

der Raum zwischen den beiden Sonnen

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[In the history museum of Qingdao. Fire Stone and Fire Scythe, two objects used for making fire when they hit each other, now exhibit in the glass cabinet on the Chinese history wall. The sun shines through the window of the museum and gently reflects on the surface of the glass cabinet.

[The opposite of the Chinese history wall is the German history wall, and on the left side of which, is a Krupp canon from Germany.

Fire Stone The sun shines!

Fire Scythe The soil cracked in the yard!

Fire Stone The sun shines!

Fire Scythe The cicada cried on and on!

Fire Stone The sun shines!

Fire Scythe The willow leaned on the stable!

Fire Stone The sun shines!

Fire Scythe The horse bit the willow!

Fire Stone The sun shines!

Fire Scythe The willow flew towards the window!

Fire Stone The sun shines!

Fire Scythe The branch cut a hole in the paper!

Fire Stone I'm talking about the sun right now!

Fire Scythe Yes, the sun shines and the sun shined!

[Pause.

Fire Stone Alright. The sun shined. So?

Fire Scythe The sun shined into the house on the fire day!

Fire Stone *(signs and continues)* The sun shined through the hole in the window...

Fire Scythe ...through the hole in the paper-covered window...

Fire Stone ...through the hole in the paper-covered window in the kitchen ...

Fire Scythe ... in the kitchen of the house...

Fire Stone ... in the kitchen of the house in the center of the harbor town...

Fire Scythe The sun shined into the kitchen...

Fire Stone ...through the hole...

Fire Scythe ...into the straws in the oven...

[Pause.]

Fire Stone I told you so many times! I can't do anything! The sun burned it!

Fire Scythe Of course.

Fire Stone I mean it! The sun should take the responsibility of the fire!

Fire Scythe You think so?

Fire Stone Of course the sun. It's not my fault. It's not the fault of any firestones anyway! It's not the fault of the straws, not the fault of the paper, not the fault of the branch, not the fault of the horse...

Fire Scythe *(interrupts)* It's too early to say so, right?

Fire Stone What do you mean? Too early?

Fire Scythe I'm not saying it's your fault...

Fire Stone This is the only topic you want to discuss when we wake up every day?! You don't want to know what happened to me. You don't enjoy the sunshine. You don't want to plan the day with me. All the time, the only thing you care, the only question you'd like to figure out, is that who caused the fire 120 years ago? Is that what you mean??!! Is it so, stone-head?

Fire Scythe Ahhh...

Fire Stone What?

Fire Scythe I think...

Fire Stone What?

Fire Scythe I think about it...

Fire Stone What?

Fire Scythe I think about it for a whole day.

Fire Stone You think about what?!

Fire Scythe I think it's probably, more or less the fault of... (*stops talking*)

Fire Stone What? What?

Fire Scythe You see the man...

Fire Stone Who?

Fire Scythe The ordinary white man in the middle of the picture...

Fire Stone Who?

Fire Scythe The ordinary white man with a pair of glasses in the middle of the picture on the history wall...

Fire Stone Er... where?

Fire Scythe Not the Chinese history wall on our side.

Fire Stone Oh, the German history wall on the other side!

Fire Scythe That ordinary white man in the middle of the black-white picture among all the other black-white pictures on the opposite history wall...

Fire Stone I'm a stone. Do you think I'm a telescope?

Fire Scythe That very very ordinary white man in the middle of the black-white picture among the black-white pictures of the other ordinary white men and women climbing up the mountain, picnicking by the sea, drinking with the music band, watching the performance in the theater, walking around in the horse-racing-track...

Fire Stone The man with the weird hat?

Fire Scythe The man with the weird hat.

Fire Stone The man with the weird hat wearing the weird costumes?

Fire Scythe The man wears the Chinese officer's hat and costumes. The one on the dark corner of the history wall.

Fire Stone Oh, is he the man wearing the Chinese officer's hat and costumes and holding a cross in his hand?

Fire Scythe A Christian cross, to be precise.

Fire Stone A Christian cross!

Fire Scythe A silver Christian cross, with rubies and sapphire, and something that I've never seen.

Fire Stone So what? They are stones as well!

Fire Scythe A jeweled silver Christian cross shining in the sunshine.

Fire Stone OMG, he is the missionary we've seen.

Fire Scythe The missionary we've seen so many times in the tavern next door.

Fire Stone The missionary we saw through the cracks in the kitchen wall.

Fire Scythe The missionary we've seen so many times in the tavern next door and we saw him through the cracks in the kitchen wall again.

Fire Stone On the day of fire.

Fire Scythe On the day of fire.

Fire Stone Did he wear Chinese officer's hat and costume again?

Fire Scythe Yes, the sun shined and he was getting stinky.

Fire Stone Did he wave the cross to the waiter again?

Fire Scythe Yes, the sun shined and he was getting so stinky.

Fire Stone Did he stick his finger in every dish again?

Fire Scythe Yes, the sun shined and he was getting extremely stinky.

Fire Stone Did he put his drinking bowl in every cask again?

Fire Scythe He got drunk and he was getting stinky.

Fire Stone Did he get drunk? Again?

Fire Scythe Of course! The sun was dazzling and he started to throw up.

Fire Stone OMG, he was throwing up and getting more and more stinky.

Fire Scythe The sun was dazzling so he unbuttoned his clothes.

Fire Stone He unbuttoned his clothes and took out a roll of paper.

Fire Scythe He took out a roll of paper and took out a Chinese writing brush.

Fire Stone He took out a Chinese writing brush and drank his cup up.

Fire Scythe He drank his cup up and put the writing brush into his mouth.

Fire Stone He put the writing brush into his mouth and wrote on the paper.

Fire Scythe Seine Majestät der Kaiser.

Fire Stone He wrote on the paper.

Fire Scythe Seit sechs Jahren kämpfe ich für diese Angelegenheit. Manchmal wurde ich wie ein Barbar gejagt, und manchmal liefen meine Schuhe weg und ich floh barfuß. Mein Pferd wurde oft getötet.

Fire Stone He wrote on the paper and threw up in the cask. Er...

Fire Scythe Meine chinesischen Gläubigen wurden verhaftet und eingesperrt, zu Tode gefoltert oder im Gefängnis verhungert.

Fire Stone He threw up in the cask and pushed the waiter away.

Fire Scythe In Tsingtau gibt es keine Kirche, und alle meine Erfolge sind bedeutungslos und nicht von Dauer. Wir schweben hier nur in der Luft, ein Windstoß kann uns spurlos weg blasen.

Fire Stone He pushed the waiter away and threw the drinking bowl to the owner of the tavern.

Fire Scythe He threw the bowl to the owner of the tavern and the bowl hit the casks!

Fire Stone Ah, it all comes back into my mind! The casks in the corner were broken!

Fire Scythe The casks in the corner were broken and the rice wine flew around on the cracking soil!

Fire Stone The rice wine flew around on the cracking soil and flew to the oven.

Fire Scythe Aber jetzt weiß ich, dass Satans Burg nicht gefallen ist. Welche Bedeutung hat meine Missionsarbeit hier?

Fire Stone The wine flew to the oven! The oven burned the kitchen! The missionary is the arsonist!

[Pause.

Fire Scythe But...

Fire Stone What?

Fire Scythe On the other hand...

Fire Stone What now?!

Fire Scythe You see the sword in the drawer next to our glass cabinet?

Fire Stone Why? It's a very normal long sword.

Fire Scythe A very normal iron long sword.

Fire Stone A very normal iron long sword with a very common wooden handle.

Fire Scythe A very normal iron long sword with no inscription.

Fire Stone A very blunt long sword with no inscription. So?

Fire Scythe The arsonist.

Fire Stone Are you kidding me? Have you wiped your stone-face before you started to talk? The blunt sword is basically a rock! Like us! Can a rock start a fire? No!

Fire Scythe This is a very blunt long sword, famous for its bluntness.

Fire Stone Really? *(reads the description)* It's -called- General's -Sword.

Fire Scythe A very blunt very normal long sword... *(lowers its voice)* ...used for chopping someone's head off.

Fire Stone You mean, this sword? This sword is used for execution?

Fire Scythe Shhhhhhh *(in a low voice)* The worst sword when fighting, the best sword when executing.

Fire Stone *(reading the description)* It's used for many executions in late 19th and early 20th century.

Fire Scythe It's used for chopping the head of the female revolutionist.

Fire Stone *(trying to remember)* You say...

Fire Scythe *(in a low voice)* Yes! That one!

Fire Scythe *(trying to remember)* The execution on...

Fire Scythe The execution on the fire day!

Fire Stone Ah, the execution, yes! That's why the family in the house went out. That's why the houses were empty. That's why the town was erased.

Fire Scythe How long did the execution on the fire day last?

Fire Stone *(reading the description)* The sword has never been brushed.

Fire Scythe About 30 minutes?

Fire Stone *(thinking)* The sword has never been brushed so that it's carrying all the flesh and blood from the revolutionists.

Fire Scythe I guess the more the sword kills, more slowly it executed.

Fire Stone The sword must remember everything about the last moments of the revolutionists!

Fire Scythe Including the female revolutionist.

Fire Stone *(reading the description)* July 23rd.

Fire Scythe *(reading the description)* 1899.

Fire Stone The sword was used for the female revolutionist who was bought to execution by the German city mayor...

Fire Scythe *(reading the description)* ...and the Chinese governor of the province...

Fire Stone Both of the governments...

Fire Scythe *(reading the description)* She left a line of prom to the public.

Fire Stone *(reading the description)* It says, “无风无雨也无晴”。

Fire Scythe *(reading the description)* “No sun will come out if no wind and no rain pass by.”

Fire Stone No sun will come... What kind of bullshit it is!

Sword Yes! Exactly! Bullshit!

Fire Stone Who's talking?!

Sword Human-being's bullshit! Says the sword! The male revolutionists made up a story for her!

Fire Stone It says here, look, in the historical introduction!

Sword Human-being's bullshit!

Fire Stone What did she say for the last word?

Sword She worn the black shirt and black trousers.

Fire Stone What did she say?

Sword She was tired to a stump.

Fire Stone What did she say?

Sword Her blood and sweat soaked her black shirt and black trousers.

Fire Stone What did she say?

Sword Her blood and sweat dropped down on the cracked soil in the center of the town square.

Fire Stone Come on, we are just two stone-head stones. Please. Can we jump to the end of the story...

Sword She moved her lips.

Fire Stone Ohhh yeah...

Sword She moved her lips and she smiled.

Fire Scythe *(holding the breath)* Yeahhhh...

Sword She smiled and she looked at the crowded town square in her blooded eyes.

Fire Stone Ohhh noooo...

Sword She looked at the crowded town square in her blooded eyes and her blooded eyes were filled with tears.

Fire Stone Nonononono, stop, I don't want to hear it.

Sword Her blooded eyes were filled with tears and she smiled again with a mix of blood and tear falling down on the cracked soil.

Fire Stone *(at the same time, closes its ears)* Stop! Stop! Stop!

[Pause.

Sword *(to Fire Stone)* Don't you want to know what she said?

Fire Scythe *(its voice shaking)* Wwwwwhat?

Sword *(to Fire Scythe)* Your friend doesn't want me to speak it out.

Fire Scythe I...

Sword Don't you want to know what she said?

Fire Stone (*opens its ears*) Alright. What did she say?

Sword 水! 水! 水! 我好渴! 我要喝水!

Fire Stone What?!!!

Sword That's most revolutionists said at the last moments, to be honest.

Fire Stone What the ...?!!!

Sword That's right. The revolutionists are human beings.

Fire Scythe Ennnnn, Human-beings need water when they are hot in the sunshine.

Sword Human-beings need water when they are low in blood.

Fire Scythe Ennnnnn, Human-beings are something else than us. I always said so.

Sword They build things up and they burn things down. They laugh and they cry, at the same time. They never forget and they never remember.

Fire Stone So she said: "Water! Water! Water! I'm thirsty! I need some water!" Like this? Like a kid in a burning house?

Sword Like most revolutionists when they are dying.

Fire Stone Errrrr...

[Pause.

Fire Scythe What?

Fire Stone What? !

Fire Scythe I think you want to say something.

Fire Stone I don't!

[Pause.

Fire Stone *(Suddenly)* If you are going to talk about the reason of the fire in this way, I mean, if you are going to talk in this way, the crime was made by someone else, obviously...

Fire Scythe Shhhhhh!

Canon *(heavy sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone *(looking left to the canon)* Well...

Canon *(heavy sound)* Peng! Peng!

Fire Scythe The crime was made by the kid, of course!

Canon *(light sound)* Peng-peng-peng-peng-peng.

Fire Scythe The kid, the little boxer climbing up on the canon in the courtyard of German navy army!

Canon *(moderate sound)* Peng.

Fire Scythe Yes, we haven't forgotten the details you told us, canon! *(to Fire Stone)* Say it!

Fire Stone What?

Fire Scythe Say it!

Fire Stone *(reluctantly)* The little boxer among all the adult boxers who sneaked into the German navy base...

Fire Scythe The little boxer among all the adult boxers who sneaked into the German navy base on the hottest day in the summer of 1899.

Fire Stone The little boxer among all the adult boxers who sneaked into the German navy base on the hottest day in the summer of 1899...

Canon *(heavy sound)* Peng!

Fire Scythe Come on, say it!

Fire Stone *(continues reluctantly)* ...when German soldiers were napping inside the camp.

Fire Scythe The sun was shining on his sweaty red scarf.

Fire Stone also on his yellow worn vest.

Fire Scythe The sun was shining on his bare cracked feet.

Fire Stone also on his lightened candle.

Fire Scythe The sun was shining on the fire in his lightened candle.

Fire Stone He kneed down.

Fire Scythe He kneed down with all the boxers.

Fire Stone All the boxers lightened their candles.

Fire Scythe And they prayed towards the sea.

Fire Stone They prayed to the dragon king.

Fire Scythe The dragon king who's taking charge of the rain in China.

Fire Stone It's doing this job for some thousand years.

Fire Scythe The dragon king who supposes to answer their prays and fulfill their wishes.

Fire Stone It's keeping its ears closed and hiding in his palace in the sea.

Fire Scythe Like all the other officers, like all the other ministers, like the emperor hiding in the palace in Beijing.

Fire Stone The boxers prayed to the dragon king in the burning sunshine/
The boxers prayed to the dragon king on the cracked soil/ They were holding the candles and prayed for a big rain / They were holding the candles and prayed in silence.

Fire Scythe Wait!

Fire Stone They probably are saying something in their mind / Something like mottos when they joined the boxers' group.

Fire Scythe Wait!!! It's my turn to talk!

Canon *(heavy sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone
Fire Scythe *(both)* 天无雨。
(The sky doesn't drop water.)

地焦干。
(The earth is burning drought.)

全是教堂遮住天。
(It's because the churches built up to cover our heaven.)

神也怒。
(The gods are irritated.)

仙也烦。
(The immortals are enraged.)

一同下山把道传。
(Altogether they descend from the mountain to spread the teachings of Daoism.)

非是邪。
(We are not evil.)

非白莲。
(We are not robbers.)

独念咒语法真言。
(We are repeating our spells based on the teachings.)

升黄表。
(Yellow flags.)

敬火烛。
(Lightened candles.)

请来各洞众神仙。
(The soul of the gods above the mountain will be transferred to us!)

Canon *(moderate sound)* Peng-peng-peng-peng-peng!

Fire Stone Canon, can we jump to the knife part?

[silence.]

Fire stone Are you afraid of me talking about the knife, canon?

Canon *(heavy sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone I'm not bragging. But you know, the knife is good!

Canon *(heavy sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone It's very sharp.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Scythe The best knife you've ever had.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone The best knife is always the knife someone uses every day.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Scythe This knife was used to cut the rice.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone This knife was used to cut the apples.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Scythe This knife was used to cut the fish net.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone This knife was used to cut the wool.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Scythe This knife, very small and very soft...

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone Come on, we've met it 120 years before! It's a good knife! Very sharp!

Canon *(light sound)* Peng! Peng! Peng!

Fire Scythe Sharp enough to cut the iron stone out of the mine.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Stone Sharp enough to cut the coal stone out of the mine.

Canon *(light sound)* Peng!

Fire Scythe But unfortunately, not sharp enough to cut...

Cannon *(heavy sound, proud)* Peng!- Peng!- Peng!

Fire Stone Obviously not sharp enough to cut the canon!

Canon *(very heavy sound, very proud)* Penggggggggggggggg!

Fire Stone But all the boxers keep on cutting it.

Fire Scythe They keep on cutting the canon with their swords.

Fire Stone Only the little boxer stopped.

Fire Scythe He looked at the canon.

Canon *(very heavy sound, very angry)* Pengggggggggggg!

Fire Stone He looked at the canon and took out the crackers in his pocket. He put them into the barrel of the canon and took out a fire stone. He couldn't afford the fire scythe so he used his knife to rub on the fire stone. He rubbed and rubbed, rubbed and...

Canon *(very heavy sound, very angry)* Pengggggggggggg!

Fire Stone Did he make fire out of the knife?

[Fire Stone and Fire Scythe both look at the canon, who keeps in silence.]

Fire Stone Did the little boxer burn the military base?

[Pause.]

Fire Stone Did he?

[Pause.]

Fire Scythe *(lowers voice)* I think this part the canon hasn't told us all the time.

Fire Stone *(lowers voice)* The canon's basically deaf, you know, because of its military service.

Fire Scythe *(lowers voice)* The heavy noises of bombing.

Fire Stone *(lowers voice)* The heavy noises of soldiers' shouting.

Fire Scythe *(lowers voice)* The heavy noises of collapsing.

Fire Stone *(lowers voice)* The heavy noises of ordinary people's crying.

Fire Scythe Don't look at me like this. I'm just a fire scythe. I'm not a magical crystal.

Fire Stone *(lowers voice)* Everyone was dead in this harbor town...

Fire Scythe Don't look at me like this. I'm a scythe so that I can survive!

Fire Stone (*lowers voice, continue*) I mean, some of the residents died in the fire, some of them died in the war, some of them died of drought, some of them died old.

[Pause.

Fire Stone It says on the introduction of this exhibition room, that a bomb hit the German navy base and the fire burned the ammunition. The ammunition exploded and the fireballs flew around the sky.

Fire Scythe The fireballs flew around the sky and –

Fire Stone What?

Fire Scythe Just the fireballs flew around the sky. You know, the war, the fight, the death, like always.

Fire Stone The fireballs flew around the sky and the crowd in the town square run around shouting. No one can tell the fireballs from the fire in the house, not even the family living in the house. They knew nothing about the fire...

Fire Scythe (*interrupts Fire Stone*) Don't forget. Next to the house lay the missionary on the heated cracked soil.

Fire Stone Yes, I saw his Chinese officer's hat burned!

Fire Scythe (*interrupts Fire Stone*) His Chinese officer's hat burned with his hair, his eye lash, and his beard...

Fire Stone (*interrupts Fire Scythe*) A fireball fell down on his face and he woke up...

Fire Scythe (*interrupts Fire Stone*) He felt burning hot...

Fire Stone (*interrupts Fire Scythe*) He felt burning hot and he wanted some water.

Fire Scythe (*interrupts Fire Stone*) He wanted some water, just like the female revolutionist did a few minutes ago.

Fire Stone (*interrupts Fire Scythe*) The female revolutionist!

Fire Scythe (*interrupts Fire Stone*) Her head hadn't been cut off at the moment.

Fire Stone (*interrupts Fire Scythe*) But she had already passed away.

Fire Scythe (*interrupts Fire Stone*) The female revolutionist had already passed away but her eyes still looked towards the fireballs in the sky.

Fire Stone *(interrupts Fire Scythe)* The fireballs the missionary was staring at at the same time. Ha, I remember something!

Fire Scythe What?

Fire Stone *(trying to remember)* Something like, Sonne.

Fire Scythe What do you talk about?

Fire Stone He mumbled something in his mouth...

Fire Scythe What?

Fire Stone The missionary mumbled something in his mouth...

Fire Scythe How do you know that?

Fire Stone I was flying in the sky, you know, the explosion in the house...

Fire Scythe What did you hear?

Fire Stone Er... Something about Heiss...

Fire Scythe What?

Fire Stone Something about Feuer?

Fire Scythe What??

Fire Stone Heiss, Feuer, Sonne...

Fire Scythe *(in silence)*

Fire Stone ...Ahhh...

Fire Scythe *(in silence)*

Fire Stone *(trying hard to remember)* Ahhh, I've got it! Platz an der Sonne!

Fire Scythe On the second thought...

Fire Stone *(coming towards Fire Scythe)* Endlich haben wir einen Platz an der Sonne!

Fire Scythe *(at the same time)* I don't want to know who's the arsonist.

Fire Stone *(coming towards Fire Scythe)* Nicht nur einen Platz an der Sonne...

Fire Scythe *(at the same time)* Don't say anything!

Fire Stone *(hits Fire scythe)* Ich will die Sonne sein!

Fire Scythe *(at the same time)* I don't want to know!

[Fire Stone hits Fire Scythe again. The fire occurs.]