

Haiku a Day

The problem with hai-

ku is that you just get start-

ed and then you have

Thomas L. Kula
P.O. Box 1124
Ames, IA 50014-1124



Issue 1: July 2005

Thomas L. Kula
The People's Republic of Ames

In June of 2005 I was at a conference in Pittsburgh and used the opportunity to visit one of the best bookstores in the world (Copacetic Comics). There I picked up a copy of the first of Snakepit anthology, a collection of the daily comics Ben Snakepit decided to start drawing back in 2000/2001.

Reading it late at night, I had the idea to do something similar: write a haiku a day, collect them up at the end of the month, and send them to friends. While I don't mean for it to be a diary (like Ben's comic is), what you have in your hands sometimes reflects what was happening that day, or what I happened to be thinking about. Not intentionally, but it happens.

Note to purists: while the Japanese poem form known as the Haiku has more behind it than the 5/7/5 syllable form, that's all I'm using it for.

Enjoy.

— Thomas

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Ames, IA 50014-1124

<http://kula.tproa.net/had/>

30 July 2005

Moving trucks alight

A signal that Ames is at

The end of July.

31 July 2005

Count Infinity

No matter how hard you try

You'll never make it.

24 July 2005

Telephone rings loud
It's a telemarketer.
No one cool calls me.

25 July 2005

Stinky old straw hat
Everytime I wash you
You grow more worn out.

26 July 2005

Train goes rumbling by
Chugging and rumbling it goes
To a distant place

27 July 2005

Ads on building sides,
Fills me with an intense rage.
Fuck you, Ev Cochrane.

28 July 2005

Iowa Weather
If you don't like it just wait.
A cliché but true

29 July 2005

Axis of Weevil:
A band should do that tour.
It would kick some ass.

6 July 2005

Bicycling in Ames
It looks flat but it will make
Mountains from Molehills

7 July 2005

Cyride bus at night.
Haven of light in the dark
Takes me safely home.

8 July 2005

An old pair of shoes
They are worn, torn and broken,
But I can't throw them.

9 July 2005

Ginger beer bottle
Lying empty on the floor
Loud burps in the past.

10 July 2005

Haiku before sleep
Will I remember it at
The dawn of first light?

11 July 2005

The Jazz Department:
You fill the night with cool tunes
And some swanky beats.

12 July 2005

The sun's rays beat down.
My straw hat on a hot day
A cool head inside.

13 July 2005

Longboard in corner
I should take you and ride, but
I suck at skating

14 July 2005

Hand blender unit
I use you to chop onions
But get onion paste

15 July 2005

Golden Assam tea
A vivid dark red color
Clear, malty flavor

16 July 2005

Washer stops spinning
The dryer belt is broken
So I hang up clothes

17 July 2005

A cool rain falls down
Heat of the day swept away
I enjoy the breeze.

18 July 2005

Old worn out wallet
I've had you since the eighth grade
You are mostly tape.

19 July 2005

Years of construction
Blasted by high explosives
Fall down in seconds.

20 July 2005

This is my boomstick
Bought at shop smart, shop S-Mart
Okay, YOU GOT THAT?

21 July 2005

Water, boiling hot
Bleach, cleaner, scrubbing bubbles
My bathroom is clean

22 July 2005

Vegetarian
That word is five syllables
Perfect haiku line

23 July 2005

Titanium spork
A perfect addition to
Apocalypse Kit.