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Every island is treacherous.

It might be so because the island promises a treasure, nowhere to be found.

It also happens that the island hides her treasure so jealously that we do not find any sign of it.

And sometimes the island promises a treasure that she does possess, while protecting it with so many traps that treachery becomes the very nature of the place.

There have been many treacherous islands in my life.

There have been the treasure islands around which I read and dreamt during my youth.

There has been a place I had imagined and written about. I called the island "Abbalcyon."

Abbalcyon had been played with dice by North and West, South and East - and they had failed tie.

So, Abbalcyon had been relinquished, the winds had been let free to yawn and to bite on her rocks,

orange trees were conversing there with ice and snow, wheat and rice fields were mixing up their interminable prayers under the sun.

I was also imagining a huge, icy continent in the vicinity of Abbalcyon, where convicts were forever escaping and plotting their return.

Later on, I moved to Taiwan, where I still live. It took me a long time to realize that Taiwan was in fact Abbalcyon:

an island where West and East, North and South were mixing and still playing dice, an island both tiny and inexhaustible...

lying nearby a big, threatening continent where thugs had always the resource to fly to.

Also, many people look to me as if they were "treacherous islands," bodies of land filled with promises and threat, with fright and wonders...

Of this, I won't say more... If it is true that "everyone is an island," then let me add:

"... and most of us are treacherous countries, dangerous to approach and still more dangerous to land on."

Finally, the Divine is often compared to the sea, and for obvious reasons.

Still, let me imagine for a while the Deity itself as an island whom we try to approach, on which we land with trepidation and caution,

and who leads us through deceit, treachery and loving care to the treasure of the Godhead.

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TREACHEROUS ISLAND



每座島嶼都是險惡島。

這可能是因為島嶼許諾我們一座遍尋不著的寶藏，也可能是因為島嶼將珍寶吝惜地藏匿起來，使我們無由得知。而有些時候，島嶼確實坐擁許諾我們的寶藏，但卻又為此設下重重關卡，於是險惡成了此地的天質。

我的一生當中也有過許多險惡島。

我在少年時代曾經讀過也幻想過蘊藏著寶藏的島群。

我曾經想像過一個地方，並且將之寫了下來，我稱那裡為阿巴賽恩（Abbalcyon）。

阿巴賽恩與東西南北的方位玩擲骰子，最後他們全都脫逸了束縛。

於是阿巴賽恩成為不律之洲，風恣意呵欠，囓咬著島的岩石，橙樹與冰雪交談甚歡，而陽光之下，麥與稻冗長無盡的祈禱混為一談。我也想像著阿巴賽恩附近有一座巨大的冰陸，囚犯總是由此脫逃，不斷策畫著返鄉的途程。

後來我到了台灣，至今仍然居住在這裡，而我花了很久時間才恍然大悟，原來台灣就是阿巴賽恩。

這是一座四方不辨的島嶼，依舊和東西南北玩擲骰子。

這是一座既微小又無窮盡的島嶼，身旁是一座深具威脅的大陸，兇徒惡棍總是有辦法飛去。

許多人在我眼中也有若「險惡群島」，滿載著許諾與威脅，恐怖與奇想……，不過關於這一點我不打算多言。

如果說「每個人都是一座島」，那麼我還想再加以補充：「而我們多半都是險惡之鄉，難以企及，更難登岸。」

最後，神之所以常被比喻為海，其理至明，但還是容我在此將神祇想像為一座島嶼——

我們都想要接近，戒慎恐懼地試圖登岸，而祂引領我們穿越欺妄、背叛與關愛，直至抵達神性的寶藏。