

Foundation Pieces for Honkadori & Honzetsu (Allusion)

What would the editing team like to see from you for the January 2024, Allusion topic?

Well first thing to say is that we are looking for **haikai poems**. That is unorthodox poems, haiku or senryū, poems which are fresh and unique and which exhibit some or all of the following:

- Humour or lightness of touch, parody perhaps?
- contemporary language
- an unusual perspective
- wordplay

We definitely want you to write haiku or senryū with a contemporary feel, so if you want to write about the following, please do.

- urban life
- science fiction
- horror
- speculative poetry

All we ask is that the allusion is clear, don't be too obscure. You want your reader to understand and to have some sort of emotional reaction to your poem and the editing team to know which of the pieces you've chosen to allude to.

I have mentioned this before, be careful that you do not allude so closely that you cross the boundary into plagiarism.

You can choose to write just honkadori, or honzetsu or mix your submission.

So the poetry I've chosen as a base for your foundation poem:

Twenty Years Hence, Jibanananda Das
trs by Clinton B Seely¹

If twenty years from now I should meet her again,
Again, twenty years hence—
Perhaps beside a clump of paddy stalks
In late October—
As the evening crows head home—as the tawny river
Softens in amongst reeds and grasses—through fields.

Or, perhaps there is no longer paddy standing in fields.
No more hustle, no more hurry.
Chaff is blowing, strewn about from duck nests
From nests of birds,
Night, cold, moisture from dew collecting in the homes of muniya birds.
Twenty, twenty long years from now when our lives will have been spent—
If then most unexpectedly upon a path through the field we again should meet.

¹ https://www.parabaas.com/jd/articles/seely_scent_after.shtml

It might be that the moon has come at midnight, hovering behind a spray of leaves,
Thin dark branches of the shirish or the jam,
The jhau—the mango,
Veiling her lunar face.
After twenty years, and I've forgotten you.

Our lives will have passed full twenty years—
And then, once more, if we should see each other.

Then, perhaps, an owl alights and toddles upon the field—
And then, through the alleys shaped by babla branches,
Through the windows formed by the ashvattha,
She flies, hides herself away.
Elsewhere, quiet as eyelids closing, hawk wings fold—

That hawk, a golden gold—stalked by the dew—
If suddenly, twenty years from now, I should find in that misty haze you!

Theme: love, possibly lost love.

Jenny Joseph's Warning.²

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

² <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/warning/>

Theme: old age and bravado.

Haiku

Now honkadori referring back to short poems such as haiku is a bit more tricky, but I have every confidence that you can do it.

the blind musician
extending an old tin cup
collects a snowflake

Nicholas A Virgilio, Selected Haiku

Themes: poverty, sadness and possibly man's inhumanity to man?

evening séance –
the medium's parlor
smells of cabbage

*Patricia Neubauer, The Haiku Anthology*³

Themes: death and decay. Neubauer has also used our visual and olfactory senses to engage us in this poem.

Prose foundation pieces:

- Winnie the Pooh
- Little Red Riding Hood and opportunity to write a little horror?
- Any Harry Potter book, now what an opportunity for speculative work in the fantasy arena

Looking forward to reading your work

January 1-15 2024.

³ *The Haiku Anthology* edited by Cor van den Heuval, WW Norton & Company, 1999