

Why Don't You Do Your Best?  
なぜベストを<sup>2</sup>尽くさないのか

Ueda Jiro (Original)  
Jamie Taylor (Translation)

August 16, 2015

# Preface

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

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— 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 reader.

Most kanji<sup>1</sup> characters in this translation have ruby text<sup>2</sup> placed above them to aid the reader in the correct phonetic reading of the characters for the context in the given sentence.

## 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 or 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.

## Notes

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

<sup>2</sup>Ruby 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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_text)

# A Note From The Translator

“I gotta take notes when things occur to me”

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— 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?”<sup>1</sup> (known as “Naze Besto”), ‘Come over, Spiritual Phenomena’<sup>2</sup> (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<sup>3</sup>, 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<sup>あべひろし</sup>(Abe Hiroshi) and 仲間由紀恵<sup>なかま ゆきえ</sup>(Nakama Yukie) as 上田次郎<sup>うえだ じろう</sup>(Ueda Jiro) and 山田奈緒子<sup>やまだ なおこ</sup>(Yamada Naoko), respectively.

上田 is a professor of Physics at Tokyo University and uses logic and physics as a basis for his understanding 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<sup>やべけんぞう</sup>(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<sup>なま せ かつ ひせ</sup>(Namase Katsuhise).

奈緒子’s Mother, 山田さとり (Yamada Satori) is a calligrapher who teaches the children of her home town about the power of the written word. She has an 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<sup>のぎわ よこ</sup>(Nogiwa Yoko).

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

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>(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?)

<sup>2</sup>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)

<sup>3</sup>とうきよう だいがく東京大学is often abbreviated to Tô Dai

# Translation

なぜベストを尽くさないのか？

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— 上田次郎, TRICK

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# Welcome!

These 13 characters<sup>1</sup> will change your life.

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

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>In 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



# Preface

I Want To Always Do My Best

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>In 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 1

# Ueda Jiro Doing His Best (With diagrams)

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

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— Ueda Jiro

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>In 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