

One Sunny Day

By Hideko Tamura

On one sunny day,
I lost my universe.

The mid-summer sun glaring in the bright blue sky,
Tall green branches quivering in the wind
Whispering to a happy child,
Just home from a lonely country village tucked far away,
“Good morning child, welcome home”.
The Oxygen, called happiness filled the air.

Shimmering lizards on the granite, moving about peacefully,
Dancing color maps in the butterfly wings
And my kitty, kuro-chan catching sun rays, glooming her coat.
All were so well on that day.

To be hugged and fed, we stole away from the country,
For this moment of love and safety.

Suddenly from the sky, swift moment of blinding flash,
Turning into a boulder of raging heat unleashed on humans and buildings
As the scorched earth shook with deafening sound in the primordial dark

Searing heat, raging and spreading
No time to pull you out Mama, no time to find you, cousins.
Rivers were flowing, voices muffled, no cooling for the burns.
I watched the red sky into the night, the last night of my childhood.

Hiroshima turned into ashes
My world was no more
Along with my oxygen, called happiness

Forever changed city, Hiroshima, watched us return, scars hidden in shame
For they stirred the unthinkable, for they peeled off our dignity.

On the flowing riverbanks grew, four, five, six leaf clovers,
Picked by a lone child at sunset,
Searching for her lost garden and universe, visible only in her mind's eye.

On one sunny day, began a search for Life and the conditions that must be
On being a Human, anywhere, any time.