

第 1 帖「桐壺」②

あらすじ

帝は後宮の秩序を出すほどに愛した桐壺更衣を うしな 喪い打ちひしがれつつも更衣の遺した皇子に愛を注ぎます。皇子は賢さと美貌、万人から愛される不思議な力を持っていました。帝はそんな皇子の将来を案じるがゆえに「みなもと源」の姓を与えて皇族から彼を切り放します。

帝は桐壺更衣によく似た ふじつぼ 藤壺女御をきさきに迎えます。皇子より僅か五歳年長で、二人はそれぞれに帝の愛を受けて「光る君」「輝く日の宮」と呼ばれます。光る君は 12 歳で元服し左大臣の娘を妻としましたが、彼の心には義母・藤壺への秘めた恋が宿っていたのです。

場面 1

帝は更衣の遺した皇子に愛を注ぎながらも将来を案じ皇族から切り離すことを決心する場面です。

場面 2

光源氏の心に、母親の桐壺更衣とそっくりと言われる一人の女性、ふじつぼ 藤壺が住むようになります。

Chapter 1: “Kiritsubo” II

Summary

Emperor Kiritsubo is in mourning and devastated over Kiritsubo Consort, whom he loved so much it disrupted the order among his concubines. Nevertheless, he pours his love into the prince whom Kiritsubo Consort gave him. The prince is intelligent, beautiful, and possesses a near-magical aura that makes him loved by all. Out of concern for the prince’s future, the emperor gives his son the surname “Minamoto,” demoting him to the status of commoner and removing him from the imperial line.

The emperor welcomes a new concubine, Lady Fujitsubo, who looks much like the late Kiritsubo Consort. Lady Fujitsubo is only five years older than Genji. They are each loved by the emperor, people called them “Hikarukimi (Shining Boy)” and “Kagayaku Hinomiy(Shining Sun Palace).” At the age of 12, Genji comes of age and is married to Aoi, the daughter of the Minister of the Left, but in his heart he holds a secret love for his mother-in-law, Fujitsubo.

Excerpted Scene 1

Emperor Kiritsubo, despite his love for the prince given to him by the late Kiritsubo Consort, decides to remove him from the imperial line, fearing for his future.

Excerpted Scene 2

Genji comes to hold in his heart a love for the woman Fujitsubo, who is said to look exactly like Genji’s late mother Kiritsubo Consort.