



Kana-chan, the Canary's “Wish”

There is a canary in the entrance of
Mr. Sasaki's house, named "Kana-chan."



Kana-chan worked together with Mr. Sasaki, a police officer.

Do you want to know the story about Kana-chan and Mr. Sasaki?

This story was written by eight high school students who were all born after this terrible event occurred.

This is based on a true story...

At 8 am in the morning, March 20th, 1995.

It happened during rush hour on subways
in Tokyo.

Pop, SPLAT!



“I can’t see anything!”

“I can’t breathe!”

People were shaking.
Some even fell on the ground.
Some people were unable to move.

There was a strange liquid on the floor.



This liquid is called “Sarin.”

It is incredibly toxic.
Just touching it can kill you.



Over 6,000 people, including passengers, station workers, paramedics, and police officers, were victims of the crime, and 14 of them died.

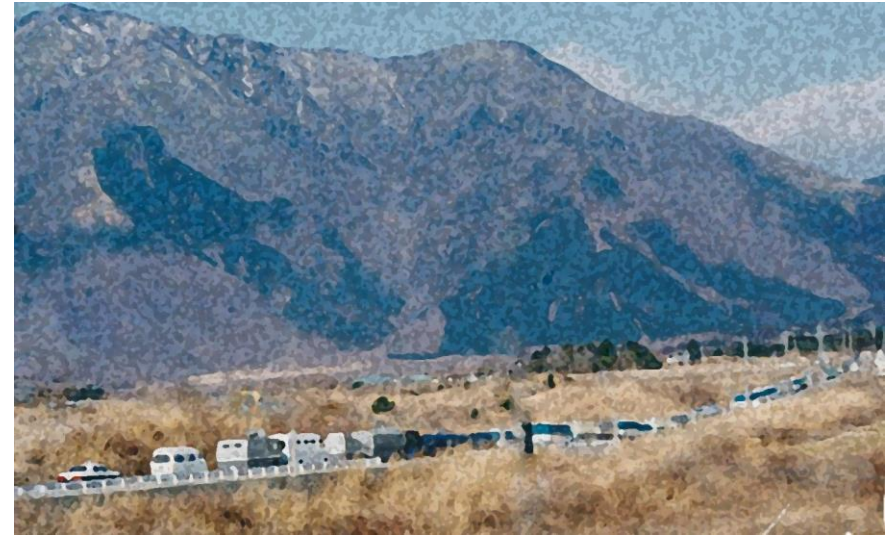


“Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attack”

This was a terrorist attack using a toxic substance, “Sarin.”

A religious cult group called the “Aum Shinrikyo” had committed the crime.

The police had started an investigation.



The founder of the Aum Shinrikyo called himself “Shoko Asahara” and gained over 15,000 followers.



Followers believed the founder's message about "saving the world" and had gatherings at a place of worship called the "Satian."

However...



One of the Satians was a factory used to produce Sarin.

They were producing Sarin at the base of Mt. Fuji.



The police officers felt
anxious and terrified.

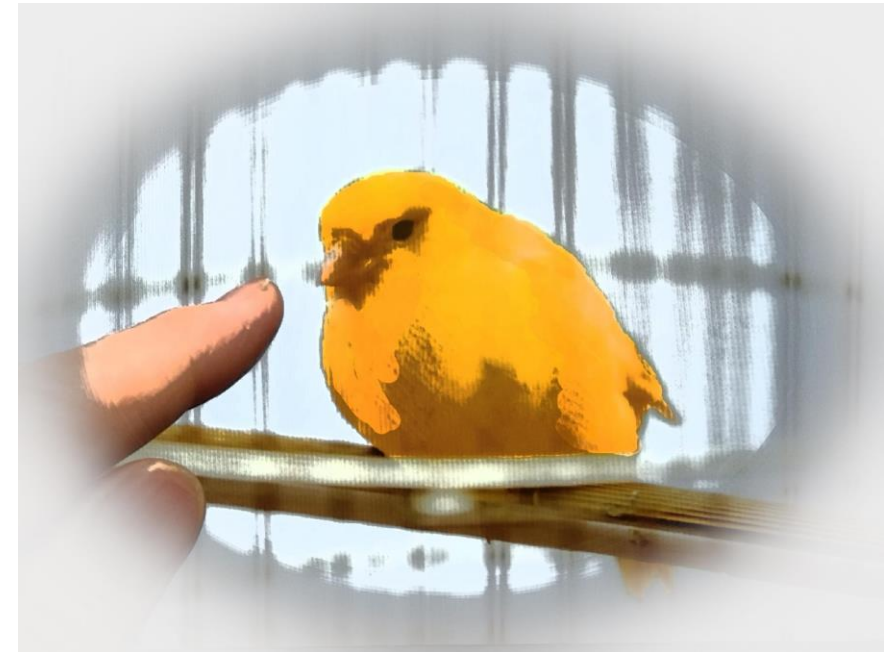
Mr. Sasaki was assigned
to investigate whether
Sarin was present.

Mr. Sasaki was provided with a gas mask and a basket that held a canary.



Chirp! Chirp! Chirp!!

One of the canaries brought for
this investigation was Kana-chan.



Canaries are very sensitive
to changes in the air.

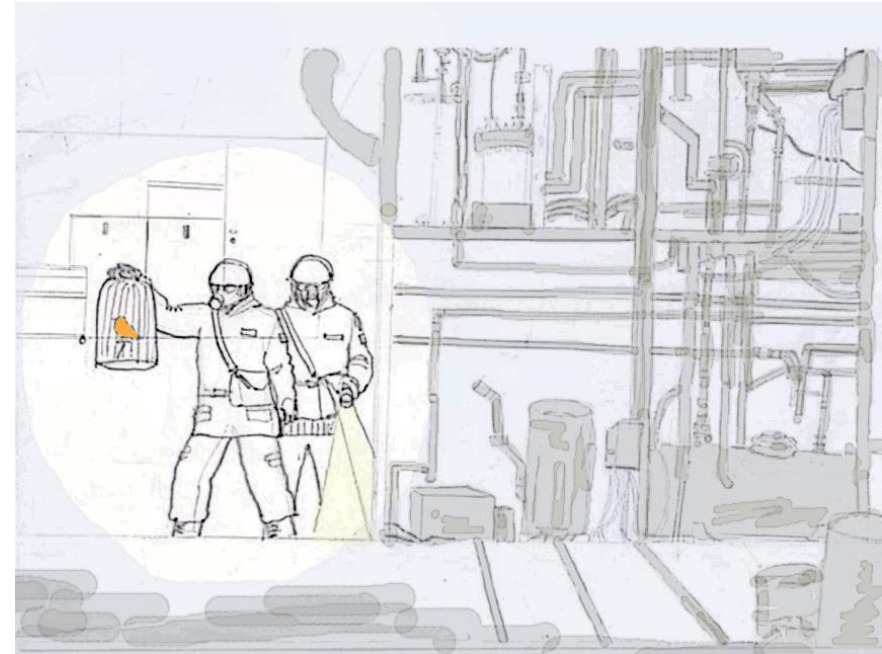
If there is Sarin in the air,
they will stop chirping.



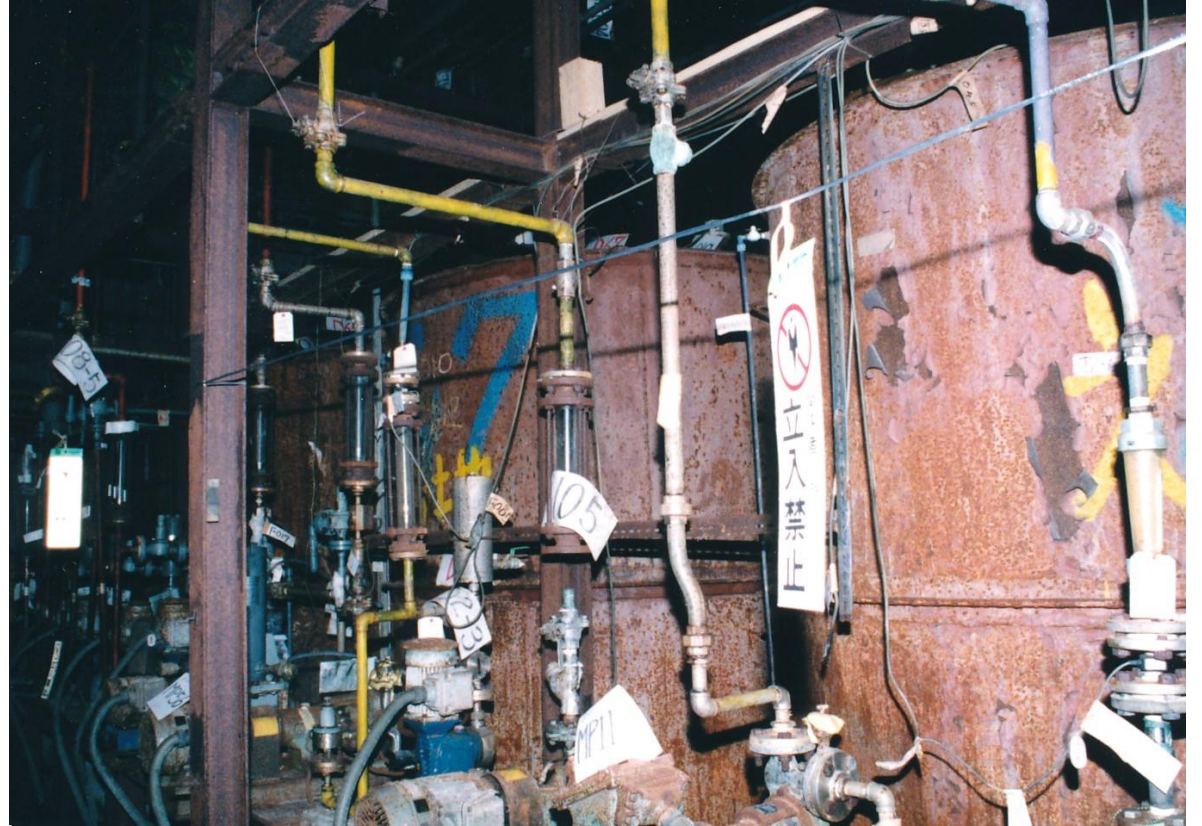
**“It’s a dangerous job,
but let's try our best,
Kana-chan!”**



Mr. Sasaki stepped into the Sarin factory while watching Kana-chan.



The inside the factory was dark,
and large tanks were connected
by lots of pipes and cords.



When they were not working at the investigation site, Mr. Sasaki let Kana-chan bask in the sun and gave her favorite chickweed to her.

The investigation went on for four months.



Luckily, no Sarin was found.

Kana-chan went back to the police.

A few weeks had passed
since the investigation.

Mr. Sasaki missed Kana-chan.

Mr. Sasaki asked the police
if he could adopt Kana-chan.



“Thank you for helping me with the Sarin investigation.”

“From now on, we can enjoy ourselves together at my place.”



Kana-chan played so happily in her new house, splashing water from her bowl everywhere.



CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP!

When Mr. Sasaki's daughter
played the flute, Kana-chan
chirped with the sound of the flute.



Four years has passed.

One night, Mr. Sasaki had a strange dream: A dream in which a beautiful canary fell to the ground.

Mr. Sasaki quickly went to
the entrance of his house.



Kana-chan had fallen off her perch and was not moving.

Mr. Sasaki gently picked up Kana-chan with both hands.

Mr. Sasaki kept looking at Kana-chan
with his eyes filled up with tears.



Now, Kana-chan is at the entrance of Mr. Sasaki's house.
He stuffed Kana-chan and she looks just as she did when she was alive.

When visitors come, Mr. Sasaki tells the story of how Kana-chan fought against the fear of Sarin.

Terrorist attacks cause great sadness to many people, and it is the “wish” of Kana-chan and Mr. Sasaki that such incidents never happen again.

**“I’m heading off,
Kana-chan.”**

Mr. Sasaki greets Kana-chan as usual,
and heads off to work.





“30 Years After the Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attack”

March 2025 Shizue Takahashi

- In February 2022, I was invited as a guest speaker at the International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH), Tokyo, Japan.
- I shared my personal story after losing my husband to the Tokyo subway Sarin Gas Attack by a religious cult group called “Aum Shinrikyo.”
- Both humans and animals may fall into a state of “fleeing,” “freezing,” or “fighting” after the incident as such.
- I shared my story with the ISSH students about how we, the victims, get our life back, and what areas of improvement should be for the lives of the victims and bereaved family members.
- After the talk at the ISSH, I learned about “Kana-chan, the canary” through the letters and reflection papers sent to me from the ISSH students.
- So, I went to see Kana-chan.
- A former police officer, Mr. Sakamoto (Mr. Sasaki in the story) told me about his experience about investigating the facilities of the Aum Shinrikyo.
- I also learned that Kana-chan had passed at Mr. Sakamoto’s house.
- The students of FYI Club, ISSH immediately started creating a book, soon after the idea of turning this heartwarming story into a book was proposed.
- The FYI Club students in ISSH were born and raised in many different places in the world, and they had expressed the tragedy of terrorism and their hopes to prevent such tragedies from occurring through “Kana-chan.”
- I truly hope that this book will resonate with you, and you have a moment to think about Victims; Believers; the religious cult group “Aum Shinrikyo;” Sarin; Family; Safety; Kana-chan’s Fear and Healing; Life.

Kana-chan, the Canary's "Wish" Project Members



Story & sketches: The International School of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, Japan

【FYI Club, 2023 - 2024 】

Aria, Arisa, Emily, Hana, Jian, Julia, Katharine, Syna, Tiara

【FYI Club, 2022 – 2023】

Aria, Anne, Hana, Kiana, Layna, Mirei, Norin, Peggy, Rio,
Sarah, Tanisha, Tiara, Wynne, Yuki, Yumeko



Editing (Design, processing, and layout): Asami Yoshida



Editing (story concept & structure): Shizue Takahashi



**Special
Thanks to**

Kazuo Sakamoto



English translation

Azuki



Photographs and Illustration

KYODO NEWS

Nobuhiko Nishimura

Yoshimi Yagisawa

Kanariya-no-kai

(Canary Association: The group of
former believers of Aum Shinrikyo)

Ryokichi Watanabe



Editing

M.S and A.S

Source of Reference

- p2& 68 By Kazuo Sakamoto, "Kana-chan," the canary
- p8 By FYI Club, ISSH, "The man who spreads sarin on the subway," digitally processed
- p12 Photo taken by Nobuhiko Nishimura, showing the sarin liquid spreading under the seats in the subway, digitally processed
- p14 By KYODO NEWS on emergency medical efforts on the day of the Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attack, digitally processed
- p16 By KYODO NEWS on emergency medical efforts on the day of the Tokyo subway sarin gas attack, mosaic processing
- p20 By Yoshimi Yagisawa, 1995: Vehicles heading to the Aum Shinrikyo facility for investigation, digitally processed
- p22 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Shoko Asahara and His Cult Members"
- p24 Excerpt from "The Truth Behind the Aum Shinrikyo Cult's Secret Work," created by the "Kanaiya-no-kai (Canary Association)," composed of seceders of Aum Shinrikyo
- p26 By Kazuo Sakamoto, "The Seventh Satyan"
- p30 Excerpt from the article of Asahi Shimbun Digital, digitally processed <https://www.asahi.com/articles/photo/AS20240318003154.html>
- p36 By Ryokichi Watanabe, Mount Fuji and the 7th Satyan
- p38 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Investigation Inside Satyan"
- p40 By Aum Shinrikyo bankruptcy administrator on inside the Satyan
- p42 By Kazuo Sakamoto, Kana-chan's daily life during the investigation
- p48 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Sasaki-san takes Kana-chan in," digitally processed
- p50 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Kana-chan," digitally processed
- p52 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Kana-chan spending time at home①," digitally processed
- p54 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Kana-chan spending time at home②," digitally processed
- p58 & 62 By FYI Club, ISSH, "Kana-chan in the palm of his hand," digitally processed

©Victims' Association,
Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attack

