

Shusaku Endo

Silence



Silence

1. Jesuits in Japan
2. Nanban trade
3. Shimabara Rebellion
4. Sakoku (“Seclusion Laws”)
5. Kakure Kirishitan
6. Shusaku Endo



English IV IB

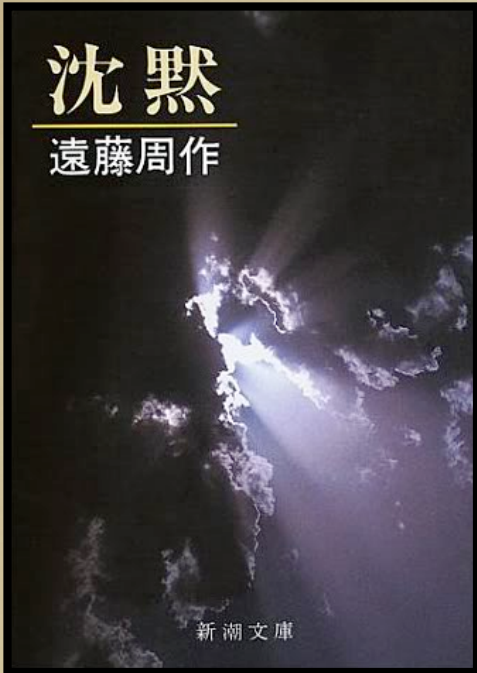


Mr. Nigro



Part 1: Works in Translation

Silence

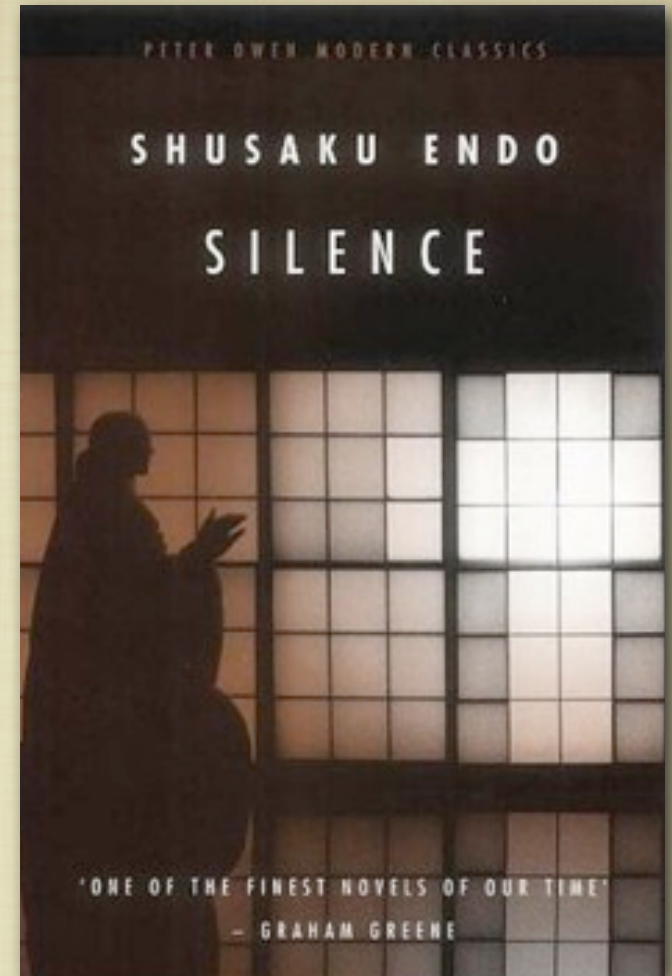




Silence

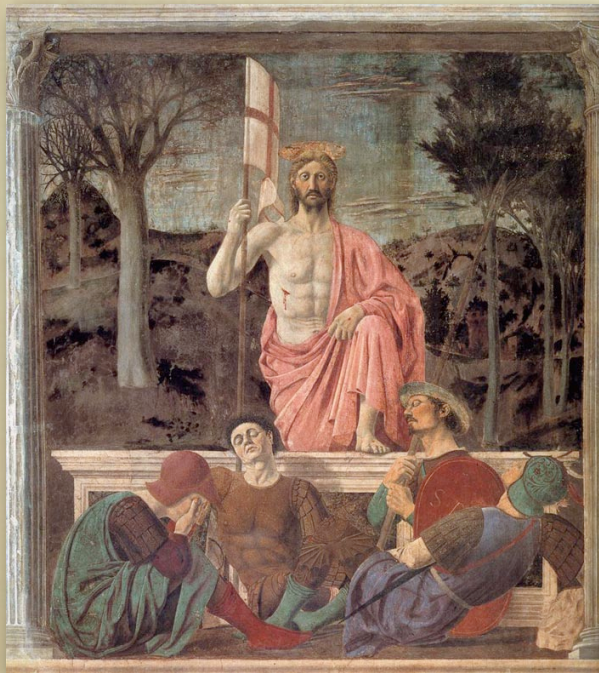
- 1543 - the first Portuguese missionaries
- 1549 - Francis Xavier & the Jesuits
- 1579 - Alessandro Valignano
- 1597 - Hideyoshi & the 26 crucifixions
- 1614 - “the edict of expulsion”
- 1632 - Christovao Ferreira apostasizes
- 1637 - the Portuguese leave Japan
- Silence dramatizes the aftermath

- a letter from Christovao Ferreira...
- a plan to secretly enter Japan...
- bad news in Macao...



Prologue

- Why does Endo use different narrative techniques to tell his story?
- How are the three priests characterized? Cite textual evidence.
- What is suggestive about the character of Kichijiro?
- Key text: “In the night of Macao...” (20-21; five paragraphs)
- What is your assessment of Rodrigues by the end of Chapter 2?
- What is your assessment of the Christian community?
- Key text: “Beside the ship’s baggage...” (23-24; six paragraphs)



English IV IB

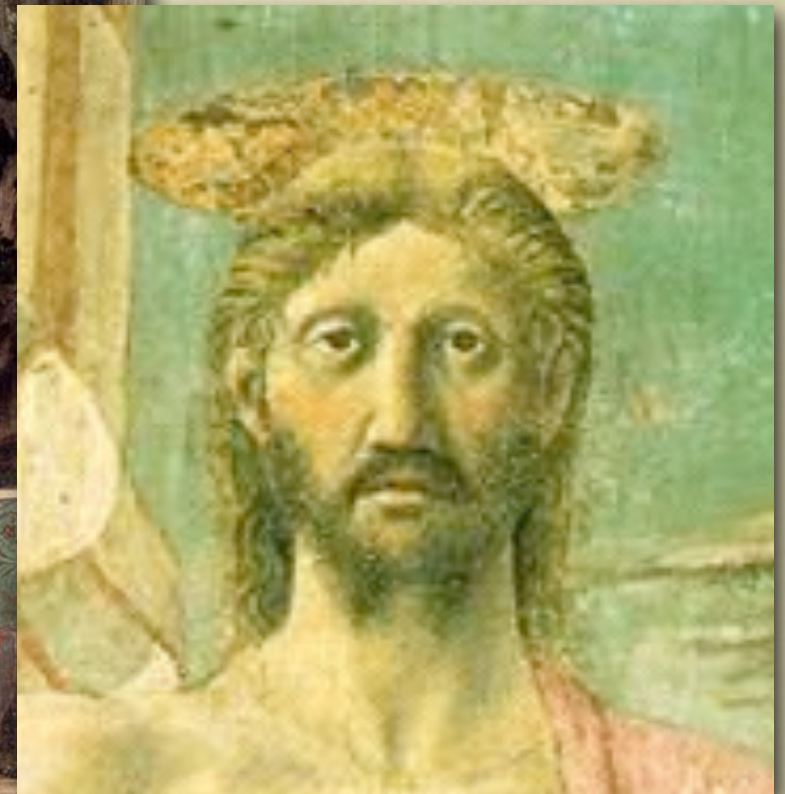
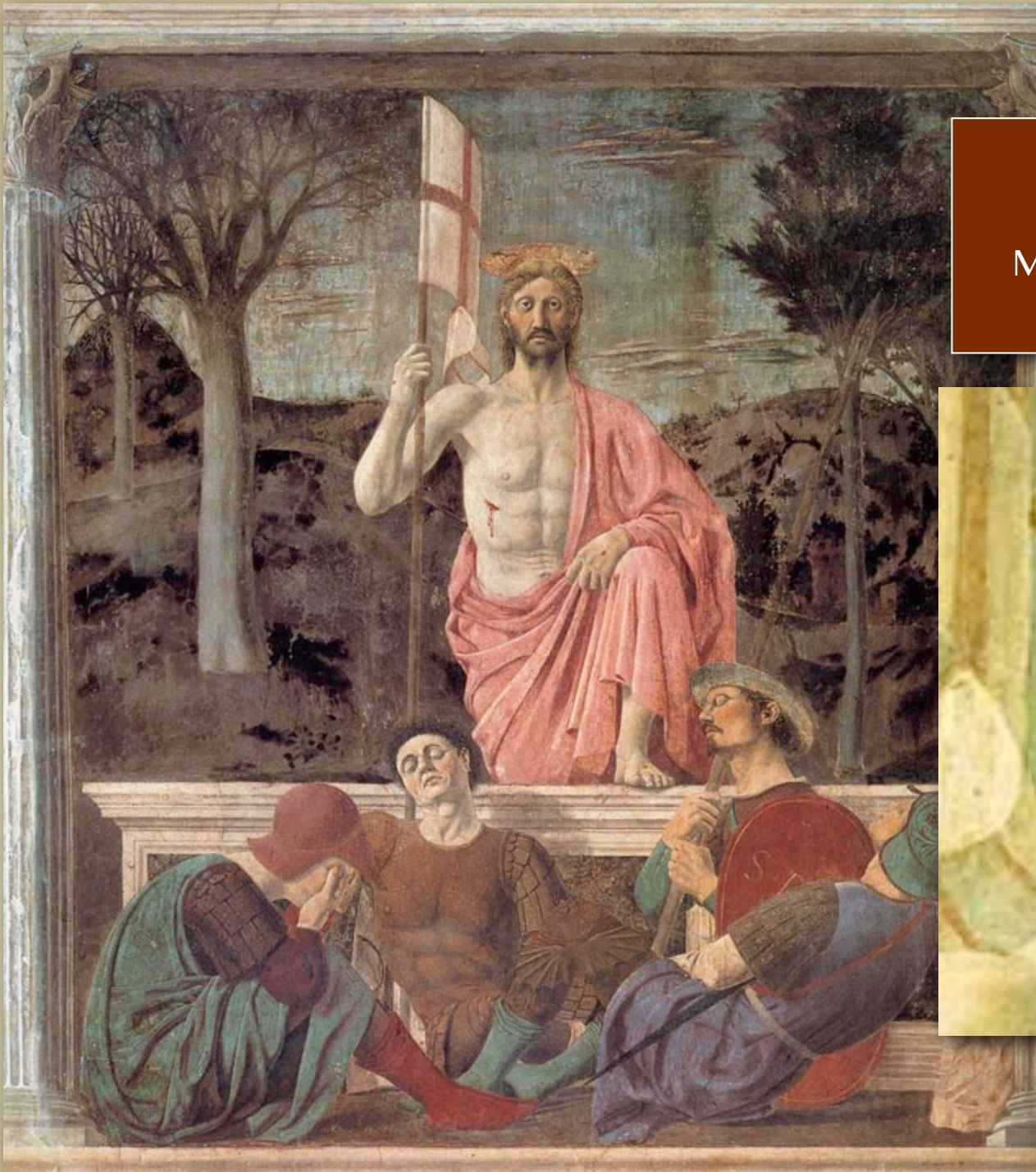


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Part 1: Works in Translation

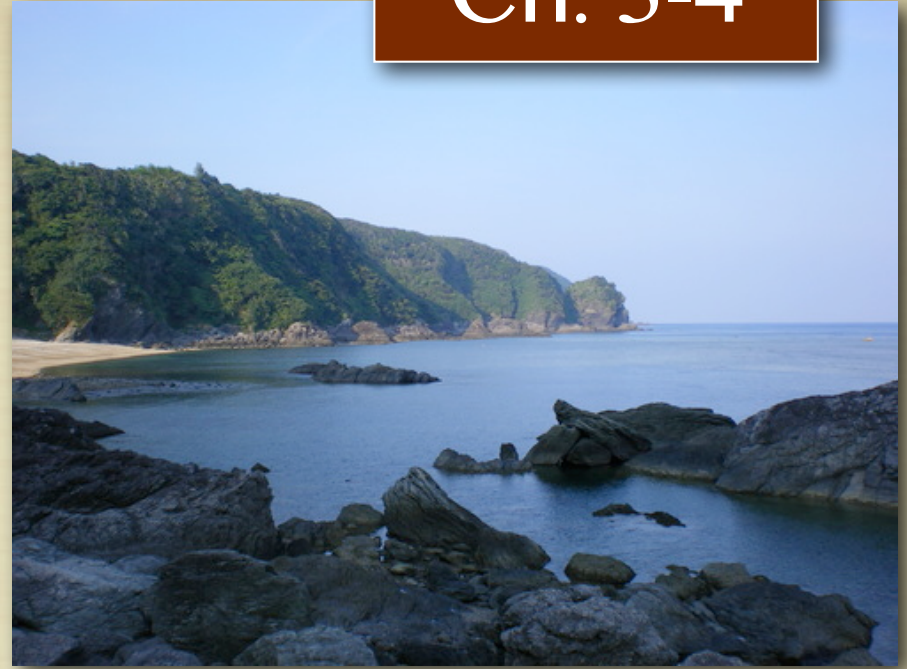
Silence

Piero della Francesca
Resurrection of Christ,
Museo Civico, Sansepolcro
1467



Ch. 3-4

- How are the priests' attitudes affected by their environment and living conditions in Tomogi?
- When the unexpected visitors arrive at the door, the priests disagree. Who is right? Why?
- How does Rodrigues view Kichijiro now? What do you think?
- Key text: "The next event..." (37-38)
- How do you view the reasoning behind the separating of the priests under the threat of persecution?
- Could it be said that Rodrigues is in some sort of denial about the situation he is facing? If so, why?
- Key texts: "I suppose..." (57); "I have heard..." (63-64, two paragraphs); "In the afternoon..." (71-73, seven paragraphs)



Silence

- What do you think about the decision by Rodrigues not to apostatize?
- How much is Kichijiro responsible for this situation?
- Is the new point of view 3rd person limited or omniscient? What is Endo's intent? Is it effective? How?
- Key text: "Since he had no rosary..." (91)
- Where does Rodrigues find comfort while in the prison? Explain how this is possible.
- What does Rodrigues learn about martyrdom?
- Key text: "Only the old man..." (117, five paragraphs)



Ch. 5-6



Silence

- What is your assessment of Inoue?
- Why does Rodrigues desire others to save themselves by apostatizing, but resists doing so himself?
- What lies at the heart of Rodrigues' disagreement with Ferreira?
- Key text: “They did not believe...” (160-161, seven paragraphs)
- Why has Kichijiro continued to follow Rodrigues all this time?
- What is it that finally leads Rodrigues to trample the fumie? Is this an act of courage or weakness? What point is Endo making here?
- Key text: “Ah!” (176-177, seven paragraphs)



Ch. 7-8

Silence

- Why is there still emotional distance between Ferreira and Rodrigues?
- How has trampling the fumie changed Rodrigues, if at all?
- Do you feel somewhat mentally exhausted at this point in the novel?
- Key text: “The remembrance...” (187, two paragraphs)
- Why does Endo alter the narrative structure in Chapter 10? What is the effect for the reader?
- What is your final assessment of Kichijiro?
- Key text: “Father...” (202-end)



Ch. 9-10

Silence

- Why does Endo conclude the novel with the Diary? What is your interpretation of the Appendix—specifically, in what ways does it clarify themes in the novel?
- As time permits, look at the Silence Questions in the Junk Drawer in preparation for the IO, and to help you choose a paper topic.
- (Shh.... Please keep your voices down. Mr. Endo is studying for his Interactive Oral, and he has misplaced his glasses.) →

So, are you suggesting that a book written by a Japanese writer who majored in French Literature about a Portuguese Catholic priest who lived 400 years ago is hard to understand? Really? It's translated into English, for Heaven's sake!



Appendix, etc.