

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

Ueda Jiro (Original)
Jamie Taylor (Translation)

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Preface

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NazeBesto - a translation of the Japanese text ”上田次郎のなぜベストを尽くさないのか？” (ISBN: 978-4-05-402528-8) Copyright 2012 Jamie Taylor (jamie@taylorj.org.uk)

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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.

Whenever ruby text² is used throughout this document, they provide

¹Performing a web search for the ISBN (4-05-402528-5) will yield a plethora of online stores that sell hard copies of this book

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

reading instructions for complex or uncommon characters.

Most Kanji³ have more than one reading, and they are separated (in Japanese) into three categories:

- Konyomi
- Onyomi
- Nanori

Dependant on the reading that is used, different characters are used for the ruby text. This all changes the way that the characters are pronounced. The original reading for each character has been included as the Ruby text, so that readers can learn the correct reading for each character in the given context.

³Kanji are Chinese characters used in written Japanese. The translation of Kanji is “Chinese Characters”

A Note From The Translator

Reasons for Translating This Book

Firstly, hi. I'm Jamie and I'm a fan of the Japanese TV show Trick. When I found out that the books, written by the character Ueda Jiro, that are referenced in the show had actually been released I decided to make it my mission to purchase a copy of one of them.

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.

Ueda 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 Naoko is a down on her luck, and (mostly) out of work magician, who uses intuition and her magical training to see through most illusions.

Ueda 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 Naoko to help him explain what's happening.

Naoko is insulted by many of the characters due to her small breasts. She usually fights back with a jibe about Ueda'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.

Yabe Kenzo is an inept Assistant Detective, sent from Tokyo to investigate the crimes that are related to the phenomena that Ueda and Naoko are trying to debunk. Yabe (also the Japanese word for "stop") is played by 生瀬勝久 (Namase Katsuhise).

Naoko'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 an often hinted at but never explained, psychic connection with Naoko, and will often find a way of helping her daughter when she is in trouble. She is played by 野際陽子 (Nogiwa Yoko).

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

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Welcome!¹

These 13 characters² will change your life.

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

¹Ueda writes in a very informal manner. The original opening is はじめに, which is quite informal

²In 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