

Yamamoto: Talking about "old guy", I don't know what it is to be an old guy. When I think about myself, I think of myself as an adult, and people around me say I look difficult, but people who know me well treat me like a child. They don't treat me as an adult. So, a juvenile delinquent was going to become an adult, he remained a juvenile delinquent even when he got older [laughs].

Kitano: My father couldn't even write his name, and he was always on the rampage. When he came home, we'd think that the dangerous one had come back. We never talked, and I don't think we even ate together once.

Yamamoto: From the beginning, my "old guy" never existed. When I was only one and a half years old, he was taken away by the war and disappeared, so there was no such thing as my "old guy". I didn't even have an image of him to begin with. It was just my mother and me. Back then, there were a lot of people who were war widows.

Kitano: When I saw a child saying "I love you, Daddy" on TV, I hated it. I thought, "What is this? But you know, my father usually beats up my mother and me, but when we went to Enoshima and I got a piece of Hershey's or some other chocolate from a foreigner, and I saw him sitting by the train and apologizing, saying "Thank you very much," I thought, "Oh, America is so strong"! [Laughs].

Yamamoto: I had no idea about the atmosphere of home or family.

Kitano: Old guys who lived right after the war may have killed people in the war, right? They would never think of attacking such a person. Besides, when we were kids, there were yakuza in our neighbourhood, and we never disobeyed them [Laughs]. And THEY were the old guys. For the young people of today, there is no illusion of "ferocity" or "fear" toward the old men. The only thing they can come up with is the "Zenkyoto" [All-Campus joint Struggle Committees]. Or saying "we used to beat each other with a square block of wood" and so on. But the clamour, or rather the support for it, has disappeared, and of course, it's only natural that the hunting of the old guys starts.

I don't deal with young people, and I don't even want to talk to them. In short, I hate them, really [laughs]. There are people who flatter young people by saying things like "they are the future" but I hate it. The future has nothing to do with youth. You people don't have a future [laughs]. It's a personal quality. I wonder if they will come out with "kid-hunting" or something in the opposite direction. Probably no one would do such a thing [laughs]. You call a telephone club, pretend to be summoned, and when the other party gathers, you surround them again from the outside with old guys. I think that's ideal.

Yamamoto: When I was in my 30s, I was afraid of banks, but I never felt threatened by young people. I don't get into fights very often, but nowadays there are a lot of guys in Shibuya with knives. I am not at all afraid of them beating me up. I think you have to teach them with your body that you shouldn't pull out a knife.

Kitano: It is not powerful at all to talk "common sense" to a child. It is faster to say, "I'm going to hit you," than to say, "You shouldn't do that." Violence is something that hits both the body and the senses at the same time. In the neighbourhood where I grew up, there was always a lot of fighting on a daily basis, so I grew up thinking that it was normal to hit and be hit. I had never been anywhere other than Ueno until I was in high school, but when I