

Creating A Poem

Inspired by a natural scene, a mental picture is born inside me, which is condensed, crystalized, and transformed into words; thus, I create a poem. It would be the same process as the one that the Japanese poet Kenji Miyazawa (1896 - 1933) called “recording his mental sketch”. In the sketch, my hidden emotion is exposed, and I often rediscover myself.

For instance, when I saw chipmunks dashing back and forth for breadcrumbs at an incredible speed on the ground while I was having lunch outside the canteen of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, I got the idea that these chipmunks were ordered by somebody to run and carry something to somewhere. I wrote *Messengers*. When I formed the last two paragraphs, though, I was astonished to find that such a dark, negative feeling existed inside me. Similar events occurred when I created *Cage* and *Raven*. Until then, I only thought about describing my good, beautiful emotions in the poems such as *Cocoon* and *Violet*.

I cannot say that one of these emotions is true and another is false. Both beautiful and ugly emotions as well as the desires for good and evil do coexist in me, irrespective of the fact whether I like them or not. On the other hand, daily cooking, child rearing, and translating work also represent my reality. Similarly, any reader of my poems has many faces; a parent, child, or someone’s partner at home, and an engineer, sales person, student, or something else in the society with his/her own personal mind containing various emotions, good and evil. Anyone may have one or two surprising experiences to find an unexpected subconscious feeling in him/herself at an unpredicted occasion. So, I hope that many people share the various emotions expressed in my poems.