

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)

August 5, 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*

Legal Disclaimer

This work is a translation of a copyrighted book. It is provided “as-is” and no copyright infringement was intended by the author. If you enjoy reading this translation, then please buy the original book. Performing a web search for the ISBN for the original book (4-05-402528-5) will yield a plethora of stores that sell physical copies of this book.

Licence Details

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

This program is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation, either version 3 of the License, or any later version.

This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program. If not, see <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/>

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 kanji¹ characters in this translation have ruby text² 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

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⁴ and 仲間由紀恵⁵ as 上田次郎⁶ and 山田奈緒子⁷, 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 矢部謙三⁸ 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⁹.

奈緒子’s Mother, 山田さと子¹⁰ 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¹¹.

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とうきょう だいがく東京大学 is often abbreviated to Tô Dai
- ⁴Abe Hiroshi
- ⁵Nakama Yukie
- ⁶Ueda Jiro
- ⁷Yamada Naoko
- ⁸Yabe Kenzo
- ⁹Namase Katsuhise
- ¹⁰Yamada Satori
- ¹¹Nogiwa Yoko

Translation

なぜベストを尽くさないのか？

— 上田次郎, TRICK

Contents

1	Ueda Jiro Doing His Best (With diagrams)	9
---	------------------------------------------	---

Welcome!¹

These 13 characters² will change your life.

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

Notes

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

Preface

I Want To Always Do My Best

Notes

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

Chapter 1

Ueda Jiro Doing His Best (With diagrams)

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

— Ueda Jiro

Notes

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