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## About Factions

Osamu Dazai

1948

Factions are governments. By the looks of things, governments also seem to be power. Well if that's the case, then maybe factions are organizations created with power as an objective. What's more is that such power possibly only finds hope within the "majority," at the end of the day.

Nevertheless, in the case of government, 300 votes are even more absolute than 200 votes, and as if left before the judgment of god, victory may be achieved; however when it comes to literature I think that things are a little bit different.

Independence. A tactless word of flattery that has been overused for a long time; if you try to meet the magnificent people who have been offered such flattery, you will find that they are just unpleasant, and anybody would gladly pass up an opportunity to stick around such a person. It seems like there are a lot of people like this. That these so-called "independent" people twist their mouth open and wildly attack the "crowd" while bragging about their own "independence" is something that has been told through legends featuring such amazing people both overseas and in Japan, and by doing this it also looks like they're trying to repress their own misery.

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You should always be careful around people who call themselves “independent.” First of all, it’s pretentious. Almost without exception, they are “hypocrites close to being exposed.” There has never been such a thing as “independence.” Perhaps there is such a thing as isolation. Nah, it rather looks like “isolation” is more common.

Speaking from my current position, I desperately want some good friends, yet nobody will play with me and so I am stuck in loneliness. Well, actually that’s a lie; I get hunches about the suffering of “factions” and have intentionally chosen “loneliness” although that is absolutely not a good thing; I have chosen not to mingle with close friends only because I think it will make my life easier.

Once again, I want to start talking about “factions”; To me (I don’t care about how it is for other people), the most painful thing is not being able to talk about the stupidity of my fellow members and instead having to go through the painful duty of sending them words of praise. If you look at it from the outside, and sorry for generalizing like this, they seem to be connected through so-called friendship; They happily walk, talk and clap with each other in sync, even though the people that they hate the most are those within their very same “faction.” Conversely, the people who they secretly rely on within their hearts are actually the enemies of their own “faction.”

There’s nothing harder to deal with than people in your own “faction” who you dislike. I know that it’s the cause of life-long melancholy. A new form of clique could begin when comrades openly betray each other.

Friendship. Trust. I’ve never seen these things in “factions.”