

Inter Lab Performance

Characters: The Crow, The Crow Captain, four figures carrying the device.

[Enters the Crow]

The Crow: (To the audience) It has been two years since the outbreak of the plague. And as an executor of the Emergency Management Institution, or as others call me, a "Crow", I have dealt with petrified corpses numerous times, collecting them, transporting them, and burning them up. Though trained to be ruthless and efficient, I'm still sometimes disturbed by the heartrending screams that burst out of the oven as the corpses are burnt, as if reminding me that they were once a member of living things, or even crazier, as if they were alive.

Deep inside, a part of my heart named conscience struggles with every move of my body throwing the moveless statues into the fire, more and more desperately. I dare not think that they could still have consciousness. I almost feel like a murderer.

[Enters the Crow Captain]

The Crow Captain: So that's what makes you come to me.

The Crow: I cannot stand this torture of mind anymore, Captain. I need an explanation, a reason for me to carry on -- if I still can carry on.

The Crow Captain: I understand. Come, I have something to show you.

[They come to a device in the middle of the Emergency Management Institution headquarter -- The Earth.]

The Crow: What is this?

The Crow Captain: What do you see?

The Crow: It is our earth, driven by a group of lightened human figures...What does it tell?

The Crow Captain: Look closer.

[One of the human figures fades, and the earth turns slower.]

The Crow: One of them just fades out.

The Crow Captain: Be patient.

[Onther figure fades, and the earth gets even slower.]

The Crow Captain: What did you notice?

The Crow: The earth, it's getting slower and slower. Why?

The Crow Captain: You see, this is the planet that we live on. Everything went so well in the old days, until the plague broke out. People started to get infected, and as it spread, our earth could no more function as before. Can you imagine what would happen if we left those faded figures there?

The Crow: Then more of these figures will fade as well.

The Crow Captain: Exactly. Now what will you do?

The Crow: Can I...?

[The Crow attempts to reach out to one of the faded figures and pulls it off the device. The speed of the earth gets back a little.]

The Crow: I can see it gets back a little.

The Crow Captain: Go on.

[The Crow pulls the other faded one off. The earth goes back to its normal speed.]

[They stand and look at the device for a while. The Crow turns to the faded figures left on the ground.]

The Crow Captain: Now do you understand the meaning of our mission?

The Crow: But as for these faded parts...

The Crow Captain: We have no choice.

[The Crow Captain is going to leave, but stops as the Crow calls them.]

The Crow: Captain, have you heard of the story that happened a month ago?

The Crow Captain: What are you referring to?

The Crow: I heard one of the Crows -- they say he was the best one of all -- he was summoned by the Director General.

The Crow Captain: What else do you know?

The Crow: There was no news on him anymore. They say he gave up the position and got infected soon after that, but his body is unfound.

The Crow Captain: And what do you want to know?

The Crow: I wonder what they talked about that day, what made him quit and what happened to him after that.

The Crow Captain: You have known enough. Too many questions will do you no good.

The Crow: What do you mean "do me no good"?

The Crow Captain: There are people like us dying every day, not from the plague, but they commit suicide.

The Crow: So you know what happened that day.

The Crow Captain: I wish I did not. I shouldn't say this to you.

[The Crow looks at the faded figures again.]

The Crow: Are those people alive?

The Crow Captain: I wish I could say yes.

The Crow: Then why are we still doing this? This is murder.

[The Crow Captain points to the device.]

The Crow Captain: Have you ever thought about what it means when this earth stops?

The Crow: The end of the world?

The Crow Captain: No. It's the end of the domination of our kind.

The Crow: So you mean what we are doing is not just controlling the plague

and protecting the uninfected, but to defend this domination -- by killing -- by this massacre?

The Crow Captain: Now that you've known everything.

[Silence. The Crow walks around the device, and puts the faded parts back to the earth.]

The Crow: What's the problem of having the earth turn slower?

The Crow Captain: What are you talking about?

The Crow: And what's the problem of becoming another kind? Our bodies won't die, our minds won't die. Everything just becomes slower, much slower...

[All human figures fade out. The earth stops.]

The Crow: And the earth will still keep turning...