

Precarious Life after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster

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After the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, the problem of the precariousness of life is an urgent issue. However, it can be said that the nuclear incident only revealed a situation that began far before. *Tragedy of Japan* (2012), directed by Masahiro Kobayashi, describes the painful life of a man in his forties who loses his job and lives with his parents who subsist on their pension. The protagonists experience the 3.11 disaster but their difficulties began much earlier than 2011. Anne Allison tackles the problem of Japan's social structure in her book *Precarious Japan* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2013). In the beginning of her book, Allison introduces the incident of a 52-year-old man who died of hunger and was found mummified. He left a note saying, "[All] I want is to eat a rice ball" (onigiri tabetai) in 2007. Allison reveals the astonishing truth that people have been dying of hunger in this century in Japan, a country believed to be extremely wealthy. She raises the critical question of whether the victims of 3.11 in Northeast Japan have enough welfare support to survive. She coined the term "precarious life" to reflect the uncertain nature of life in Japan after the 3.11 disaster.

My paper focusing on the 2015 film *Sayonara* directed by Kōji Fukada is a response to her question and further examines the idea of the precarious life especially after the Fukushima nuclear incident.