

Result of the third Japan-EU English Haiku Contest

September 5, 2012

1. Grand prize (EU section)

Light breaks free

A new day is born

The mantis comes out to pray

Zeshan Hayat (UK)

【Message from candidate】

I really enjoy poetry and writing something that could capture the essence of 'down' was a wonderful challenge for me. I felt honored to paint this image with words. For me 'Dawn' represents a new beginning, the birth of a new day or a new era which we should all commemorate by putting our hands together and offering a prayer. A prayer for our success and our well being, for the well being of others and for what we hope to achieve in this new day that we have been blessed to set our eyes upon.

【Comment by the judge】

"Light breaks free," unusual and surprising depiction for dawn, works fine as a poetic diction for the first thing. There is a wide gap, "kire" in the haiku term, between the first two lines and the third line. The sudden appearance of a mantis astonishes the readers, creating poem in the short three lines.

2. Grand Prize (Japan Section)

dawn of summer solstice

coming out of

a vivid dream

Yasuko Kurono (Aichi, Japan)

【Message from candidate】

More than Japanese people, maybe European people would feel bit sad to have summer solstice which brings shorter daylight hours.

In Japan, summer solstice is not hot and maybe it is not true summer yet, but coming out of vivid dream or memories of early summer in the shortest night, is a refreshing moment to think of our upcoming days which will be much more real and beautiful.

【Comment from the judge】

Summer solstice is a day when the daylight is the longest in the year. It is not clear whether solstice is awakening or the writer "I" is waking up. "Summer solstice" is greatly working here to produce poetic wonder. The readers would feel like awakening from a summer dream upon reading the haiku.

3. Other honorable mentions (Gift is offered from Matsuyama City/EU)

A scent of fresh-cut grass

Embracing the morning star

Born to the east.

(Stela Koeva, Bulgaria)

rose petals

tremble at the first sun ray

early at dawn

(Vladimir Ludvig, Croatia)

Shining sun and swaying moon

Smoothly embraces

The placid lagoon

(Maria Teresa Pedrosa da Glória Patrício, Portugal)

Nightly summer rain

after yet still the plum fruit

has stayed warm to touch

(Erik Loide, Estonia)

Carried in crane's beak,

seed of light dropped into rye,

mist cleared our merged bridge

(Tiina Silvia Lahesoo, Estonia)

on my way to work

the train crosses the river

at dawn

(Junko Saeki, Tokyo, Japan)

a dawning sky-

is a colorful map

without borders

(Keiko Isogawa, Kyoto, Japan)

The rainy season

Many umbrellas look beautiful

As if they are dancing

(Syun Kamiyama, Fukushima, Japan)

dawn-

the first flight taking off

toward the purple sky

(Hideyuki Yazaki, Kanagawa, Japan)

*dawn in summer-
a fresh air from
bamboo lattice*

(Akihiko Hayashi, Osaka, Japan)

4. Number of entries sorted by country

