



## OUGI REFLECT

ZOKU OWARIMONOGATARI BD/DVD VOL. 2  
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TRANSLATION: EDO

“People use mirrors to adjust their appearance. But if you really think about it, Araragi-senpai, the image you see is that of your past self. After all, for light to be reflected, it has to bounce from you to the mirror, then back to you—which inevitably produces a time lag.”

As astonishing as it was, I understood what Ougi-chan was saying. Light moves at, well, the speed of light, obviously. Bearing that velocity in mind, it would take more than zero seconds for light to travel a distance of even just a few dozen centimeters. Therefore, what a mirror reflects is the you from zero-point-zero-zero-zero-zero-zero-zero-zero-something milliseconds ago.

“Looking into a mirror is like looking into the past—essentially, you’re looking backward. To put it nicely, when you’re fiddling with your hairstyle in front of a mirror, you’re merely embellishing a memory. Though I wouldn’t necessarily call it a bad thing, that outlook isn’t very future-oriented, is it?”

“Ougi-chan. Are you saying we have to turn our backs to the mirror—until we’re unable to see it—in order to live a positive, forward-looking life? Even so, isn’t every visible object a reflection of light? It seems to me that we’re all trapped in a world of the past.”

“In that case, stop looking at reflections of light and start looking at sources of light—unfiltered light.”

“Unfiltered light? Are you telling me to stare directly at the sun shining in the sky? So instead of looking forward, I should—”

“Look upward, yes. Being future-oriented means climbing the social ladder, wouldn’t you agree? Once you graduate from Naoetsu High School, Araragi-senpai, you’ll never again be trapped in the past—a past that resembles me.”

“...”

“Actually, if you were to look up, you wouldn’t see the sun. All you’d see is the light fixture in the bathroom, isn’t that right? You truly are a sight for sore eyes.”

Ougi-chan shrugged her shoulders and smiled, like an image that had come to life.