

Misuzu・みすゞ

Ladies and gentlemen,

What we must do now is to try and forget **the Olympics in Athens**. We are very eager to see on TV how Japanese teams or players are doing their best in swimming, Judo, gymnastics, baseball, etc but let's stop thinking about them.

Now, now, please don't be so attentive. Please be relaxed, half asleep. Let me say a few words. **It's a great pleasure for us to be here all in good conditions.** [*The image is  of **みすゞ**' home town.]

Time passes very fast. Summer comes round in a moment, not in a year. At the last meeting in **Hiroshima**, we owed a lot to **Arai Kun**. We can't thank him too much. He looked very young, with a soft hat on. Last year's big surprise was the presence of **Iwamoto Kun**. **The renewal of my friendship with him incited me to live fully, regardless of rapid aging.** For example I went swimming in the sea after 25 years' interval, and got sun-burnt like this. But this morning I felt very sorry to hear that **Iwamoto Kun** is taken ill, suffering diabetes. I just wish he controls his health with the utmost care and maintains as good conditions as he can.  * [The image is of **みすゞ通り** Street, Senzaki.]

Now I start the main subject.

The successive heat wave of this summer has completely changed **Ogata Kun**. Suddenly he thought of speaking English at this pleasant meeting, and he told me to give the members present at the meeting **a shock or amazement** by making a speech in a poor English. No sooner had I heard this terrible impulse of his than I realized that **the summer heat presented him with quite a bit insanity or madness.** It's none other than madness, I firmly believed. But this morning at **Asa Station** he told me, Kumano Kun you may speak English or Japanese, as you like it. Finally he has come to himself to my great relief.

As you've seen, **Ogata Kun** has made a careful preparation to welcome us heartily. We appreciate him so much.

On June 6 last year I attended [Oga Kun's funeral service](#). I remember the day as if it was only yesterday. Today, thanks to **Ogata Kun's** thoughtfulness, we offered a prayer for the soul of **the late Mr. Oga** before the tablet and we talked with his wife of the activities done by him, and we missed him very much. He adored **Misuzu** and **he did a lot for the poetry.**  **publicity of the literary value of Misuzu** was a big hit. We were given an opportunity to know more about Misuzu and to be moved by her poems. [Her poems come into my heart deeply and leave or deposit something very pure, very innocent and very humane.](#)

The essence of her poetry is, I think, based on her love of nature and of living things including man. She created its purity by filtering her various experiences.

They say that she is a great poetess of children's songs. Sure, so she is. But I think, she is not only a writer of children's songs but also a great poet of human beings. It is by singing small things for children that she sings for grown-up people throughout the world. So much for みすゞ literature.

I believe this reunion is meaningful to us. Why? The reason is simple. **Nishimura Kun** has presented himself before us after a many, many years' absence. I talked with him over the phone a few times before this meeting. At that time I thought **he is full of youth and vigor**. I was right in my guess.

In my dream, next year will bring us to **the Kintaikyo Bridge** and let us taste a glass, or a mug, or a bottle of cold beer, crossing the Historic Bridge. What surprise will be waiting for us? Anyhow, let's enjoy this afternoon to the full.

That is the finish of my long, poor speech.

Many thanks for your kind and patient listening.