WLSX7834-6F

There's a difference between disavowing power and actually doing without it.

By now her skin seemed made of parchment. People who knew her best say she began to savour the sounds of words instead of cherishing their sense; sense might staunch the flow.

Born into doctrinal slumber and with all his usual cheery conviction and mechanical vivacity, Ito was deaf to secondness. This most outwardly sanguine yet most private of men policed himself against candour and gave interviews with the halting, guarded intonation of a hostage.

‘To begin with, 7806 was no bigger than a fist on the horizon. Its volume density was underdetermined. If – today – we sequence the fingers of the WLSX cluster like we’re children drawing a map of a continent waiting to sink, then we’ll miss what counts, which is – as it always is in these critical moments – the activation contour.’ Of Ito’s final ambivalent attempt to gain consent for his proposal she commented: ‘I didn’t travel from 7834 to squeeze meaning out of his vague implication. In the end I learned a lot more… that he was all hooked on disciplining the team I had assembled and his tacit *mea culpa* drove him toward a desperate spiral of conscience-laundering.’

John Chilver 2015