

Closing Session

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For the act of the first Taniguchi Symposium of Philosophy, as the organizer, I have duty and pleasure to express here the hearty thanks of all participants to Mr. Toyosaburô Taniguchi who gives us philosophers such a beautiful chance to discuss and to live together in the ideal atmosphere. Kyûzesô (求是荘 which means the house where one seeks after the "Yes") must remain in our personal history as one of the unforgettable places and I hope this house must be one of the unforgettable places for the history of philosophy through our serious and freindly efforts of international and intergenerational collaboration in philosophical thinking. One may laugh at such a sentence but we may have a dream which is sometimes a cradle of idea. I think the above mentioned effort and dream are our best gifts to Mr. Taniguchi. I would like also here express my hearty thank to all the participants and helpers in the various domains, who have given their time and talent to our common aim. We can not forget the practical advice and help of Mr. Okuda of the Taniguchi Foundation and of Mr. Kubo of the Hankyû Tourist Bureau (Travel Agency).

After the fare-well banquet in Hotel Lake Biwa our lodging place we have held the closing session in the conference room in the Hotel.

As the organizer I was president, Madame Parain-Vial and Mr. McCormick were Vice-presidents in this session. Every person expressed her and his positive and negative comments in the reflexion of the philosophical week. Each speech was very friendly and every comment was (and is still now) helpful for the planning in future. Every person thanked to the members for organisation including me. That touched my heart.

In this last session we have distributed the famous text of Laotse about "Nothing" in french version. I have explained very briefly what is essential in the text. Le Néant n'est pas le rien. Das Nichts ist höher als das Leere. Also in the history of the European and American philosophy, we can find sometimes very interesting thinking about the "Nothing" or "Nothingness". But the thought of the Mu (無) of Loatse is one of the deepest examples in the history of philosophy in the scale of the world. So I wished to read it ensemble as a souvenir of the Orient for the western guests and as a common source of the Orient for the eastern guests.

With this textreading we have finished the closing session. Shortly before the last moment of this session, Madame Professeur Parain-Vial presented to me two beautiful papers (色紙) on which some meaningful words of each participant with her or his signature. These are now my personal tresures in my little study-room.

After the closing session there were naturally further some private conversations or discussions in the corridor or in the chambers. Normally every night the chamber of the organizer was opened till 23 o'clock for every participant. There from 20 o'clock we have discussed every thing philosophical or secular. It was also for the aim of Symposium very good. But the last night after the closing session, because of the many technical problems for future planning, we have given up the above mentioned time for dialogue and the organizer held an executive committee with some limited members, they were Prof. Olivetti, Prof. McCormick, Prof. Meist, Prof. Sasaki, Prof. Fujita and Assist. Hashimoto. We have not yet organized an ordinal executive committee, but these younger members further with Prof. Sakabe and Prof. Hamai must at least in alternation make an executive committee.

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