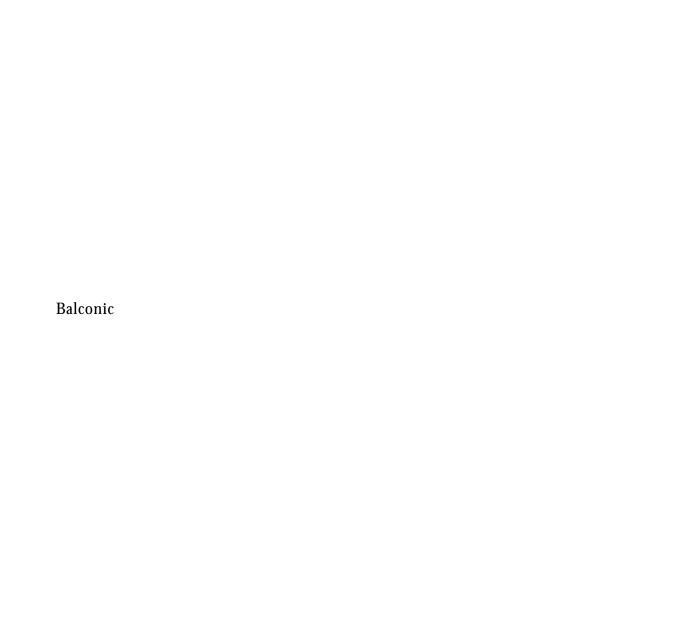


Acknowledgements: Some of these poems originally appeared (sometimes in different form) in <i>HOW2</i> , <i>Interlope, Kenning, Poets & Poems, Upstairs at Duroc, 26, Chase Park</i> , and <i>Cy Press.</i> The author would like to thank the editors of these publications.
© Sawako Nakayasu published as duration e-book 10 by duration press / durationpress.com www.durationpress.com



having been given corn* having been given open*

a first time

having been given charge*

having been given heat*

having been given play*

having been given end*

an end

having been given frost, sweet, slip*

having been given charm*

having been given please*

having been given arms*

having been given call*

a rush

answer

having been given a line

having been given limbs

having been given distance

having been given conflict*

having been given all*

having been given bridge*

transport

having been given order*

having been given balcony having been given balcony.

The new predicament

states that no one is exempt. If you wake up on one side, you must. If you wake up on the other, again, there is no one to trust but. If you wake up and roll over, bump into a woman, all the more so. There is no bribe large enough, no drink strong enough to overcome the waves of people who will be waiting outside when you open your second-story balcony window. They may cheer, but more likely they will throw corn. Oh, they will throw corn. You will turn to your wife if you have one. She will rub her eyes. She will not say a thing, but the corn will come flying through the window. You will try hard not to look embarrassed. It will fly in silently. What if she is hit by an ear?

To give balcony

one would have it as a giving over of place, cover runs off and towards, one would have it under such conditional tense loaded moments as if one might bleed and bleed so effortlessly, or bleed internally into its given corridors, as if an everyday activity. To give balcony to a specified give of body includes unclothing everything first and then time and such will tell which parts, given with edges or good will or given with all good edginess yet hopefulness. Which parts which way. Yet the place remains where she gives over for the first time, sex or surgery, at a time or all over time, in a give of effort, increasingly, touching up, and at both instances remaining what the fact.

Before the hand furthers

May I give you a power strip?

The light in the palm waned yesterday. She worries, by necessity because this may lead to an outing for all. Even so, she persists in distributing bulbs to the needy, charges to the mothers. (Sometimes, on a whimsy, paint for nails.) The partner acts as glove, regarding warmth, support, sweat. The partner when under construction. Sometimes she wishes to talk extremities, in which case she is wrong most of the time, except for when she slaps a stray partner back into place: this she does with emollient grace, and grows her nails out later that very afternoon.

Night looks down on me

while I write poems about the wrong balcony, try to store them in the wrong parts of my body quaking, to fend off the heat that you are not brewing for me inside as of course you wouldn't or couldn't, being *in* the wrong *side* and all moon ignored is better than acknowledged now, mid-breath, while I withdraw my fingers full of no point! no point! but my nails don't hold anyone up at all and now look what I've written.

No wonder the night.

Personal balcony

Let me put it this way:

You

are some sort of high-traffic balcony. Let's see: constructed in the fantasyecho period or the $20^{\rm th}$, clean European colors a bit tousled. What narrow space—no bbq room, much less a party, although family and kids are still under consideration by the higher statues. One thing's for sure: second story:

I am at a hockey game. I don't recall the team name, I am too busy cheering for the forces of time or memory, here upon this player, here upon that play, here upon my lap. Suddenly, the puck is loose. I run out to chase it, forgetting that you are too crowded right now, and the play is breaking my speed too late

Dead wedding b-

alter to define to proceed to exteriorate to parallel in white to curtain to black to esteem or to estimate to accrumulate to debt to overhang to celebriate to pacifically witness to inundate to forecast away to drain the red to parade to gentle tirade to simplifade to run still to gaze to gauze to veil to fold to sign to look out, over, beyon, to finalicize

to close the d

Disney wedding on the balcony

```
is made of (petrified) cake.
The broom gets up to dance
but the guests have all brided down below

So he sighs, heaves,
so he hoists her up above:

one,
two,
like tree
She—
felled overboard
spreads frosting all over the palace

The guests dive fro and fro—
"Too young,
shaking" their head
```

Frictionless on

the ball, mouth full of peas she steps out she steps out steps of the cow palace to your left,

shoulder rearing up right, larger than appearances later than a youthful nocturnal a chug full of light

to the clean rinse $\&\ dry$ wine

he comes

yes he comes galloping on all four wheels

but does he grasp her but does he grasp her

> shoulder, right,

not a chance, they stayed nor would he stand

Hard balcony on the pleasure continuum

falls off the fallen off

with a slightly bounding architecture

gives way to a pleased to be loneliness

fallen neck, out

between given off by difference to difference

a truce between here and there

pleased to be trailing a length of red

light jumpiness of tongue

it's getting to be yes it's getting

Arms up and strong on the balcony

Song, as does heat, rises and people down there, speaking. Where their tongues slip or rest or stop. Willingness to climb to the heat of things means: as feet land in the crook of balcony flooring, the kindn'ss of you—is all along seeking. Perpendicular to the torso of the building, I crawl into the nearness of your elbow, angle rounding, rounding to the coil.

Phone call from the balcony

comes in on the thick line between there and herein. Do you see me waving. On the other line, static and several hundred years. Or, string two cans. We lean over the edge in order to put an end to unsuspecting calls, but unfortunately I heard your voice and got on the hook. Reeling from the mad rush to respond, everyone continues to lean and shout—around and over the periphery, causing me to lose my breathing and my intent. I pick up the other line, but the multiple answer is always

External conflict inside or outside the balcony

Given no choice, as a member of the home audit.

Door #1, opens in.

Door #2.

Nine thousand Roman soldiers.

Having been married

on the balcony without reception on the balcony without shade on the balcony a step up the balcony a step out the balcony the balcony of old the timeless balcony the ceremonial balcony the flowers tossed from the balcony the glasses dropped from the balcony the equal opportunity balcony the brawl beneath the balcony the eyes on the balcony the grass stains near the balcony the balconic balcony the balconian balcony the balconesque balcony the poeticized balcony the fully committed balcony weathering this storm then that or the well-lit balcony the balcony in sun, sun the balcony balcony because there are two of us the same balcony but why not the luxury of two words on the balcony two suns on the balcony two children thinking ahead on the balcony right now the late afternoon sun on the balcony is enough right now I don't even have oh I can't get there via the balcony the place as the balcony takes me to the way to the balcony the way to your balcony the way to our balcony from your balcony via my balcony throwing unsmoked cigarettes from our balcony fertilizing plants from our balcony getting used to saying our our balcony our our our balcony in case one gets lost in case I get pregnant on our balcony on the the balcony in case the balcony is male, the, in case the balcony is female, the, in case it is both the balcony, that which is ours, that which we live with that we eat on that we sing from that I write of that you think of when you can't find me because I am at another balcony at an older balcony at a past balcony at a foreign balcony finally at a dark balcony which often is the case, as was the case with our first balcony on the tenth floor, the balcony from where we watched the orange lights light the campus in that horrid orange way as only orange light can, that balcony where we waited out my first dryer cycle and the balcony where we waited no we didn't wait my second dryer cycle because I put my coins in the wrong machine but in all good faith the balcony of that night is sometimes like any other balcony because it was my first loved balcony and it will be the best remembered balcony and hence the beginning or end of this balcony and why not or why, as much as one might live in or on a balcony, it's just as well, or

Partial bridge between

New border collapsing

capped and sizing it prenaming it detouring it wondering if it will do it streamed and lining it blocking the off of it shining it on it or through it going with it to the end, have it having given it having likened it having depicted it having gotten used to it using it having used it the use of it factoring in the using of it the last of it. sealed and forgotten it. followed it to the end of it at the heart of it. at the head of it the start of it the end of the start of it the end of the mid of it the end of the ending of the last closed and firm end of it to end it. and end it. the continuing end of it. the newness of each ending for it and to it and with it. the result of it or the less of it the non-effective go of it. the life of it. not. the life on it. not. the life near it. affirming it confirming it adjusting it. presuming it and to be it or to resist it. time and it again. relationship between preceding consuming it. time and it again and it. the go of it. the last word of it. the heavy it. the maladjusted it and might as well be it. but it is not it. the capped and city of it. in open air it. unabashed it. should have perhaps taken it in. the how of it, comes haunting forth and it. concluding with it. blending it in yes. as a new color yes. the turn of it. the left of it and I can't stand here any more holding and holding it its tenuous and overspeeding crumble of it mass of it the volume of it louder than my arms can handle it can't handle it not much longer unless it