

pulling light
from the other world . . .
the Milky Way

Yatsuka Ishihara

*translated by
Tadashi Kondō
and
William J. Higginson*

Introduction

Welcome to the work of an exciting quartet of haiku poets. Often the four poets reading at the annual Two Autumns event are heard regularly at our meetings, and are a mix of established and new voices. This year the poets reading are all nationally recognized for their contributions to the haiku genre. Two of them are not often heard in our halls, and a third we have heard often in the past but now lives across the continent. I think when you read and hear their poems you will be happy for these steps away from our traditions.

Each of these poets writes traditional haiku in which some manifestation of nature is described together with a human condition. The skillful use of this scheme provides the charm of haiku, the linking together of inner and outer worlds, in which the reader and writer connect in sympathy.

In reflecting on the choices of poems I made from the many each poet submitted, I see that each poem struck a resonant chord in me. But each of these poets has used a different characteristic voice to reach my heart.

Cherie Hunter Day's poems have a delicate and poignant tone. They reflect a quiet family life with its joys and sorrows, moving through time. The one-line structure of the poems of Jim Kacian, together with their breathless content, provide urgent and open-ended dramas. Paul M. often shares with us thoughts and feelings evoked by what he encounters on nature walks, while Lenard Moore lets us know he is engaged in a community that provides his muse.

In writing this introduction I read over the collected poems several times, enjoying them more each time. I recommend this exercise to you.

Patrick Gallagher

Cherie Hunter Day

a visit with my father . . .
beneath an outdoor spigot
the tall grass

twilight
a child's pail taken
by the tide

lump in my breast
all the balloons
in the waiting room

Cherie Hunter Day

New Year's day—
my son lets the tide
seep into his sneakers

sharing my plan
to travel the world—
dandelion

small talk
the pile of apple peels
growing

Cherie Hunter Day

new litter of kittens—
the missing rung
on the hayloft ladder

apology moon
tonight the word
is 'meniscus'

donating
my son's cello—
red leaves in the wind

Cherie Hunter Day

insomnia
two parts doubt
one part moon

single again
all the barricades
between tides

peony buds
I inherit
her annulment papers

Jim Kacian

too dark to see your face you say "immortal"

the high fizz nerve the low boom blood dead silence

the ocean's rim the tears I don't use

12

Jim Kacian

i hope i'm right where the river ice ends

all souls day yews waiting under the snow

ash mirage everything i know is wrong

13

Jim Kacian

summer night she smells faintly of fire

putting on glasses to write in the dark obsession

wars again on the list New Year's Day

14

Jim Kacian

porcupine quill a day of big wind

clouds over mountains i can't reach what's real

testing my power real peaches in an imaginary winter

15

paul m.

cherry blossoms
today the courage
to speak to her

migratory ducks
I have never
kept a diary

weights reset
in the grandfather clock
morning snow

16

paul m.

waking to a radio
that played all night
snow outside

a line of ants blood pressure carried to the furthest decimal

spot where I proposed—
footpath gravel
from different quarries

17

paul m.

winter plum branches
a comet's only visit
during my lifetime

bulbs dividing
we talk of children
we cannot have

icicles—
the graves
of our enemies

paul m.

I know how it ends
the creek running
quicker than I

Friday
night
alone
with
a
leggy
spider

sacred mountain
flowers along the trail
named footsteps-of-spring

Lenard D. Moore

long after sundown
the sound of ripe plums
plumping the ground

funeral procession
the stillness of cotton blossoms
in sunlight

midday heat
snap of the shoeshiner's rag
against the toe

22

Lenard D. Moore

moonlit night
through the storm door
the raccoon's face

summer stars
the trumpet glinting
from its case

Easter Sunday
on the Obituary page
no names I know

23

Poets' Biographies

CHERIE HUNTER DAY lives in Cupertino, California. She writes and publishes haiku, senryu, renga, tanka, haibun and haiga, as well as prose poems and flash fiction. She is the author of several books: *The Horse with One Blue Eye* (Snapshot Press, 2006); *Early Indigo* (Snapshot Press, 2000); and a co-author/editor of *beyond/within: A Collection of Rengay* (Sundog Press, 1997). She has written collaboratively with a number of poets; *Kindle of Green* (Platypus Books 2008), written with David Rice, is her most recent collaboration. She has also been the Northwest regional coordinator for the Haiku Society of America and a member of the host/planning team for Haiku North America 1997 in Portland, Oregon. Her recent literary awards include First Place, Haiku Now! Traditional Haiku Contest 2010; Runner-up, Haiku Now! Innovative Haiku Contest 2010; First Place with Christopher Patchel, Haiku Poets of Northern California 2010 Rengay Contest; Honorable Mention, 14th Annual Mainichi Haiku Contest; Second Place, Haiku Poets of Northern California 2009 Tanka Contest, and Editors' Choice in the *Middle American Review* 2010 Fineline Competition.

JIM KACIAN is founder and president of The Haiku Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to archiving the first century of English-language haiku, and creating new opportunities in the second. He is founder and owner of Red Moon Press, a prestigious and influential publisher of haiku and related works. He was a longtime editor of the haiku journals *South by Southeast* and *Frygiond*, has written a score of books of haiku, and has been the editor of a couple of score more. He is a tennis professional and kayak amateur.

PAUL M. was born in Los Angeles, California. He received a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego and an M.A. from San Francisco State University. He lived and worked in San Francisco for fifteen years before moving to Bristol, Rhode

Island with his wife Mary Catherine in 2003. He is a member of the board of the Haiku Society of America, Haiku North America, and the Haiku Poets of Northern California. He is the book review editor for *Modern Haiku*. His poetry and essays have been published and anthologized internationally. His collections, *Finishing the Way* (Press Here, 2002) and *Called Home* (Red Moon Press, 2006), were Haiku Society of America Merit Book Award winners. His latest collection, *Few Days North Days Few* (Red Moon Press, 2011) was just released.

LENARD D. MOORE, a North Carolina native, is a former president of the Haiku Society of America and is the longtime executive chairman of the North Carolina Haiku Society. His work has been published in more than 350 publications in over a dozen countries. He is editor and co-editor of literary anthologies and also editor of special issues of literary journals including the special "teachers and students" theme issue of *Solo Café 8 & 9*, and the special "North Carolina Writers of African Descent" double issue of *Obidian: Literature In The African Diaspora*. He writes poetry in more than 30 different poetic forms, including kwansaba, sestina, bop, persona poems, blues poems, jazz poems, prose poems, villanelle, ghazal, haiku, haibun, renku and tanka, among others. He also writes essays, book reviews, drama, and fiction. He is the author of *A Temple Looming* (WordTech Editions, 2008), and other books. His work has received numerous awards, including the Haiku Museum of Tokyo Award (three times) and the Margaret Walker Creative Writing Award. In 2005 his poetry was acclaimed by Heron's Nest for Poem of the Year – Reader's Choice, Poet of the Year – Reader's Choice, and Poem of the Year – Editor's Choice. He is also the recipient of Honorable Mention for his haiku book, *The Open Eye*, in the 1986 Zoe Kincaid Brockman Competition, sponsored by the North Carolina Poetry Society, for the best book of poetry published by a North Carolina poet. He teaches at Mount Olive College, where he directs the literary festival and advises *The Trojan Voices*.

Poem Publication Credits

TITLE POEM: *Person and Shadow* (Japan), 1987

- CHERIE HUNTER DAY: "a visit with my father..." *Shades of Green: Haiku North America Anthology* 1997, (Press Here 1997); "twilight" *The Heron's Nest* V: 9 (September 2003), *The Horse with One Blue Eye* (Snapshot Press 2006); "lump in my breast" *Raw Nerve* VI: 3 (2001); "New Year's day—" *The Heron's Nest* III: 5 (May 2001), *The Horse with One Blue Eye* (Snapshot Press 2006); "sharing my plan" *The Haiku Calendar* (Snapshot Press 2009); "small talk" *The Heron's Nest* IX: 1 (March 2007), *dust of summers: The Red Moon Anthology of English-Language Haiku 2007* (Red Moon Press 2008); "new litter of kittens—" *The Heron's Nest* VIII: 2 (June 2006); "apology moon" *Roadrunner Haiku Journal* X: 1 (March 2010), *Haiku* 21 (Modern Haiku Press 2011); "donating" *Shiki List Special* Kukai in memory of William J. Higginson (January 2009); "insomnia" *Modern Haiku* 40: 1 (Winter/Spring 2009), *Haiku* 21 (Modern Haiku Press 2011); "single again" *Modern Haiku* 39: 2 (Summer 2008); "peony buds" *Modern Haiku* 38: 3 (October 2007)
- JIM KACIAN: "the high fizz nerve" *Roadrunner* 11:1: "clouds over mountains" *palimpsest* (Red Moon Press, 2011); "resting my power" *Roadrunner* 11:2
- PAU, M.: "cherry blossoms" *The Heron's Nest* IV:3; "migratory ducks" *Haiku North America Anthology* 2005; "weights reset" *Hermiage* 3; "waking to a radio" *Frogpond* 31:1; "winter plum branches" *Marijosa* 19, *Dwarf Stars* 9; "bulbs dividing" *Marijosa* 17; "I know how it ends" *Liliput Review*; "Friday night" *Modern Haiku* 41:2; "sacred mountain" *Marijosa* 14
- LENNARD D. MOORE: "eyes closed" *The Heron's Nest*, VI: 9 (October 2004), *the mountain trail* (2006); "long restless day" *The Heron's Nest*, IV:7 (July 2002); "jazzy" *Ko* (Japan), 25: 4 (Autumn-Winter 2010); "autumn night—" *The Heron's Nest*, X:1 (March 2008); "Veterans Day" *Frogpond* 31:2 (Spring/Summer 2008); "sound of a car" *The Heron's Nest*, XIII:1 (March 2011); "long after sundown" *Dragonfly: A Quarterly of Haiku*, 12:4 (October 1984), *The Open Eye* by Lenard D. Moore (North Carolina Haiku Society Press, 1985); *Haiku Moment: An Anthology of Contemporary*

North American Haiku (Tuttle, 1993); "funeral procession" *The Heron's Nest*, III:9 (November, 2001), *the loose thread: The Red Moon Anthology of English Language Haiku* 2001 (Red Moon Press 2002); "midday heat" *The Heron's Nest*, V:2 (February 2003), *Fish In Love: Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology* 2006; "moonlit night" *The Heron's Nest*, IX:4 (December 2007); "summer stars" *The Heron's Nest*, V:1 (January, 2003); "Easter Sunday" *Frogpond*, 31:2 (Spring/Summer 2008)