchi's wife without caring what the others might think, that she had shown respect only to Noguchi and slighted the others, that the invitation to the Setsugoan itself, though apparently a "return present" was actually intended to advertise herself. In their opinion, that there being no necessity to drag people off to the Setsugoan for a wedding announcement. She told Noguchi about the gossip and he became furious then told her that it was not true. That his intension of took her into the journey and announced their marriage was all because he trusted his friends. But for Kazu, she interpreted that it was a wife's attempts to divide her husband from his old friends. She was amazed with her husband's reaction toward the gossip; it was coldness coming from him. She found that her husband's noble mind lacked of sufficient powers of discernment. Kazu was annoyed by the gossip that people were often concluded things that they did not know for exact. The society enabled her as a woman to interpret the gossip in a sarcastic way. Supposed that the gossip was true, what was wrong with Kazu attitude posed as

Noguchi's wife without caring what the others might think, that she had shown respect only to Noguchi and slighted the others.

Kazu finds that marriage had brought no fundamental change to her life. Her marriage involved no sacrifice, no confinement in a stranger's house, nor any annoyance from a mother-in-law or sisters-in-law, but married life on the other hand brought with any surge of happiness. But she always replaced her thought of unhappiness by the picture of that she is sure to be buried in the Noguchi's family grave. It can be seen that as a woman, Kazu, will always wanted a "normal" marriage life but she did not receive it from her marriage since all of her husband's family were dead. The thing that might have helped her was the dream of being buried in her husband's family grave.

Concerning that she felt lonely and there would be nobody would mourn her when she died, she needs to find someone she could depend on. The only way to do it was to have a family. In Japan, according to Yoshio Sugimoto in *An Introduction To Japanese Society*, the practice of burial is closely linked with the *ie* system which functions in tandem with *Koseki* system (p. 141). Following the convention of ancestral lineage, most families have family tombs where their ancestors are believed to be entombed. By convention, "descendants" include females who have married male offspring of the family genealogy. Because the *koseki* system is predicated upon the patriarchal logic that the wife belongs to her husband's family line as his subordinate, she is usually buried in his family tomb with his ancestors. Though the family registration system does not dictate where one should be buried, it provides a framework in which the patriarchal system

governs women even after death. So, it was important for Kazu to be buried in her husband's family grave since it was relate to the *ie* system and *koseki* system. It was proudness for Kazu to be buried in the family grave since she had no family. When she visited Noguchi's family grave, she read the carved on the gray stone that informed the family crest and showed something of the ancient lineage and pride of an illustrious family. She was fond of such things. This act of burial in Japan is found to be encouraging Kazu to depend on men for safety and prestige.

Kazu had successfully always kept her husband in freshly laundered shirts. She also suggests him to make new suits to the tailor, but he firmly rejected. Noguchi afraid of what people might acquaint with the meagerness of his income. Kazu could not understand why it was wrong for her to use her money to order clothes for her husband. Noguchi's rejection in this case had shown that a man is to be a breadwinner in the family. So if Kazu insist of making new clothes for him it means that he is no longer able in becoming the breadwinner of the family. According to Japan traditional gender roles of Japan, that is characterized by a strong sense of patriarchy in society, it is account for the bifurcation of the productive and reproductive spheres, with a distinct separation of gender roles. In the family, this refers to the idea of the man as the primary breadwinner of the family, and the woman as the primary caregiver in the family. Whereas the problem was that his wife was a career woman who also can earn money and he should have admitted that his wife is richer than he is. Kazu herself never thought

about one is richer than the other. She only wanted to take care of her husband and ennoble him.

Noguchi's voice of coldness was also appeared when one night a thief came into the Setsugoan. Luckily, the thief did not manage to bring out something from the Setsugoan and everybody safe. The police came to check how it had happened. After the police went out Kazu could not go back to sleep again. She waited until morning came and telephoned Noguchi to inform the incident. But she never expected that Noguchi would reply in extremely detached and superior answer. He blamed her for not locked the door properly. He spoke as if he was upset for his employee's mistake not as a husband to his wife whom just had a burglary. Kazu, who had been who had been hoping for some expression of relief that she was safe from the incident, was disappointed. She could never think in proper way why her husband acting that way to her. She felt that by telephoning her husband was a report that she was able keeps safe from the accident and expected a "warm" talk with her husband. Noguchi's act shows that in his view a woman could not do things in the right way, including locking the door. So Along with the clash between them, they are also torn between the modern Japanese woman and the traditional role of the Japanese wife.

E. Pre-election campaign

Still on the conversation on the telephone, Noguchi asked Kazu to return home in order to receive and prepare dinner for two important guests of him. Kazu was stunned since it was weekdays and she would not be able to return home

because she had an important guest. But Noguchi insisted that she must. Kazu asked him whom was the guest but he refuse to tell her on the telephone. She was so upset but then again it was the first time Noguchi had broken their agreement that Kazu would only returned home only on weekends. So that it must be an important guest. Her return to Noguchi's house consider as her attempt as a wife that obeys her husband's request. Japan traditional patterns in the family require women to be put their husbands before their jobs.

Kazu returned home and told the guest at the Setsugoan that she was sick. The guests were the Chief Secretary, Kimura, and Executive Director of the Radical Party, Kurosawa. It turns out that the Radical Party wants Noguchi to join for the government election as candidate. But Noguchi feels that he is not a strong candidate since he is the forgotten man. Both Kimura and Kurosawa show their dejection toward Noguchi's answer. Kazu is present when this conversation running, so it is impossible for Noguchi to talk about his political ambitions to his wife in front of others. "He undoubtedly felt that to reveal to his wife in the presence of others his political ambitions was no different from letting others see his sexual desire" (p. 115). Such a strange feeling felt by Noguchi, since as husband and wife they should be able to talk everything to each other.

Kazu, secretly talks with Kimura when they are about to depart from the house. She talk to Kimura wanted to know what his husband's answer toward their offering. She begs Kimura to persuade her husband to run in the gubernatorial election. Her action is mainly conducted by her husband's obstinate bashfulness and her own selfish reasons to resurrect his political career.

Another unspoken reason is that she felt for most of her life she never known the love for her to ennoble a man.

... all the past love affairs which she had never before remembered in Noguchi's present returned to life. Men had killed themselves for Kazu when she was young. Some had lost their wealth and position, and others had sunk to the lowest depths of society, all because of her. Strangely enough, Kazu had never known love for her to ennoble a man or help him to success. Through no evil design on Kazu's part, men generally went down in the world once they met her (p. 71).

A man named Soichi Yamazaki came every Monday to deliver a two-hour lecture mainly concerned with the administration of Tokyo Prefecture. Kazu, then secretly met Yamazaki. She wanted Yamazaki to help her to push forward a pre-election campaign. She knew that it was prohibited by law and decided not to tell Noguchi. She would give her best for it specially on funding it. Kazu really wanted to see her husband win and by that time she would feel that she was able to ennoble her man.

She had such-and-such an amount of money available for this purpose, and she was resolved, in case this should prove inadequate, to mortgage the Setsugoan forthwith (p. 128).

As Yamazaki's advices, Kazu begin to run the pre-election campaign by ordering visiting cards and calendars printed with the name of Yuken Noguchi on it. Then she is campaigning by visiting orphanage, the area which the Radical

Party is weak and trying to capture people's heart, gives donations and other political campaign. Until, one day Noguchi came into the Setsugoan without announcement while Kazu had just been with Yamazaki about the campaign. The act of Noguchi's coming to the Setsugoan without announcement is that he did not respect his wife's office since a family affair should have being discussed in a house not in restaurant although Kazu live there in weekdays. He was also disrespecting his wife by showing his anger in front of public and Kazu's employees.

Kazu was terribly chills remembering that her room was full of enormous stacks of calendars and pamphlets just off the press. She was never afraid of anything unless of her husband. There was no doubt that she had a good intention to her husband and she had nothing to ashamed of. But Noguchi was her biggest feared. Noguchi was angry for what Kazu had done. He accused her for smeared mud on his face and that she had damaged his career. He was very upset for he became public laughing-stock for what Kazu had done. What Noguchi had done by accusing his wife was completely outrageous since he never for once thought that it was Kazu's attempts to help her husband to win the election. Kazu wants to be out and about in aiding her husband any way she can; Noguchi is determined to keep her out of politics, at one point even forbidding her to leave the house. He told her that she must shut the Setsugoan and stay at his house for all the time or else she will be divorced. Then again, Kazu thought of her future if she divorced from Noguchi. She will not be buried in Noguchi's family grave. She decided to shut the Setsugoan instead of being divorced. Once again it is proved that the

dream of being buried in the family graveyard had brought Kazu to be dependent on her husband and she was no longer able to do her own will although it purposes was for her husband.

F. Election campaign

In early of July, the governor of the prefecture resigned from office which means that the election was immediately proclaimed. So that around the twentieth of July, fifteen days up to the tenth of August, the election campaign was held. When Noguchi was scheduled to deliver his first speech coming to the Perfectual Office in order to sign up for the election, as a wife Kazu wanted her husband to look good on his importance occasions. She insisted to make him a new suit. Once again Noguchi refused her intention. Instead of wearing new suits, he preferred to wear his old suit. Traditional patterns in the family require women to be put their husbands before their jobs and also a wife does not interfere with his husband's business. So that why Noguchi never for once listens to Kazu's opinion and suggestion that actually for his own goodness.

Noguchi was no good at all in delivered his speech. It happened most of time during the campaign. On the other hand Kazu had quite succeeded in promoting her husband trough speech. But for that success Noguchi never praised Kazu. Apparently her success must stop since she was trapped by the Conservative Party. People are no longer fond of her for malicious gossip that happened to her. For many decades, the Conservative Party was dominated by relatively stable factions grouped around politically powerful leaders. So, they

were powerful enough to win the election and to affect society by various effort. Society decides whether to except someone's or not and sometimes background plays an important role in it. Since Japan is patriarchy country all the rules are made that benefit the men and often subjected women. Like in Kazu's background case it was not good for a woman to sleep with a man before they attached to a marriage. On contrary, it was no problem for a man to sleep with a woman before they attached to a marriage.

G. The election

The fifteenth of August was the Election Day. Everybody knew that Kazu had thrown all her energies and money into the campaign. There was no doubt that she had fought very well. But those realities could not lead Noguchi to success. Kazu was upset that her husband lost the election. The Conservative Party won because of Kazu's bad luck in the election campaign. The Conservative Party had successfully in blackmailing Kazu by sending a man from her past that will spread a malicious gossip about her unless she pay him a great deal of money. Kazu paid him to prevent him to spread the gossip but still the gossip was spread among the people. It was not an easy thing for her since in this her husband's dignity was in her hand. The blackmailing process in Kazu's case can be said as men's control toward women. From this even Kazu was successfully encouraged to be dependent on man as to cover up her past. While the man she depend on was lying to her.

Noguchi, aware of his losses, determined to give up politics. It turned out that all of his ideals were meant nothing. Noguchi's act of giving up politics can be seen as a portrait of Japan's political situation post-World War II, that the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) or the Conservatives became the dominant political party. The Conservatives always won the election and for that it was impossible for a man such as Noguchi from the Radical Party to win the election although he had integrity, nobility, and honesty. He told Kazu that he had made her suffer for her participation in the election. He suggested Kazu to live moderately on his pension in a quiet place. Once again it implied that he make sure that he was the breadwinner of the family and as a wife Kazu must follow him. For the third time, Kazu chose to obey his words otherwise she will be divorced. His suggestion seemed to be an outcome of bashfulness of the society. Then again, Kazu had to join her husband living in the kind of life that her husband dreamed of and make sure herself safe in Noguchi's family and for the family grave.

H. Reopening of the Setsugoan

Kazu started to feel empty without any meaningful activity. She intended to reopen the Setsugoan. But she still has a lot of debts as a result of funding her husband's election campaign. She also had mortgaged the Setsugoan for it. She needs to pay her loan back or else she will lose the Setsugoan. Since the Conservative had won her money, she feels that the Conservative must pay compensation on her. She decided to call some of the members of the Conservative Party to pay compensation for the reopening of the Setsugoan. She had done it

without her husband's supervision. Still she wanted to do her own will to have her restaurant and her life at the restaurant back. She knew that her husband would not agree, but she just could not resist it.

In October, Noguchi was invited on dinner by old friends with whom he had gone to Nara. Kazu was not invited. It turned out that the dinner was used to inform Noguchi about his wife activities in reopening the Setsugoan. Noguchi was informing that his wife had a subscription book for it. Noguchi felt that Kazu betrayed him. Noguchi said that according to the Chinese-style political philosophy, Kazu's circulation of a subscription book among Noguchi's political enemies was identical to adultery that she had "slept" with those men. Kazu would never understand Noguchi's words. At that time, it could be seen that Noguchi and Kazu had lead a different principles of their own. But then again, Noguchi offered Kazu to change her mind, abandoned her plans to reopening of the Setsugoan. But if she was not able to change her mind, she will get a divorced. Kazu could see an unvisited grave in some desolate cemetery, belonging to someone who had died without a family if she decided to get a divorced. But something called her to be back to her previous life in the Setsugoan.

But something was calling Kazu from the distance. An animated life, every day wildly busy, many people coming and going—something like a perpetually blazing fire called her (p. 260).

Kazu felt that she could not resist that calling. Kazu decided to reopen the Setsugoan. She was intended to pay back the money she had borrowed. Kazu and

Noguchi were divorced and by mutual consensus Noguchi struck Kazu's name from the family register.

Eventually all of Kazu's attempts to be a wife of Yuken Noguchi was useless. She tried to take her husband by her own way and received no good reply from him. She tried to introduce a new way of life but her husband continued to lead his accustomed life. Her attempts to ennoble her husband were all translated into besmirching her husband's political career. She could not go on continue to run the restaurant since her husband wanted her to stay at home. She felt very disappointed but nothing she could do than being divorced. She would sacrifice anything to be buried in her husband's family graveyard. Her mind was set only to it since it was a shame to be buried in no one's family grave. It was the *Koseki* system that encourages her to have a family and find for her final tomb in it.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION