

Yukio Hatoyama 5

Dear Hatoyama san !

May, 6 th 2010.
Revised May, 24th 2010
with cooperation of
Ben Stubbings, editor of the
Japan Times, 53 haiku
and senryu published on
June 8th, 2010.

I sent you four open letters until now.
My harvest is a deafening non-response.
I understand that,
though understanding and accepting are two.

This time I use the minimal form of what has been baptized as ***HAIKU***s and ***SENRYU***, which are also written to be responded to, publicized and debated.

Sincerely yours,

Dolf van Graas
Shikoku.

These haiku and senryu were printed in the Japan Times, June 8th, 2010,

and introduced by the following text:

“Dear Yukio Hatoyama,
Leaving your office, your staff
gave you a taxpayer-funded
bouquet of flowers. Your
pregnant term did not even last nine
months.
I’d like to give you something more
personal from my heart, to show my love
for my country of choice, Japan. I admit
It’s somewhat frank and candid, but
please see my gift as a token of my
responsibility as a permanent resident.
After having written six unanswered
open letters to you since December last
year, this small bouquet contains minimal
reflections, and some of my concerns.”

I Caged pigeon coos yes
 Noisy muscled hawks nest close
 Listen silence left

II Pigeon chills slowly
 Peace twigs whirl from heaven down
 Predators land first

III Nagata theatre

Cheerful kois swim in soft winds
Politicians smell

XVIII

Yellow ever bright
Their lacking colorless guts
Our true mimosa

XIX

Vultures circle HIM
Phony hypocrites attack
Lax and cheap pays off

XX

Grey's record red debts
Camellia leaves are shining
Why I have to pay

XXI

Small perfect beauty
Sweet skillful happy swallow
Leaders make a mess

XXII

Delightful springtime
Swallows nest under our roof
Tax sucks us empty

XXIII

Limp politicians

Flies governmental airplane
Ehhhh I did not know

XXXI Incompetent jumps
Jack in the box' empty hand
Pay me and follow

XXXII Lax first jay walker's
Inalienable right keeps
Japanese deep down

XXXIII Too many villains
Shamateurist lawmakers
Paracritical

XXXIV Moneygrubbers come
Razzle-dazzle razzmatazz
For money stupid

XXXV Arrogant scions
Leaders fail our litmus test
Trust but verify

XXXVI Wishy-washy men

Resembles haiku puzzling
Solid no concrete

VIL Doc. H. fairy-tales
Intention-anesthetics
No operations

VL A pampered surgeon
Gives a strong anesthetic
Fails to operate

IVL H. loves nature much
So he plants young trees upturn
Roots in burning sun

IIIL Most Okinawans
Government still detains as
POWs

IIIL H. drills into nerves
Of healthy teeth and grinders
Shunning rotten ones

IL Resigned Japanese
Hire costly incapables
Topsy-turvy life

L Make people suffer

What is the correct title
Criminal I think

LI H's Odyssey is
 Is no Odyssey
 Flying at our cost

LII Shampooed neat soft hair
 Never a cogent approach
 Ominous selfish

LIII Government ambush
 Plays catch as catch can with us
 Jungle all around

* Latin: money does not stink

REACTIONS.....

> “I sat down with a glass of wine at home and really enjoyed reading them, and I’m sure our readers will too.” Ben Stubbings, May 30th, 2010 [2:12:23 JST]

“I have enjoyed working with you on something a bit different to regular newspaper articles – it’s made a nice change.”

Ben Stubbings, editor the Japan Times, June 7th, 2010. [0:02 (a. m.)] <

> “Je ‘breiwerkje’ is een stevig werkstuk! (...) De vormgeving van je serie haiku’s is sterk en je ‘message’ aan meneer Duivenberg liegt er niet om. Maar ook de overlevende politici en bureaucraten kunnen het in hun zak steken.

Je leidt de serie in met een liefdesverklaring voor je ‘country of choice’. Wat dit land, ondanks de gebrekkige politieke structuur en het vaak laakbare gedrag van de machthebbers mede een zeer leefbaar land maakt is de complete vrijheid van meningsuiting. Je zou niet moeten proberen om de overheid van bijvoorbeeld China voor schut te zetten, zelfs niet met jouw soort poetische meppen.

(...) Goede Dolf, ik laat het hierbij. Ik hoop van harte dat je reacties krijgt op je snode, zij het dichterlijke, aanval op ‘the powers that be’. Maar de reacties zullen niet van Nagata-cho komen: deze ‘Hotline’ specialiseert in eenrichtingsverkeer.”< Hans Brinckmann, author, June 8th, 2010.

> “(...) quite an appropriate reflection (...)” Daniel Ribble, June 9th, 2010. <

> “I read through all the Haiku carried on J T yesterday. It was so interesting that I read them again and again. (...) I’m impressed with your sense of humor and satire spirits.” Naoma Hashikake, June 9th, 2010. <

> “Een waarachtig wapenfeit, de haiku in the Japan Times.” Bart Alkemade, Juni 10, 2010. <

> “Fun to read your ‘sound bites’ !” Ruth Danielian, June 18th, 2010.

> “Het blijft verbazend hoe je aan de inspiratie bent gekomen -zoveel haiku’s. Je steekt Herman van Rompuy voorbij in kritische zin en creativiteit, zoveel is duidelijk.” Joel Joos, 23 06 2010. <

> “;quite an appropriate reflection, I think. Hatoyama resigned so early, just refusing or unwilling to face any of Japan’s troubles, as well as reneging on

promises to Okinawa.” Daniel Ribble, June 23rd 2010.

> “Hartelijk dank voor deze dappere verzen, sterker dan die van Herman van Rompuy.” Paul Mercken, 25 Juni 2010. <

> “Ik wens u van harte te danken voor uw schrijven van 22 juni en voor de haiku’s.

Ik waardeer het ten zeerste dat u het initiatief nam me deze teksten persoonlijk toe te sturen. Met de meest hoogachting, Herman Van Rompuy, voorzitter Europese raad.” 30 Juni 2010.<

> “(...) je mooie haiku tirade tegen de Japanse ex-premier.” Jan Willem Paijens. 11 07 2010.

> “I was most amused by your ‘attack by haiku’ on the reign of Yukio Hatoyama. Perhaps it contributed to his loss of nerve?” Dr. Julian Worrall, Waseda University. September 15th, 2010.

SUBJECTS:

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For Ben Stubbings:

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