# In Praise of Cry Breaks

# 울음휴식예찬 哭泣休息禮讚

Joeun Kim Aatchim 2016

Yet! I can only speak behind your voice.

Oh, damn. I am already bursting into tears again.

Oh, this isn't mature at all, at all for sure!

Let's *Try*! not to... *Cry*! Let's *Cry*! not to... *Try*!

Shall feign yawning!, if your eyes redden and water up, my dear.

Here, I confess! I can only write when I am in bed.

The bright phone screen illuminates my face, the one and only face,

Here and now.

Oh, as if I am on a stage!

Now, the spotlight only illuminates my visage, the one and only me!

It's my idea that a medicine that *fights back* one's tears shall need to be developed.

Because sadness cannot be fought to win.

Though I am very fine with it, I am also afraid of people looking at me crying. I am indeed too often bursting into tears.

Oh, don't take it wrong, though. It is not because I am too often sad. It is more like... How should I say... something similar to... What smoking meant to...

#### A chain smoker!

Don't you think this is little unfair, my friends, you, my poor little listeners of my story?

The ones who smoke always gather together with the excuse of a casual smoke break. Also called social smoking. What a relaxation during work hours!

I've never had *casual cry breaks* with others.

I swear, I have never.

By the way, I honestly hate smoking.

You, my thoughtful friend!

I see so often you trying to awkwardly pretend you haven't seen my reddened eyes bursting into tears and kindly walk away with your poor acting skill.

Of course, I know how sweet you are to not shame me for the sake of my — privacy.

But . . . hey, my sweetheart, listen to me.

Look at my blissful eyes bursting into the special tears of today.

It seems every day's "Soup of The day" is always the fucking lentil soup. But please note that today's and every day's soup of mine

- my soup from the eyes!—
- my tears from the kitchen!
- are made of very different
- Organic! fresh!

The new ingredients everyday, served all day.

I wish we could have *cry breaks* together instead of the awkwardly conventional avoidance of a cry.

## "Hey, can I borrow a light? I mean, a "tissue?"

The tears of today feel especially smooth running through my nostrils to the thirsty throats.

Yes, this is what is only tasty to swallow from my days and days.

## Wailfully!

Draw deeply on your tears and breathe out.

Everyone says crying is bad for your health, especially for your throat, but I can't find anything else more healing than

the genuine tears that you freshly roll against one's two melancholic cheeks.

I've tried to abstain, but soon again I find myself looking for tears.

One can't quit at once! It takes an enormous effort.

I am an addict.

Ah, on New Year's Day, I made a resolution to quit crying, and bragged about it and felt so firm!

But you know, *shamefully* enough I found myself *crying* again even within the first three days of the resolution.

Within three fucking days!

Of course, now I puff at my tears on the sly due to shame.

I am a mere addict.

I am an addict.

But I am so alive when I come out to have *cry breaks*.

I often come outside to puff at a sip of tears in the middle of the night as well.

When my lover's asleep, I quietly walk out to cry.

My poor lover doesn't know started crying again.

I can't confess; I really don't want to disappoint my lover.

It is a **shame**.

Oh, indeed humiliating.

My lover must have believed me that I no longer cry.

We've talked about how bad it is for our health.

I've talked to my lover—I'd never want to kiss someone who is a habitual crier, whose mouth is dry and tastes like tears.

I feel like I am a liar.

I feel I am a weak willed being.

And it makes me sad.

So I cry covertly again.

### I wail while silent!

These days I've seen people switching to the electronic tear.

But how can that *e-thing* be better than the burning, bitter genuine tears

that you freshly rolled against one's two melancholic cheeks?

I have never seen anything "e" be better than the real one.

They're not the real thing. Am I too old fashioned? I don't believe so. Even if I am, I state, that's for cowards.

It is perhaps a worldwide epidemic that everyone says,

"Quit crying; reduce crying for one's own health; consider the secondhand crying sufferers; and tears are hazardous..." And tut-tutting whenever they see criers and wailers in public, pointing them out and shaming them aloud, all that stuff...

But you know, again, do those *anticriers* or *noncriers* know the bittersweet taste of the genuine tears of life?

They are missing out. *That's the real thing.* 

Crying doesn't make you ill; the sadness does.

It was an absolute pleasure of my life when everyone could cry on the street or anywhere in public when I was young.

Criers, wailers, sobbing men were everywhere and so free!

It was truly blissful.

I wailed in the subway, I wept on the sidewalk, I blubbered, I sobbed...

Ah, talking about these *goodies* makes me *crave* tears again.

Let me *drag* a tear one more time before I go back to work.

But now I am not sure if this is because the world changed or if it is because

I am an old person that I am not allowed to cry aloud outside, in public.

While I see kids still doing it. (People hate 'em.) It doesn't change for them eternally.

When we were born, we were doomed to cry.

Ah! I didn't realize *time* was up already! I've talked too much again. Well, let's *snuff* the tears out and go back to work.

Hey, friends! If you throw out your tears on the street, you will be fined and *blamed*.

Please don't make the criers be *ashamed* anymore!

As we already have *enough* haters.

Let's hasten to throw your tears into the trash, .... so that nobody knows we've ever cried.

Thank you,

Very much.

Joeun kim Aatchim

2016

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