



ECHOES OF HOPE

PEACE AND LOVE FROM HIROSHIMA

Poems From The Heart Of A Stranger

HENRY SAMBAI



Publisher Willows House Printing and Publishing Republic of South Sudan, Juba - Kator - Square A, next to Jeeran Center

www.jubabook.com

<http://willows.house>

gatewillwo@gmail.com

+211927302302

Echoes of Hope
By **Henry Sambai**

The size of the book: (A5) 14x20.5cm

Number of pages: 226

Deposit number:67673/2021

ISBN: 9789776597293

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A dedication
to
All peace-loving people

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1 Narita Port

*It seemed to be
A heavenly invitation.
The echoes of her voice
Sweetly reached
The ears of my heart,
The blue waves
Of the Pacific Ocean
Soothing my mind,
As I heard the call:
Sierra, Sierra, Delta
Welcome to Japan,
The land of peace and love
You have permission
To land in the heart
Of a 'peace-loving' people.*

*I touched the ground
Of my salient dreams,
Narita was the port.
I must confess it is my pleasure
To visit this holy ancient land.
I was in love with everything
That is genuinely Japanese.
'My dreams become true'
As I felt the warmth of Japan,
Once a centre of the world!
It is just a beginning,
The winter will be over,
The spring will blossom again
The Japanese wave
Is yet to carry peace to the world.*

2 The Dove

The time has come
For the African dove
To fly to the Far East.
Its wings flap with peace,
Calming the dust of wars,
And the serene coast
Of the Pacific Ocean,
Levelling the troubled waves
That give the lesson.
Narita was the port
That the dove could reach.
The gateway to the heart
Of peace-loving people,
Four years for the dove
Is more than forty years of agony!
The flood of violence still
Raging in the Arch of South Sudan,
Narita was the port

Where the dove is welcome;
Elsewhere it risked being slaughtered.
The dove sings its anthem:
I am here for peace,
I came to learn from you.
Echoes of my heart resound.
Come back with an olive branch,
My people yearn for peace!
Come back with a bunch of flowers,
My people need love!

3 I Will Carry You

*In search of peace
I will carry you with me
South Sudan, wherever I go –
The land and its people –
To find an answer
To the question I asked:
Why is your suffering prolonged?
Have you noticed the downturn?
Wars at all your corners,
Souls escaping your frail corpses,
Millions migrating for refuge,
At your borders the living
Feel the pinch of hatred and starvation!
From Japan I say
Stop the tears of innocent children,
Women, girls and elderly people.
Let them enjoy the joy
They so long hoped for.*

4 Against the Current

*All is blue around me,
The sea of hatred
Fed by the rivers of blood.
Drizzling tears,
Nightmares and black days,
The suffering continues.*

*People flee to stop the sunset.
When the birds lose their wings
Mango trees stand with no foliage.
The drizzling tears salt the land.
The rich land dies of hunger
No one comes to complain!*

*Those who seek peace
Swim against the current.
The quiver of a man of peace*

*Is never empty of hope and patience;
They watch the dawn of peace
And are there at the sunrise!*

*I am a peacebuilder
Swimming against the current
Hitting the iron and rocks,
Trying to reach the sea
To change the course of time,
To soften the hearts and minds
That all should live in peace.*

5 Embrace Peace

*It's good for you,
To make your face shine
Smile and let the sunshine.
Give it a word of peace
And smell the fragrance of roses.
Let it breeze,
The sea waves,
The dancing leaves
Know the secret!
Embrace peace
And make it part of you.
It's not a waste to love and cherish
Your beautiful dreams.
It's a gain to work for peace.
It is a joy to share
The peace you harvest.
A wise man from the east said to me:
Don't create too many enemies*

*You won't be able to fight them.
Don't dig your own grave,
Let others do it for you.
Embrace peace
And let not your worries kill you!*

6 My journey

*I travelled to the Far East,
Where the wise men stay.
A journey of hope and love
And I, in search of true peace,
I never met a stumbling block,
The sea or the rock of hatred
I look for the three wise men.
Is the time of wise men gone?
Not yet, my son!
The voice of humble people
Echoed the history!
Here, there were endless wars
The valley of death.
Here, there was human pride
The peak of human evil
That destroyed peaceful souls.
There where the sea of hatred,
And the ocean of blood*

With the furnaces
Of continued vengeance,
Boiling and burning for centuries!
But, now look at us
The three wise men
Are hidden here, in the Far East.
They stay silent
When the monsters are roaring.
Go back son to the world
To turn despair into hope,
To break the shackles of hatred,
And be a man of peace!
Have hope, love and peace.

7 A Dark Page

Mine seems to be
A dark page
Written by black smoke
Emanating from the barrel of the guns.
Exploded shells,
Repressed feelings,
Chains of tragedies,
Why should I be
Scared of telling the truth
Since everyone has a story to tell?
Hot tears of continued suffering,
Destroyed future
And the loss of dignity!
Are we meant to be
People deemed to taste no peace?
My child asked the same question
I asked forty years ago.
My tears started to fall,

I told him certainly not.
We can trash the dark page
And open a new page
To draw the green land,
The trees, the Nile and
The eternal sunshine of South Sudan.
I gave him a blank white page,
A box full of beautiful colours,
I told him to draw a dove,
Flowers, green trees
The people and the Rising Sun.
Let the dark page be over!
For our kids to chase the butterfly,
To collect the drop of mist,
To harvest the sweet potatoes,
To pick mangoes,
And milk the cows.
Let's tear off the dark page,
And make a better future
For our children.

The Desert

*Ouch! cried my aggrieved soul
Once again, I am in the desert.
Life was blooming here
Until the rebirth of the sandy storm.
Each sand grain is a vice
Too much greed,
Superfluously and outrageously,
Burying the compatriots, comrades
And the hope of the people.*

*Under the sand heaps
The treasure of togetherness
Lay forgotten and unexcavated.
Ugly scene of hatred expanding
Like the ranges of a sandy desert.
The heavens must rain love.
The people must learn to live*

*In cohesion, peace and harmony,
And the desert must bloom again.*

*No heart is a desert
Except the one that hates.
Once devoid of love warmth
That heart is full of hatred,
Blindfolded by violence,
Drained of its own blood,
Can it be revived with love?
With dialogue and peace
Let's give life to the desert.*

9 The Breeze of Peace

*Think of peace my darling, and
Let it blow to the end of the world.
When you feel the breeze of the night
Cutting across the nerves
Of your daily routines,
The fatigue of work
Becomes the energy
To push on the red lines with a smile.*

*Think of peace, my darling, and
Hold the golden rays of hope.
The sun must rise with no worries,
And the night must fall asleep,
Let nature give birth to peace!
The future is beyond our eyes' limit
Let the storm of violence cease
And embrace the waves of peace.*

No one will complain!
The birds need not panic,
For they are in safe hands.
A peaceful heart always throbs with love.
Peace is everything good you can imagine.
Peace is everywhere you want to go.
Peace is your dream to embrace tomorrow.
Peace is the flow of love into everyone's life.

10 Mount Fuji

Far there you stand
Yes, stiff and strong
Blessed with snowy tip.
The point where the Earth
Kisses pure clouds.

With dignity beyond
The rock of ages speaking
The revered, holy mouth.
Received in turn the love
Promised in abundance.

That's the pride of Japan,
Above the skies you hold
The shrines of the gods,
Mount Fuji, the awesome look
All the time is adored.

*The peak of Japanese dreams
Hiding the hope of generations,
Indeed, above all considerations
As high as you are, let ours be
The rock of peace and love, too.*

11 Silent Walk

*I didn't know what to say,
The pain was too much
For me to bear.
I entered the dark museum
Of our ugly human history.
Someone needed not to tell me
The tormenting scene
Was all beyond compare!
I must know the truth,
I must feel the pain,
I must wipe the tears
Of those who perished
With no reason to blame.
I must bury the dead conscience,
I must atone for the gravest mistake.
It was a distressful silent walk.
Near the destroyed palace*

The trees have grown tall
To mark the rebirth of life.
The blue sky, holiest waters
Of the rivers flow into the sea.
Hiroshima still sends
The rays of hope and peace
To the four corners of the world.

12 Japanese Wave

*That blast happened,
Causing enormous chill to humanity,
A feeling that hearts can't contain.
In the blink of an eye
Humanity was buried
In the cemetery of odd conscience.
Love is stronger than hate.
Blowing is the Japanese wave,
The waves of peace,
Carrying hope
To the corners of the world.
The sun must rise again.
And Japan must shine, too.
A new era of love and
Friendship with the enemy
Started with confidence
Not to repeat that mistake,*

*Make this world a better place.
This is a smile of peace.
The joy of self-atonement
And the journey of peace
Must begin from the rubble.
The strength of defeat is a unique taste
To raise optimism for a brighter future.
The Japanese waves of hope
Started from Hiroshima,
Permeating in the hearts that love peace.*

13 *Lucifer*

*Lucifer is at work
Touch the woods,
No wonder the deeds
From the valley of death, I am.
Could it be you and I,
The arms and the legs,
The tongue of the devil?*

*Lucifer is our Master
Who gave us the sceptre of greed,
The crown of ignorance and
The blazing fire of wars.
Slow down little boys, he advised.
Don't set a wild bushfire
The summer is at hand.*

Lucifer is not happy
He is tired of our works.
We excel in the deeds,
We hate ourselves,
In exile, he set up his tent,
But the broods are many at home,
Making our days darker than nights.

Lucifer is weeping,
Lamenting the bad lessons
He taught us not to follow.
We have failed the exam,
Though we scored full marks.
He never taught us
To hate ourselves!

14 Mosquito Bites

*Here lie the Rivers,
But no mosquitoes.
The wind blows,
The water flows,
Yes, serene nights,
I have no worries.*

*My snores going to the roof
Nothing can scare me.
No deterrents, no nets
In such a modern room
I missed their songs
But was spared of their bites.*

*The lazy, combatant foes
Knew I was on holiday,
Fattened in their bellies*

Would make all moves
To defeat, infect my system
Malaria is their only gift.

Peace with mosquitoes
Is impossible to imagine!
How can they survive here
If the Rivers stop running?
It is a war we should fight
And say bye to its bites.

15 *Absolute Evil Deed*

*With tears in my eyes
I mourned shattered dreams,
My heart is bleeding,
Mourning these pure souls
Who perished in the afflicted town.
Their wailing resounded in my ears,
The rivers of blood overflowing;
My eyes can still see their corpses.
Hell on Earth was here.
The afflicted populace
Couldn't explain the story
Of the absolute Evil deed.
Our pride was destroyed!
Bitterness prevailed,
The pain remained along the years
Of recovery from absolute Evil deed.*

*She said to me 'war is war',
The game of foes
The pride of the fools.
They fight in fear
To win their woes
They never have a gut to realise
The absolute Evil deed
Until the innocent blood
Randomly pays the price!*

16 *The Bell of Peace*

*Am I standing alone
On Ground Zero?
Mother Earth
Was shattered by the A-boom
My heart is palpitating
With the shivering fear
As I hear the thundering sound
Destroying innocent lives.*

*Where is the legion of peace?
Come all ye lovers of peace,
Come let us call the doves,
The pigeons of everlasting peace.
Oh! Never tell me
They are hiding far away
In the secret mountains!*

Let us ring the bell of peace,
Revive the olive branches
And sing the songs of peace.
Send the echoes of peace
To our ancestors in their graves.
Worry not my fellowmen
The era of peace is at hand.

My heart is palpitating
With the desire for peace.
To the crows, the dove is singing
The songs of peace.
The resounding echoes
Of the rising Sun is reaching
The dark night of our time
As we ring the bell of peace.

17 Oh My Deer

The sunny day we sailed
On the golden rays
To the island of the gods
We took the fairy of love
To the everlasting shrine
Indeed, the story began.
Oh, my Deer, oh my Deer,
You soothed my sphere.

The warm snow dropping
Oh yes! Purity of the gods.
The blowing breeze,
Dropping Love into my heart.
Into the moving clouds
The earnest deer smile,
Its humble and gentle touch
Comforting my fearful heart.

*Do I have the courage to enjoy
This moment of awe?
My prayers for luck reaching
The ears of their happy gods.
At Miyajima, we climbed
The ladder of happiness.
Oh, my Deer, be blessed,
This is my only wish of the year.*

18 Give it a name

*I stood up facing the arid land
With heaps of stagnant sand
On my sad and tormented face,
Mourning the dead particles.
A soundless cry and dry tears
Streaming blood and steaming heat,
Unlike the drops of mist clotting.
I turned around to the sea,
Salty foam gathering under my feet.
I see the end of the world,
A meeting place of the sea, the sky and the desert.
The gathering was troubled by the heat
As the sea monster roared,
Striking with the waves of revenge,
Hurricane, tsunami and tornado.
Wildfire, thick smoke, snowflake balls,
And flooding of human revenge*

Were enough to make me wake up.
The grey black sky
Filled with anger and danger
About to open its avenging mouth.
The dim light went off
To leave space for darkness to travel beyond
This gruesome life!
The stars are shying away from my face.
The desert and the sea, thin lines,
The winds of peace moving east and west,
Clearing the dense cloud of blood,
Urging the rain once and for all,
I see it as a fight of greedy hearts,
But to no avail.
The reign of evil hearts is at hand.
Alas! For war and destruction!
I choose to retract
And where is peace?

The stars seemed to appear
And the dawn of new life emerging!
The morning rays shine on the shore,
Playing with golden starving sand.
The dry sand is wet again,
The troubled sea is calm.
A new life is born once more.

Let it be in my heart!
The earth is green and flowering
Even the winds blowing friendly
Breezing in, new beats in the dying hearts
And new thoughts in the freezing minds.
The waves are stabling,
The deserts are smiling and
The sand sinking into the troubled sea.
A tranquil life is regained
By the natural force of the sea,
The sea of peace in my heart,
Inside me was a deep hatred as to why
Such a harsh life exists.

Why I live in such a gloomy world,
Why the sea, the sky and the desert exist.
Miserable tone dandling on my tongue,
But with the rain of peace
The hatred is washed away
Escaping to the mountains,
As this poem is ringing in my mind!
Melodious beats regulate my dance,
As I break the chain of hatred
That hooked me to seeing that world as ugly.
I reclined to my pillow and let it go.

19 *The Coffin of Tribalism*

*You were born in the ignorant hearts,
Grown in the sick minds.
You walk on the innocent lives,
Without shame, you exist in the modern era.
I want to see the day
You will pack and go,
Walking your way to hell.*

*You have stained the smile
Of truly celebrated freedom fighters
Of our beloved country, South Sudan.
I want to see the day
You will pack and go,
Get thrown in the abyss
Of our dark history.*

When will your fire be put out and
The coffin of tribalism carried to its grave?
When will the rain of peace and prosperity
Shower the land of South Sudan?
You and I want to see the day
When our minds are cleared of tribalism
And our hearts are filled with love.

Elsewhere people know how to live this life,
Respect diversity, the colours of the rainbow!
Come to the land of peace-loving people
You will learn to bow even to your shade,
To appreciate the different divides.
I want to see the day we will, as one nation,
Come to rebuild the ruin of South Sudan.

30 JANUARY, **Hiroshima**

20 *My Expectations*

*I never knew I will make it
To the quiet land,
The cruel human storm
Is fading away.
This time in my life,
My journey to Japan
In quest of peace.
They said discipline was born here,
In the eastern corner
Of our Mother Earth.
I want to know the truth;
The rebirth of humanity.
And how love is stronger
Than the atomic bomb.
How the people's hearts
Are wider than the Pacific Ocean.*

Once stricken by hatred
And the fear of others
Now it is an ocean of love to all
I want to learn
How to leave behind my ego,
The sense of defeat,
The urge to revenge,
The hatred and impulsive war.
I want to learn
How to greet my enemies
To embrace human fraternity
And to live in everlasting peace!
These were the wave of my expectations,
A man of peace from South Sudan.

21 Precious Soul

*They said to me
I embody my flesh,
My soul and spirit,
My Trinitarian beauty!
This fact of my precious self,
The gift I am to the world.
Indeed, the gift of my soul
Presented to the world
In eternal silver rays,
Till it abandons the golden cage.
Let this precious soul
Travel into an infinite universe
Without being stained
By the dust of time.
I want to sacrifice my poems
These offspring of my mind
As a ransom to the truth.*

*Let my carnal crave nourish
This beautiful diversity
To the end of time.*

22 *Closed Ears*

*When the ears are closed,
The travelling echoes move
Just around the mountains
Of the empty ignorant heads,
That fail to absorb the truth.*

*When the ears are closed,
The beautiful words fade
Like the grey winter clouds,
Devoid of its soft efficacy
To touch the stony hearts.*

*When the ears are closed,
The fantasy of self-glorification
Disfigure the very essence
Of human worth and dignity,
And lies dominate the situation.*

When the ears are closed,
Life becomes loosely dumb.
The vibration of the everyday drum
Beats the nonsensical rhythm,
At which people dance in fear.

When the ears are closed,
Rumours take over the facts,
People erroneously believe
The tales from mischievous lips.
Lies are the masters of the day.

When the ears are closed,
The cry of innocent people
Goes unheard into futile minds.
The death of empathic hearts
Marks the end of human dignity.

23 *Start No War*

*All ye, my folks
Learn to say 'never'!
Never again go to war.
Start no war in your minds,
If you can't put out its fire.*

*Tell the truth and live it long.
War is a crazy path to hell
The walk of doom and vices;
No one feels its pinches
Until the death toll rises high.*

*It's never like a football match
But a tougher game that lasts
In the minds of damn-fool guys,
Washing the innocent souls
In the rivers of precious blood.*

*Every game has a rule, even war does!
You pull the trigger, have it at full scale.
It takes many years to stop the triggers.
Convince many hearts, put guns in the store!
Start no war if you can't stop it!*

24 I Love This Woman

*Her heart is my home
I love to stay in there alone.
Hadn't I found my way
Into the depth of her heart
My darkest moment wouldn't be gone.
Indeed, she is the rebirth of pure smile.*

*Around me is the world
I embraced with love.
The moving pivotal light,
In front of which
The dark wall of hatred
Is fading into the abyss of time.*

*I search for life therein,
I touch her beautiful heart,
I feel the beats of hope.*

*Her heart is the dwelling place
Of the hidden secrets.
My worries step back in shame.*

*Her heart is my home,
The pillow of my life,
And the cradle of my dreams.
I love this woman,
She is always there for me
In the windy walk of life.*

25 *My Black Diamond*

*I passed through
The cave opening,
With no ease to reach
The mountain's heart.*

*Deep down in the rock bed,
I can't believe my eyes!
A black, shiny, precious stone
Designed with care
To fill my heart with love.*

*My black diamond,
An original African beauty.
I could not imagine this scene,
The picturesque feminine figure,
The piercing smiles
Of an African fairy Queen.*

*My heart springs with overflowing love.
You are my black diamond,
Rare to find except in this dream.
My black diamond, only one of its kind.
This heart is rich with your love,
I have found you, the missing rib.
My black diamond, stay blessed.*

26 Etadakimasu

*This was the start of my meal.
The nice colleagues were there,
Their smiles were so delicious.
We shared the look on the menu,
The words were in Kanji and Katakana.
The samples made me salivate.
The minds were on the future missions.*

*With the taste of a Japanese dish,
I was wondering
How to master the chopsticks
I always failed the test
No time to practise in the face of food
It was so delicious, I couldn't wait.
'I need a fork,' I always asked.*

The food flavour
Mixed with friendly ambience
Made it difficult for tongues
To leave the restaurant mood.
'How is the taste?'
The usual question.
'I have a universal stomach,'
I answered.

The meal was over!
The friendship continued.
It was time to pay for the food.
The smile was so delicious
We never paid a yen for it!
Friendship is always priceless.
Except by saying 'Kekko De Su'.

27 Tokyo Tower

*The tale of Tokyo City began
After the dusty clouds
Sank into the Pacific Ocean.
Japan rose up to the heavens,
The birth of a new dawn
The hope of the nation
Standing firm and tall,
To bury that sense of defeat.*

*Clean your own dust,
Build your own house,
Make your own pride,
Were the slogan of the time!
Years passed, and you are there
To prove the will of men and women,
The strength of the people rising
From the rubble of war.*

*Tokyo Tower, there you are!
The aspirations of the afflicted,
The symbol of determination,
The sky would be your limit.
On to you the eyes were fixed,
The magical presence is here
No one could imagine your tale
Your obvious success is eternal*

28 I Stand Behind Her

*I stand behind her
To let this girl grow.
My passage is not blocked,
I enjoy every minute behind.*

*I stand behind her
Reading that beautiful phrase,
'I am a girl that has a dream
Don't destroy my future.'*

*I stand behind her
With one aim:
To see her
Achieve that beautiful dream.
She deserves to be that girl.*

*I stand behind her
To let her heart go
After that beautiful destiny
She earnestly waits to live in.*

*I stand behind her
To see her climb that ladder
Of whatever life can afford,
The success she dreamt of.*

*I stand behind her
As a selfless gentleman.
I am not imprisoned by greed
Why molest this beautiful creature?*

*I stand behind her
To let her grow to maturity.
Indeed, as time rolls on its path,
What a joy to see her all dignified!*

*I stand behind her
For her to take the driver's seat,
Stirring the wheel of her life
To the destination of her choice.*

*I stand behind her
With mind, heart and hands to support,
To prove many males wrong:
That a woman can also lead.*

*I stand behind her
As she leads every aspect of life,
A good mother, a good wife, a good daughter
But, mostly, a good leader.*

*I stand behind her
To enjoy a sense of peace and harmony
That only women can freely give.
My fellows, isn't this the way to go?*

29 The Tea Ceremony

*Everywhere
The touch of the gods could be felt.
It was a special day,
The never-ageing trees,
The birds, the butterflies,
And the flowing waters
Welcoming this stranger
In the traditional Japanese garden.
The sacred tea ceremony began
With two pieces of sweet,
The purification of the hearts,
The bitter tea bringing a countless blessing.*

*Every time
The presence of the gods was invoked.
It was a special meeting
The spirit of the ancestors could attend*

*The cleansing of the bowl,
The tea leaves,
Plunged into hot water,
The first sip with a deep breath,
'Kekko De Su!' – 'I am satisfied'.
The strangers had to learn to appreciate
The tradition left behind,
The beautiful tea ceremony.*

30 *A Grieved Tree*

*When I was a seed
You thought of your needs
To consume and feed
The nature you complete
To me you never heed,
And I never plead.*

*I stand in the middle of nowhere
To make your life fine, somewhere.
I exist to keep nature everywhere
Protected and not get outwear.
But death you only prefer.*

*The fruits I give
Delicious as you taste
Was an effort of my pace,
Patience and struggles
With light and heat.*

The shade I make
Covering your head
Is fine and cool
In the midst
Of the burning summer
But your axe has no mercy.

I hold the blessing
Of the mist and clouds
Inviting rains that water
Your farms and fields
But why is fire on my feet?

The fire of human greed,
Mistakes and selfishness
Extinguishing the source of life
Has he never realised
The fine breeze I refined.

From the eyes of the tree
Flow the tears of despair
Weeping for the inevitable doom
Mankind inflicting on
Beautiful Mother Earth.

31 *Mystical Presence*

*These threads of time,
Dangling in my mind,
This fine bell is ringing
The memories of sweet time,
Every minute is a piece of her love.*

*I saw her image
In a fabulous dream.
This beautiful face,
The distance concealed
Her mystical presence.*

*Her night portrait
Drawn with fine colours
In my heart and mind,
The spring of love,
Overflowing in me.*

My whole being,
My whole mind,
My whole heart
Yearning to catch her smile
This mystical presence is here.

The morning sun,
Knows no setting.
This opening flower,
The fragrance of her smile
Reaches my distant heart.

The memories of sweet time,
Every minute is a piece of her love.
I saw her image
In a fabulous dream.
This beautiful face
The distance concealed
Her mystical presence. Her night portrait
Drawn with fine colours
In my heart and mind,
The spring of love,
Overflowing in me with joy.

The memories of sweet time,
Every minute is a piece of her love. I saw her image,
In a fabulous dream.
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My whole mind,
My whole heart
Yearning to catch her smile
This mystical presence is here.

The morning sun,
Knows no setting.
This opening flower,
The fragrance of her smile
Reaches my distant heart.

32

Peace From Hiroshima

*Amid the beautiful mountains
I saw the gate of the opening cave,
The city that hides horrible,
Atrocious and barbaric scene.
Atrocious and barbaric,
My toes trembling fast and cold.*

*The feelings of grief well up in me.
I can't imagine what happened
To the thousands of innocent lives
As the door of hell opened onto them,
Pouring in, the furnace of hatred.*

*The angels of death did their worst.
The black clouds were not sure of
Who stained the purity of the virgin sky.
That day the doom happened, then
Hiroshima, by hatred, was set on fire.*

*On a silent mode, my mind got lost,
The aftermath of A-boom is still here
The wreckage of ugly human history,
Laying bare for the world to witness,
And never repeat the same mistakes.*

*Peace from Hiroshima to the whole world
Shouting its everlasting echoes of hope.
The sad days are gone, and never again
A human being should live in such agony.
Hiroshima is home to all peacebuilders.*

33 *Uniquely Japanese*

*It's amazingly beautiful,
The people, the culture and
The respect for foreigners,
The peaceful ambience,
This display of human touch.*

*The Japanese time and
Their diligence at work,
The taste of sushi, okonomiyaki,
Special noodles with oysters
Would make you forget the world.*

*The ocean, the sea, the islands,
The mountains and the sky
When meeting in this mix,
You would regret every minute,
You lost in sleep without awe.*

*The town, the cities and
The nice, calm villages,
Perfectly clean, but all organised.
This is a dream for us to pursue
In the temples and every shrine.*

*The snow and foggy clouds
The brighter sun with no heat
The weather without dust,
The rain to clean your thoughts,
This mix is uniquely Japanese.*

34 *Money-making*

*Myth of a false smile.
More to tell of it,
My hungry brain travels
Miles, to sell my cravings.
My values are gone,
Morals never hold.
My life is enslaved.
More money, yes.
More spending, yet
More trouble, nothing lasts.
My lips repeat, they say.
Money makes money,
My tongue salivates,
More to buy my fate.
More money, yes.
More misery of the heart,
Make more, but nothing lasts.*

*My time flies after money.
My joy controlled by the notes.
Mine is the empty chest.
More thieves wait the counts.
More money, yes.
More fears and life goes on,
Making money.*

35 I Am Not Satisfied

*I am not satisfied
In the land of falsehood, for even the
Ink of truth-faded colour is never obtained or
Innocent smile betrayed!*

*I am not satisfied
In a home dwelt in by deceivers,
Ignorant and gluttonous stomach or
Intolerant mouths, tongues that parade lies.*

*I am not satisfied with those
Incarnating the past mistakes,
Indulging themselves in lawlessness that
Invites moral decadence and suffering.*

*I am not satisfied
In the court of unrighteousness, where
Injustice is a common practice at the expense of
Innocent women whose weakness is exploited.*

*I am not satisfied
In a room without a light of hope,
In which my dream for the daybreak
Is snatched by the thunder of gunshots.*

*I am not satisfied with the
Indignant life, reduced to animal type,
Of me being less than the silent dog I rear.
I swear this must be changed.*

*I am not satisfied at all
If the life of a new-born child
Is short-lived, we all blame malaria!
But I bear not the responsibility.*

*I am not satisfied
In an hour of agony, no one wanted to
Inject in my heart a word of solace.
I'm lonely in my world, no one even to bid me RIP.*

*I am not satisfied, even
In my grave! For my remains never remain
Intact to the end of time.
It's my unfortunate destiny – forgotten forever!*

37 *The Seed of Peace*

*Falling on the right ground,
Indeed, let it gradually reach
Into the depths of the Earth.
Let it be sown into the hearts
Dumbly soaked by violence.*

*One thing must continue to be
The seed must die to rise mature,
With the morning sun of hope,
The sacrificed seed is there to be
For all to reach the peaceful end.*

*The seed of peace must fly
Above the odds of our ugly time,
Risking the snares, arrows and spears
By flapping the wave of genuine
Love and harmony, the wings of peace.*

*Let the shoot of friendship sprout,
Fragile but strong and determined to live.
Let its stem grow, and its branches fly,
To touch the throne of the heavens,
And its roots to fix this troubled world.*

*Let the seed embrace the rays of hope
To tame these broods of vampires, who
Violently slaughter the angels of peace.
Let the shade of our time not cover
The sun of peace.*

*You and I want to be the seeds of peace,
The sun, the rays of love and hope to all
To tame these violent minds, and sow
The seed of peace and harmony
In these hearts deemed to die of thirst.*

37 Okonomiyaki

The ingredients coursed,
Being cooked by graceful fingers.
Shrimps, oysters and vegetables
Name them, the seafood.
Every minute was so enjoyable
To see how fire and love
Can make this magical taste.
The palms of her hands
Holding the fresh flavour.
Flapping on the stage,
Was the butterfly of my hunger
As I was sniffing the flavour.
The gentle touch of a blissful time,
A sense of peace, embracing my mind.
In a Japanese style,
She placed the dish in front of me.
I was obliged to say 'thank you'.

*I stammered these words out,
'Arigatou Gozaimasu!'
The moon shone through
The night of my imaginations.
A bright smile beaming through
Her lips coloured with a golden ray.
She served my favourite dish.*

*It was so delicious, I could not wait,
As my tongue started the dance.
'Etadakimasu!' I replied.
I began my mouthful chew
Of a Japanese dish, Okonomiyaki.*

38 *A Toast of Peace*

*Imagine the joy of a child
Chasing a butterfly,
Holding a dancing rose
For the butterfly to celebrate!
The sweet time starts
When I hold my dream
In the palm of my hands.*

*My horizon is drawing nearer,
Embracing the sea of hope.
The sea is not disturbed
Though its waves are rising high.
It is a joyful time.*

*The countdown began days ago,
My heart is overflowing with love,
The sweet welling up of emotions,*

*Prompting the angels of peace
To appreciate my life.*

*Like a butterfly, I am pursuing peace!
Peace is a quest for all my people.
To them I solemnly say:
There is light at the end of the tunnel.
Our dark pavement is lit with hope.
The wings of peace fill me with joy.
This is my story of travelling
To Japan, Tokyo and Hiroshima.
It's my pleasure.*

*This wine is so sweet,
Offered to me in a bottomless glass of hope.
An opportunity that knocks but once.
This is a toast of peace;
Shouldn't I share it
With all friends of peace?*

39 Otis Flavour

*Getting together,
I love this feeling
A winter of love.
Yes, in Hiroshima.
Music is its language.*

*My friend Theo Exploration
Hit the dancing strings.
The melodious flow
Colouring the ambience
Oh yeah, this is Otis flavour.*

*Music from the hearts
To soothe the minds.
No more coffee, tea or beer
The melodious sound
Is enough to make you drunk.*

40 *The City of Peace*

*At Hiroshima,
The beautiful hearts gathered
To sing the songs of peace.
'We Are the World' was our anthem.
For peace and prosperity
We all teamed up
To celebrate the bond of love.
Hiroshima is our capital city,
Indeed, the City of Peace.
No one can deny the forgiving hearts.*

*I feel the touch,
Love is stronger than hate
Is the motto we abide by.
The Nobel Peace Prize
Goes to the beautiful hearts
Who learnt the goal*

*To forgive other than to revenge!
March from the different ends,
Inaugurate the capital City of Peace.
Peace to the world from Hiroshima.*

*Let the winds of Peace blow!
Let it reach as far as South Sudan,
Iraq, Somalia and Cambodia.
To the Philippines and Sierra Leone,
Mali, Egypt and so forth to Tunisia.
Let it stay in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
Let the tsunami of peace reach Syria,
Georgia, Philistine and Libya.
This is our hope, the dreams of all PAs,
The Global Peacebuilders.*

41 *The Bees of Peace*

*Like a wise bee,
I'm grateful to the smiling flowers,
That give their fragrance for free.
The radiant face of the rising sun,
From the coast of hope
To the world to taste peace,
These radiant rays, this time from Japan.*

*Like a busy bee,
I appreciate the mist,
The drops of morning dew
And the gentle breeze
Of the Pacific Ocean!
Cooling the minds and hearts
That earnestly long for peace.*

Like an unselfish bee
I stand to serve my folk
Hardworking to make the honey of peace!
Together with other bees
The hive is full of peacebuilders.
The honey of peace
Is ready for the world to consume!

Oh! Please ask the bees
If ever they taste their honey.
Peacebuilders are human bees;
It takes a while for all to recognise
The hard work they silently do
Until the honey is ready!
We are human bees for peace.

The bees labour to make honey.
Do they enjoy their honey?
The pleasure is theirs
To kiss the opening flowers,
To touch the golden rays of hope,
To protect the innocent dew and mist,
To bring the breeze of peace to the world.

42 *We Are All Bees*

*I can imagine,
Sweet is the taste of honey,
Pure product
Of a hard-working bee.
To us, it's amazingly sweet,
Thick ingredients
Nature provides through
A dedicated insect.
We termed it honey,
We taste it, delectable.
Oh, this is the sweat
Of a hard-working bee.*

*We fail to imagine
The sacrifice made
Making this honey sweet.*

The countless travels
The bees could make.
Its lovely encounter
With the opening flowers;
Never forget the thorns
That prick its belly.
The discipline to be confined
To the beehives.

Choosing the right time;
The bees never laze about.
Never mind the risk,
Indeed, the world is full of trouble,
To bees, too;
Not only to the human beings.
If someone fails to make honey,
Patience and hard work are the secret,
That can make your honey sweet.
The selfishness of belief
Is to live in your lonely milieu,
That wax can be your grave.

We are all bees,
If only we could produce honey!
Some people may fail to taste
The sweet honey you produce.

Or discredit the efforts you make in life.
They are only afraid
Of the sting you are ready to give.
Take it or leave it.
The bees can fatally sting
The stubborn creature
Aiming to destroy their hives.

43 Goodbye Haneda

*With tears, I bade this sad farewell,
Loading off my forty-three days
In the land of peace-loving people.
The wave of friendship continued
Now I know what you meant to me.*

*My tongue continued to stammer,
My heartbeats surged.
My eyes overflowed with tears.
Hard to say goodbye to the friends
Who share their smiles in sincerity.*

*These drops of tears won't suffice
To express the magnificent joy,
The manifestation of my feelings.
Haneda Port, this door is not closed*

*My journey has just started.
Until then...*