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Title: The beautiful land of Japan

Koutaro Takamura was a famous poet and sculptor from Japan. Chieko Takamura was his wife and said " I want to see the pure sky of my hometown". She was confined to bed by illness. She was born and grew up in the neighboring town of Nihonmatsu City in Fukushima prefecture. And she graduated from Japan Women's University, Tokyo. Afterwards she married Koutaro Takamura, but she suffered from a mental disease and she died at the age of 52.

"Chieko-Shou" is a book of poems by Koutaro Takamura. He wrote down about his and his wife's plain life. He loved her heartily. I think that Koutaro conveyed a beautiful image concerning the lands of Fukushima prefecture. He showed us the full extent of his love for Chieko through his beautiful poems. The title of these poems are "Juka no futari" and "Adokenai hanashi". Koutaro has written, "There is Mt. Adatara, The shining line is the Abukuma River."

This is the scenery of Chieko's hometown in Fukushima prefecture during the early winter. I can feel that clear air and hear the sound of wind of the northern country from this poem.

One day, Chieko said, "There is no pure sky in Tokyo" in his poem "Adokenai-hanashi." Koutaro was puzzled very much. "There is pure sky in Fukushima and the beautiful country Fukushima" were his catch phrases of Fukushima prefecture. It is coming from the story of Koutaro and Chieko.

The people of Fukushima prefecture had a lot of pride about their hometown. Now, the sky of Fukushima prefecture, which Chieko loved passionately, is polluted by the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station's accident. The sky, soil, water and foods were polluted by radioactive rays.

She must have been grieving because the name of Fukushima would now be synonymous with Three Mile Island and Chernobyl from here on after. And we have a lot of uneasiness because we can't see our future.

But I want to believe that there is a pure sky in Fukushima prefecture.