

shimazaki-kenshiro-2019-03-30.mp4

Interpreter [00:00:17] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:00:25] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:00:28] He was born in downtown Tokyo, but when he was seven years old, he moved to an island country named Shikoku, but he moved there and lived there for a while.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:00:40] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:00:49] And he found a lot of small creatures like, you know, fish or insects in the beaches and tide pools.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:00:59] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:01:17] So he still has a vivid memory of how the minnow wiggled, how the crab moved along. He has a very vivid memory how the creatures moved in the water or on land.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:01:45] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:01:47] And looking back, that memory is very helpful in his career as a fly designer, fly tyer.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:01:55] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:01:59] He came back to Tokyo when he became 8 years of age.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:02:06] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:02:16] And close to his home back then there is a huge horse racing park called Baji Koen and there was a big pond in there.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:02:26] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:02:31] Yeah, he made friends with the crawdads, crawfish living in the pond. Still friends.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:02:39] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:02:45] And his angling career started in Tama River, which flows through Tokyo metropolitan area.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:02:53] I went to see the river for the first time, but when I walked up to the top of the Tama River, I was amazed by the view of the river.

Interpreter [00:03:11] And when he first saw the Tama River, which is a big one, it was a very uh... Uh... Revelating uh... Experience for him. The big river, the big body of water. There were a lot of fish.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:03:30] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:03:40] And people were fishing in the river for chub or carp back then.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:03:48] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:03:58] So he didn't have any fishing rod with him or he couldn't afford one so he just kept watching adult fishing.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:04:15] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:04:16] So his father fought the war in the Southern Pacific front and he got malaria and he became very ill.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:04:26] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:04:34] So he became pretty violent after he got discharged from the service.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:04:39] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:04:48] So before his army carrier, he was a boxer actually. So he had a very strong punch, and that was a very strong blow to him as a kid.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:05:01] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:05:09] So, as a result, he committed himself for suicide, sadly, but he thinks that his father could have made a very good fly caster.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:05:19] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:05:32] And one day, his mother ran away from the family, leaving his dad and him alone in the house.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:05:40] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:05:56] So he had a younger brother and he had to take care of him so he couldn't go to school because he was so busy, occupied with taking care of his younger brother.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:06:07] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:06:15] Because he cannot go to school, you know, the the neighboring bully is just, you know, yell at him and throw a stone at him because he doesn't show up.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:06:33] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:06:35] So he rather not stay close to home because the bullies find him, so he tried to find escape then he came across the river.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:06:56] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:06:58] It was a spectacular sight. Big body of water, wide expanse, and people angling, fish jumping.

James Thull [00:07:04] In about what year would have that been?

Interpreter [00:07:07] When he was 8 years old?

Interpreter [00:07:26] He found two pairs of anglers, the people who catch fish and the people who don't catch anything.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:07:34] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:07:41] So he was looking around who catches most, but the tendency is the people who can catch, catch the most, the other gets skunked.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:07:49] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:08:09] He doesn't remember the exact, you know, emotional state back then, but he remembers that catching the silver fish, just splashing in the light, left a very lasting impression on him and how cool it was.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:08:26] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:08:52] So when his mother was with them, they left some coins so that they can buy whatever they want, small change.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:09:03] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:09:14] So he saved up enough money, like 500 yen, which converts to the current currency, \$5.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:09:20] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:09:27] With that money saved, he purchased the fishing kit.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:09:31] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:09:35] I think the shop owner gave him a great discount to give him the kit because 500 yen is not sufficient to cover the whole tackle.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:10:05] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:10:08] I think the shop owner gave him a discount because he frequented the shop, you know, went to the shop for quite a long time, so that's because that's the reason that the shop owner gives him a good discount.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:10:21] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:10:31] And, okay, so, uh, his father, uh...

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:10:47] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:10:48] So when his father came back home he found another fishing tackle and he didn't like to have a fishing tackle in his home so his father took him to the fishing tackle shop and gave everything back and got the refund.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:11:12] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:11:13] And the money he got back, his father took it, so he got nothing left. No money, no fishing tackle.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:11:29] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:11:31] So the memory of only a short while that he owned a fishing tackle. The memory still lingered, but he lost everything, money or the fishing tackle

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:11:41] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:11:46] And what really impressed him was the fishing hook and the float.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:11:51] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:11:56] And he found a metal wire in his toolbox, in his father's toolbox.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:12:03] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:12:13] His father used to like handwork, so he had hammers, nippers, [unintelligible], and among them was a wire.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:12:21] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:12:30] And he tried to bend the wire to make a hosing hook. He tried that.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:12:38] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:12:44] He bent the wire with the pliers, he made the shape but didn't have any clue how to sharpen it.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:13:05] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:13:06] In his memory was that it's a brightly painted chunk of wood

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:13:13] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:13:18] And he owns a wood puzzle kind of wood pieces

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:13:25] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:13:29] And he thought, whoa, I can cut it into shape and make a float out of it.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:13:36] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:13:45] And he tried to cut it, but the color was of course on the surface only, if he cut it inside it was just wood color, brown.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:13:59] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:14:01] It was surprising that the paint was applied to create the color.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:14:17] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:14:18] You learned a lesson the hard way. If you are not careful, you hurt yourself. And that's helpful today even.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:14:26] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:14:30] And he remembers that ouch experience whenever he plays with the blades.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:14:40] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:14:43] And one day when he came back from a river, he found some adults in his home and arguing on anything, something.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:14:52] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:15:01] The problem was that he was not going to school so all his relatives and families are just having discussion how to help him

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:15:09] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:15:13] And he was not supposed to be in the discussion because he was the first person involved, so he was kept out.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:15:20] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:15:31] And one lady, who is commonly called the aunt in Kiryu, she took his hand and they walked away from his home.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:15:45] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:15:51] And he heard later that his younger brother and his mother took and he was taken away from home with his aunt in Kiryu. So the family got separated.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:16:07] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:16:17] That's how he gets settled down in Kiryu, this town.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:16:28] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:16:30] And kids were just eager waiting for him to arrive because, you know, they heard that a guy from Tokyo is coming in.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:16:51] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:16:52] His school teacher threw him a basic mathematical question. He couldn't answer anything because he didn't go to school. He didn't have the concept of multiplication.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:17:09] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:17:10] And that kind of you know that was a hit among his fellow class members because he didn't know how to multiply.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:17:20] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:17:24] And he was made fun of because he couldn't make the calculation.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:17:37] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:17:38] And he was invited to go to river together with the kids in Kiryu.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:17:43] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:17:49] And he was introduced to a secret spot that you can grab fish with your bare hands.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:17:59] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:18:00] And that's right at the foot of the bridge [called Tenjinbashi] of River Kiryu.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:18:17] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:18:18] Now it's a little bit different from what it used to be, but back then it was a very rich flow with a lot of hiding place for fish.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:18:32] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:18:33] And one of the big bullies, Ikeda, showed him the way he had to handle catching a fish with bare hands. And he asked him, asked Kenshiro to try it.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:18:58] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:18:58] It was easy for him because he didn't go to school in Tokyo all he was doing was just playing with a fish so that was easy for

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:19:11] [speaking Japanese] .

Interpreter [00:19:13] Because he was such a good angler but fish catcher he made friends with the local kids and that's how he blended in, broke in.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:19:28] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:19:32] And he used to have a relative. Married to an American army officer.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:19:44] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:19:53] As he told, she was married to an army officer living in the Tokyo area, outskirts of Tokyo.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:20:01] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:20:04] His name is Gerald Spinx.

Interpreter [00:20:13] They were living in the naval base, I mean the army base.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:20:20] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:20:31] Now it's maybe at the beginning of the 60s

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:20:35] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:20:38] And the couple invited him to come join and have fun in the base.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:20:55] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:20:57] Gerald was a really enthusiastic angler with quite a few lures and reels and tackle, quite a bucketful.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:21:03] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:21:04] Some rods are made of steel.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:21:10] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:21:16] Impressing most was the lure made by James Heddon

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:21:21] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:21:27] And made him smile if he take a look at the old Heddon lure, the Heddon package.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:21:34] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:21:43] He thinks that one of his famous pattern is marshmallow pupa and the shape itself really looks like a head on topwater plug

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:21:56] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:22:04] And Gerald was the subscriber of the American fishing magazines.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:22:11] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:22:13] The reading, then he made sure to send them to his place in Kiryu.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:22:18] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:22:36] He couldn't read the language, but the visuals, all the photos, the illustrations had a strong influence and the impression on him, he still hung on to these hard copies.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:22:55] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:22:56] And Gerald promised Kenshiro to make a grand tour after he retires from the army career, but he passed away suddenly, after he became 50 years of age, slightly older, he passed away.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:23:15] [speaking Japanese] .

Interpreter [00:23:16] And every morning, it's a habit of him, you know, praying for Gerald every morning.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:23:27] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:23:29] One of his valuable lessons that Gerrald gave to Kenshiro was that fish the place different from others.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:23:39] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:23:42] And utilize a different method than everybody else.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:23:45] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:23:49] And use sweet corn to fish for carp.

Interpreter [00:23:55] What do you love about fishing?

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:23:58] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:24:07] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:24:12] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:24:20] Of course, he likes the practice of angling, but in addition, being close to the water has a really soothing effect on his [mind?].

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:24:40] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:24:48] His family situation was a little bit not normal, so he had a very good consolation he found close to the water.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:25:10] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:25:33] May have something to do with the origin, you know, we all left water and but we sometimes, you know, seem to remember that kind of old-time memory and that's maybe the reason that he likes to be close to the water, enjoy the small creatures of the water or you know just the salmon.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:25:52] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:26:04] He likes the pleasant feel of tiredness, I mean fatigue, and he feels at the same time he is tired, but he feels recharged after fishing [unintelligible] excursion.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:26:18] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:26:22] Maybe that can be a result of the receiving or, you know, taking the sun ray.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:26:39] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:26:44] Quite a few people talk about how harmful it can be, the exposure to UV rays, but at the same time, the flip side is that the sun ray is very healthy, I mean, can do some good to everybody too.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:27:12] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:27:17] In order to generate, synthesize vitamin D, the UV exposure is necessary plus some of the sunscreen is pretty harmful to human body that's revealed by the recent study.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:27:37] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:27:39] Nowadays you know certain percentage of people quite a few people suffer from hay fever, are allergic to pollen. But when he was a kid nobody was suffering from pollen fever

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:27:48] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:27:52] And I heard that surfers, they don't suffer from pollen allergy.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:28:19] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:28:23] Fly tyers as occupation inevitably lock yourself indoors and crank out flies or design flies but it's recommended to go out and you know expose get yourself exposed to the sun close to the water.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:28:52] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:28:53] And if you fly fish using that fly, that's the comprehensive enjoyment.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:29:14] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:29:15] I have experienced quite a few types of angling, but fly fishing is very special. The fatigue you feel, the contentment you feel after you get back home, that's very special and unique.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:29:35] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:29:37] Last year although having said that last year he locked himself in this office creating things and thinking about things, fly design

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:29:46] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:29:50] And his doctor showed him a yellow card, almost red.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:30:00] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:30:00] His figures are high, all the, you know, fat content in his bloodstream, cholesterol, warning sign.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:30:15] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:30:16] It was well beyond the borderline. It was almost a red card.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:30:20] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:30:23] And he said, his doctor said, well, you won't live long with these figures.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:30:31] [speaking Japanese] .

Interpreter [00:30:34] A famous Japanese skier, Yuichiro Miura, fell into pretty the same status. High cholesterol, high lipid in the blood.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:30:53] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:30:55] And he said in his book, he's a famous skier, but he started training in the middle 60s with ankle weight and, you know, with a heavy weight in his backpack, tried to train him, and he'd get back in shape.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:31:09] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:31:13] And he completed the climb to the top of Everest, Chomolungma, in his 80s.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:31:21] The doctor told me not to stand in the river and fish because I have a problem with my blood vessels.

Interpreter [00:31:32] And the same doctor told him that him, Kenshiro, had a minor problem with the cardiovascular system. So he warned him, Kenshiro, not to wade into the river because there's risk of being washed down.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:31:49] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:31:50] Yeah, if he loses consciousness in the river, that's out. That's the end of it.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:32:02] [speaking Japanese].

Interpreter [00:32:06] So he decided to go fishing using bicycle every day from September to December, every day going out, casting.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:32:14] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:32:17] As Yuichiro Miura said, he put an ankle weight to increase the load.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:32:27] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:32:28] And he didn't use any waders, he used barefoot standing on the riverbank.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:32:47] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:32:48] And he heard that, you know, mandarin orange is good for the cardio strengthening, so he carried some with him and he sat on the riverbank eating mandarin oranges.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:33:06] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:33:08] And some of the people living close to the river who saw him sitting on the bank eating oranges thought him to be homeless people living there.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:33:23] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:33:27] Everyday biking to the river, eating oranges, a lot of luggage, so that's a natural assumption.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:33:35] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:33:42] And doing that he lost 5 kg of weight.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:33:47] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:33:52] And he changed his work style. Instead of sitting, he installed the standing desk.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:33:58] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:34:03] Nowadays he standing up he's really productive

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:34:20] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:34:21] And now he's going through some renovation to make all his fly tying standing up

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:34:37] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:34:40] This is a recent design that he did for the new version of Tiemco hook and he was really productive so he really liked his current working style.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:34:51] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:35:00] And the people at AMQA who deals the TMC hook in the U.S., they really liked it, so that's a proof of that.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:35:18] [speaking Japanese].

Interpreter [00:35:18] So that's the total results of standing up work, mandarin orange, biking, and barefoot wading.

Interpreter [00:35:39] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:35:51] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:35:54] The typical fly fishing pattern or the tendency that the Japanese people like is the finesse fishing using mostly dry fly sometimes nymph for cherry salmon, Yamame or Char Iwana.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:36:10] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:36:18] Personal, like some active fishing using terrestrial kind of fast fishing attractors instead of a finesse fishing. That's fun too.

Interpreter [00:36:31] And the typical line weight is from maybe 3 to 6 weight.

Interpreter [00:36:40] And he prefers both short cast and long cast.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:36:44] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:36:47] He likes to have everything, he likes to pursue, grab all the possibilities, chances to fish.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:36:55] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:37:12] He himself is a fly tyer slash flyhook designer, which is a unique occupation, so he has to be familiar with various styles of flies, the sizing and the cast feel.

Interpreter [00:37:32] So he likes to have all various sets of tackle always available, always castable.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:37:40] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:37:55] So of course he likes to have what he likes but sometimes he has to purchase what he dislikes.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:38:03] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:38:14] In Japan they call it Danshari which translates, you know, getting rid of things and it's almost a trend thing But he's doing a reverse Dansari. He's just getting things, collecting things

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:39:13] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:39:18] He cannot help. Once he decides to get things, he gets a full spectrum, full size, full color. So the other day when it was snowing, he had a knock on the door and the driver showed up, showing that he had the delivery. He said, bring it in. And the driver said, no, I can't because he had two pallets full of materials arriving from China.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:40:01] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:40:02] And it's a sample for him for the research target and he's willing to share uh... This resource uh... With uh... His friends so this is almost a public uh... Resource that everyone has access to.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:40:17] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:40:21] He has a freedom, mental freedom to get whatever he needs.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:40:25] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:40:27] It's not recommended because you need space.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:40:33] [speaking Japanese].

Interpreter [00:40:33] You have a lot to lose.

Interpreter [00:40:57] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:41:39] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:41:40] Climate change, pollution, of course that is a serious problem and many people have mentioned, I'm sure. But a different way of finding threat, he founds the topic of animal abuse, fish abuse to be a possible danger that might surface in the future.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:42:22] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:42:23] Recently, high brands in fashion, some of them just joined forces to declare fur-free, I mean, he means natural fur-free declaration.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:42:35] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:42:45] And of course the amount of actual natural furs used in the fashion doesn't compare to the volume that is used in fly fishing. It didn't compare, but still we utilize some natural material.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:43:11] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:43:12] Then, you know, we have to also be careful in utilizing the synthetics, because surface by the microplastic problems, we cannot fully convincingly convert into synthetics 100%. So we have to have a....

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:43:28] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:43:53] So, yeah, he thinks that we can address the problem by carefully selecting the source or the way we apply materials. But at the same time, there's danger or the possibility of, you know, harming fish by hooking it can also be a source of argument.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:45:04] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:45:07] Maybe in 20 years' time, technology may advance to the state that maybe either flying drone or some technology utilizing them, you can detect the fish taking the fly. You don't have to necessarily hook it. So maybe you can use a hookless fly and still get the gratification or the confirmation that the fish took the fly, that may be the possibility.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:45:37] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:46:02] And maybe we can develop some super-micro machine that should be, that can be incorporated in the flight cell. And that will open up some possibility.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:46:12] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:47:11] He still sees the possibility of fly fishing getting more interesting and, you know, for good or worse, you may be able to succeed in designing an Android fish that will take a fly or something.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:47:46] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:47:47] And at the same time, he believes that the classic style of fly fishing just as it was practiced for a long time still survives.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:47:55] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:48:00] The bamboo rods, they don't get phased out, they're going to survive.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:48:14] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:48:23] He used to like cane rods, bamboo rods almost exclusively, but now that he is forced to remain, stay on the shore instead of wading, so he'd rather use a powerful graphite rod. That's a new direction he's taking.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:48:42] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:48:44] And sometimes he has a new discovery, switching back to the cane, how sweet it feels. So every day discovery for him.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:49:09] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:49:10] A fly fish is so deep, and if you try to dig deep, it becomes steeper. And many fish are unaware of the fact that... how much depth this has.

Interpreter [00:49:39] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:49:59] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:50:01] Mostly thanks to the internet, the need for sharing is really quick and if it works on the productive side, the good practice is shared worldwide for the better, the improvement of the situation in fly fishing.

James Thull [00:50:19] Okay.

Interpreter [00:50:20] She had to practice, yeah.

Interpreter [00:50:32] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:50:35] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:51:07] He thinks the actual method or the tips you can learn in the field, but fly fishing requires a certain set of skills, like casting. And he thinks fly casting is the most important one that you have to put time into.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:51:43] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:51:45] So fly tying, you have to acquire the sense of tension, the sense the breaking strings, stuff like that. Fly casting, you should find a good instructor or the advisor.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:51:57] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:51:59] Like Mr. Higashi.

Interpreter [00:52:11] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:52:47] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:52:57] So just like planting a small tree in a clear-cut mountainside, the people in industry should try hard to impress young people how beautiful fly casting or fly fishing can be by showing the actual scene firsthand instead of showing them the YouTube or Internet. The firsthand experience.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:53:38] [speaking Japanese].

Interpreter [00:53:41] So in the long run, in the long term, you know, currently everything is virtual, everything is internet, indoors, but swing back is going to take place sooner or later, and people start to go outdoors, and if that happens, fly fishing can be very strong, can have a very strong appeal to the people who decide to go out.

Interpreter [00:54:08] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:54:13] Mongolia.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:54:21] Tigerfish. Tigerfish is a big fish. [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:54:48] So he is determined to enjoy it second-handedly, and as he said, he had a bit of a cardiovascular problem. So he tries to give or rent his flies or lures to the people who are traveling abroad. And if they get results, that is his joy.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:55:08] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:55:10] And ultimate long distance fishing.

Interpreter [00:55:18] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:55:22] I remember it from the beginning. That experience is the most important thing. I caught fish with what I made myself.

Interpreter [00:55:34] It's so vividly etched in his memory and that's a very strong one he never forgets.

James Thull [00:55:41] And can you tell me where was it? What type of fish? About when?

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:55:46] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:55:59] Upstream from here in the small branch of river close to Ashio city and it was Light Cahill the classic East Coast pattern.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:56:10] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:56:14] Since he had such a good memory of Light Cahill, he filled the fly box with that pattern only. From size 10 to down to size 20, everything was Light Cahill.

Interpreter [00:56:29] I know the master, not the emcee.

Interpreter [00:56:36] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:57:21] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:57:24] So he based a lot of product on his manual skills or tactile feeling. He still remembers vividly how the fish felt when he was a younger kid, how the squid felt when he squeezed it, how crab felt. So he had a vivid memory of it and combined that with the modern day technology plus his accumulated skills will result in the flight pattern material. So...Its combination of various factors.

Interpreter [00:58:04] [speaking Japanese]

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:58:12] Pauli Rosboro.

Interpreter [00:58:21] Pauli Rosboro.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:58:21] [speaking Japanese]

Interpreter [00:58:23] Actually many others, but if he has to pick one, Paulie.

James Thull [00:58:32] Oh, wonderful.

Kenshiro Smimazaki [00:58:32] A.K. Best.

James Thull [00:58:32] A.K. Best, okay.