¹ その日、つけっぱなしのラジオで、しきりにおなじ話題がくりかえされていた。² もうじき、一時間かそこらで、宇宙にただよう大小の塵のなかへ、地球が入っていくのだ。³ 大気との摩擦で塵は輝き、その光は夜空を、放射状にながれていくだろう。

4 <u>今晩</u>の流星群が発見されたのは三年前のことだ。5 **あれから**もう三年が**たつのかと**かんがいぶか。6 三年**といえば**、僕が椎名と知り合って**から**、今まで流れた時間と、だいたいおなじである。7 はじめ**のうち**、情報が錯綜して、きょだいいなせきらっか 巨大隕石が落下するという噂もあった。8 地下にシェルターをつくる人や、食料を買い込むした。9 すぐに、ただの流星群だと判明して、混乱はおさまったけれど。

Text

- [verb stem] + っぱなし: left in the state of [verb]
- [time] か そこら: about [time], [time] or so (5分かそこらで: in about five minutes) (1 時間 かそこら待つ: wait for an hour or so)
- ...のなかへ: へ is generally preferred to に here because へ indicates direction more than target or destination (which is shown by に). The Earth's path happens to take it through the debris stream, but the Earth will not stop there.
- …夜空を: を, not で, is often used for verbs showing a transit across a physical medium. (空 を飛ぶ、道を歩く)
- あれから: since then, since that time
- …たつのかと…: と marks the author's thought (preceding と), and what follows is the emotion inspired by that thought.
- \sim といえば: speaking of \sim , come to think of \sim
- て verb] + から: after [verb] happened
- [time](の)うち(に): in the course of [time], during the period of [time](近いうちに: in the near future)
- …と判明して…: the use of the て form here shows a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the two clauses, thus "when" in the translation.

¹ That day, from the radio I had left on came an endless repetition of the same story. ² Very soon, in an hour or so, the Earth will pass into a stream of dust and debris drifting through space. ³ Friction with the atmosphere will make the fragments glow, and the resulting light will presumably radiate in streaks across the night sky.

⁴ The discovery of tonight's meteor shower came three years ago. ⁵ That already three years have passed since then is a profound thought. ⁶ Come to think of it, three years would be about the same amount of time that has gone by since Shiina and I first met. ⁷ At first, reports conflicted, and there was even a rumor that a massive meteorite would fall from space. ⁸ Some people built underground shelters or bought up provisions. ⁹ Although when it was quickly determined to be just a meteor shower, the panic disappeared.

10 窓を開けると、まるい月がかがやいていた。
11 偶然にも今日は満月だ。12 椎名はここに泊まっていく**らしい**。13 外泊の許可をもらうため、
13 外泊の許可をもらうため、
14 もどってきた彼女は、ラジオに耳をかたむける。15 やがて口をひらくと、心地よい、**いつもの**声で、
今晩のベッドタイム・ストーリーを語り**だした**。

 16 しかし、今日のお 話 は、いつもと $\frac{^{17}}{^{17}}$ 数 が **5がっていた**。 17 世だしが**まず** 奇妙だった。 18 彼女は 唐突に、「私 には 超 能 力 があるのです」と、話しはじめたのである......。

~らしい: apparently, supposedly, from what I can tell

いつもの \sim : the same \sim as always [verb stem] + だす: to start to

[verb] (same as [verb stem] + はじめる) Ex: 雨が降りだし た。It started to rain.

ちがっていた: 違う is often used in the progressive tense as seen here; the meaning does not change.

まず: first off, to start with

¹⁰ I opened the window to find a round moon shining. ¹¹ By coincidence tonight's moon is full. ¹² Shiina will apparently spend the night here. ¹³ In order to get permission to stay overnight, she had stepped outside the room to put in a call to her mother. ¹⁴ On returning, she listens closely to the radio. ¹⁵ Soon she opens her mouth to speak, and in that pleasant voice so familiar to me, she began to tell tonight's bedtime story.

¹⁶ But the tone of today's story was different than usual. ¹⁷ It felt strange right from the opening. ¹⁸ She began suddenly, saying, "I have a supernatural power."

Vocabulary

Beginner

1 話題 story, topic, subject

¹繰り返す repeat

² 地球 the Earth

3 輝く shine, glow, sparkle

3 光 light

³ 流れる flow, stream, pass by

⁵経つ pass (as in time)

⁶大体 about, around; mostly

⁷始め beginning

7 噂 rumor

8 地下 underground

⁸ 現れる appear

10 丸い round

11 満月 full moon

¹² 泊まる spend the night

14 戻る return, go back

¹⁵ やがて soon, before long

15 開く open

¹⁶ 違う differ

Intermediate

¹ しきりに constantly, without cease

^{2 ただよ} 漂う drift, wander

² 大小の of assorted sizes

³大気 atmosphere

今晚 tonight (formal)

⁴発見する discover

⁵ 感慨深い emotionally profound

^{」 じょうほう} 「情報 information, report

⁷ 巨大な giant, massive

食料 food, provisions

⁸買い込む stock up (on)

⁹ 治まる calm down, quiet

11 偶然 coincidence

³ 許可 permission

15 心地よい pleasant, comfortable

16 印象 impression

¹⁷ 出だし opening, start

18 唐突に suddenly, abruptly

Advanced

² 塵 dust, dirt

^{まさつ} 摩擦 friction

³ 放射状 radial pattern

⁷錯綜する conflict, be confusing

7 隕石 meteorite

^{8 落下}する fall, drop

⁹ 判明する determine, judge (to be)

9 混乱 chaos, turmoil

13 外泊する stay out, spend the night

away from home

¹⁷ 奇妙な unusual, odd

18 超能力 superpower