

This book is dedicated to my brother Mark, without whom
life would be a boring place.

It is also dedicated to the memory of a dear departed friend,
Leigh. See you Space Cowboy

Why Don't You Do Your Best?
なぜベストを^っ尽くさないのか

Ueda Jiro (Original)
Jamie Taylor (Translation)

November 24, 2015

Preface

“Begin at the beginning,” the King said gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”

— Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

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Japanese Text

This document will contain some Japanese characters – either in the footnotes or translation notes that are provided. If you have been able to open the document, then your PDF reader should be able to display them without any problems. However, if you find that there are sections of garbled characters, then you might need to install Asian character support for your document reader.

The Japanese characters included in this book will mostly be Character or Place names, or epitaphs. Character and Place names are primarily made of Kanji¹, and any use of Kanji have Ruby Text² placed near them to aid those who can read Japanese script with correct pronunciation. Readings in Latin characters will also be provided in parenthesis, following the Ruby Text.

Conventions Used

Each chapter in the original book begins with a quote from the writer. This convention will be retained, but the quotes will be translated.

Footnotes will be supplied, where useful, to provide more information on a given sentence of phrase. These are provided in the hopes of giving a more fuller feel to the translation. Japanese is a language that does not translate fully to other languages, as there are nuances of meaning that are untranslatable, these nuances are expanded upon in the footnotes.

One thing to note is that the original book contains some very silly illustrations and some photographs of the cast members. These illustrations and images will not be provided in this compiled form of the book for copyright reasons.

Instances of Character or Place names (outside of this preface) will be presented in Latin characters. However, here are two examples of names (taken from the following section):

- あ べ ひろし 阿部寛(Abe Hiroshi)
- なか ま ゆ き え 仲間由紀恵(Nakama Yukie)

In the examples above, the Kanji are provided with Ruby Text above them, with Latin character readings of the complete Kanji afterwards in parenthesis.

Notes

¹Kanji are Chinese characters used in written Japanese. The translation of Kanji is “Chinese Characters”

²Ruby Text is the text placed near to a character to aid in phonetic pronunciation. More information on Ruby Text can be found here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_text

A Note From The Translator

“I gotta take notes when things occur to me”

— Jeff Bridges, Unknown

Reasons for Translating This Book

Throughout the TRICK series (including the TV Show, the Specials and the Films), Ueda Jiro - the male lead - constantly refers to books that he has written. These books are based on his experiences solving paranormal crimes. These crimes are solved by Yamada Naoko - the female lead - working alongside Ueda. The books (“Why don’t you do your best?”¹ (known as “Naze Besto”), ‘Come over, Spiritual Phenomena’² (known as “Donto Koi”) , etc.) are used by supporting characters to point out how brave and smart Ueda is. The joke being that Ueda isn’t, really, either. He’s a physics professor at 東大³, but he often confuses basic magic tricks for paranormal phenomena. He is also very easily scared out of his wits.

When I found out that the books referenced in the show had been published, as a series of self-help style books, I decided that I would need to read them, as they would provide more insight into the characters. A cursory web-search showed me that none of the books had been translated, so I decided to order a copy of one of the books. I chose “Naze Besto” because it seemed to be used for more jokes in the series than “Donto Koi”.

Who Are All These People?

Trick is a Japanese comedy starring 阿部寛(Abe Hiroshi) and 仲間由紀恵(Nakama Yukie) as 上田次郎(Ueda Jiro) and 山田奈緒子(Yamada Naoko), respectively.

上田 is a professor of Physics at Tokyo University and uses logic and physics as a basis for his understand of the world and the people within it. Whereas 奈緒子 is a down on her luck, and (usually) out of work magician, who uses intuition and her magical training to see through most illusions.

上田 is contacted by people to help them to understand or debunk paranormal phenomena (for instance: curses, good luck charms, psychic abilities and miraculous feats of strength). He usually chickens out when he witnesses said phenomena and implores 奈緒子 to help him explain what’s happening.

奈緒子 is insulted by many of the characters due to her small breasts. She usually fights back with a jibe about 上田’s gigantic penis, or the fact that the wig that 矢部謙三(Yabe Kenzo) wears is has fallen off or looks obvious or out of place.

矢部謙三 is an inept Assistant Detective, sent from Tokyo to investigate the crimes that are related to the phenomena that 上田 and 奈緒子 are trying to debunk. 矢部 (also the Japanese word for “stop”) is played by 生瀬勝久(Namase Katsuhise).

奈緒子's Mother, 山田さと子 (Yamada Satori) is a calligrapher who teaches the children of her home town about the power of the written word. She has often hinted at but never explained, psychic connection with 奈緒子, and will often find a way of helping her daughter when she is in trouble. She is played by 野際陽子^{のぎわ よこ} (Nogiwa Yoko).

More information about Trick can be found at the D-Addicts wiki page: <http://wiki.d-addicts.com/Trick>

Notes

¹(日本科学技術大学教授上田次郎のなぜベストを尽くさないのか?)

²日本科学技術大学教授上田次郎のどんと来い、超常現象 (単行本)

³東京大学^{とうきょう だいがく} is often abbreviated to Tô Dai

Translation

なぜベストを尽くさないのか？

— 上田次郎, TRICK

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Chapter 1

Welcome!

These 13 characters¹ will change your life.

I find the existence of belief in witchcraft and sorcery to be a false faith.

Notes

¹In the original Japanese, なぜベストを尽くさないのか is 13 characters and this is what Ueda is referring to

Chapter 2

Preface

I Want To Always Do My Best

Notes

¹In the original Japanese, なぜベストを尽くさないのか is 13 characters and this is what Ueda is referring to

Chapter 3

Ueda Jiro Doing His Best (With diagrams)

“I don’t have a single second to waste!”

— Ueda Jiro

Notes

¹In the original Japanese, なぜベストを尽くさないのか is 13 characters and this is what Ueda is referring to