

# GIOVANNI JACOPO MEDITATES

*(on the High-IQ Haiku)*



Translated by Douglas Livingstone  
Illustrated by Gus Ferguson

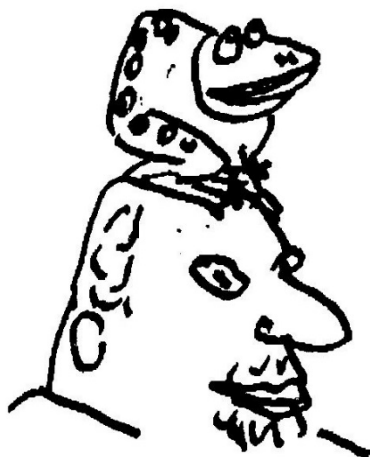
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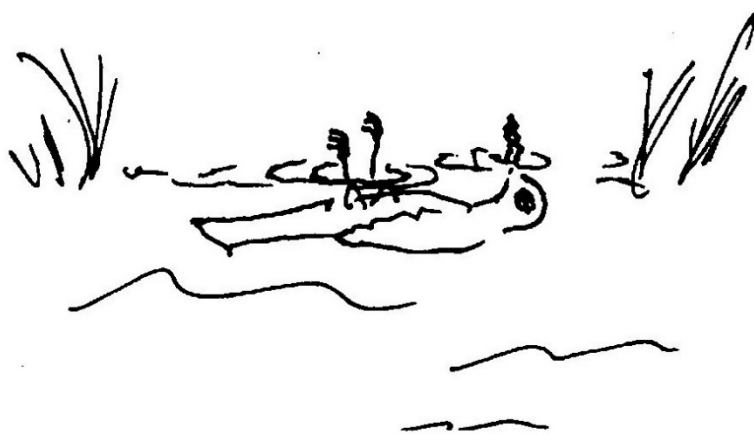
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THE CORMORANT STRIKES  
RIPPLES DISTURB THE SURFACE  
WAIT NOT IT HAS DROWNED

THE COURTESAN'S FAN  
THE TAX COLLECTORS DEMAND  
THE FOOTPAD'S BLUDGEON

(VAR: 1)

AN ANCIENT FROG SINGS

KRAAK-KRAAK SPRING'S EARLY THIS YEAR

FROGS ARE QUITE STUPID

(VAR:2)

KRAAK-KRAAK SPRING'S EARLY

A FROG HYMNS THE NEW WARMTH

POETS PEE IN PONDS

REEDS DEFY THE WIND

HONEST POLITICIANS

OSTRICHES IN FLIGHT

THE SWALLOWS NEVER

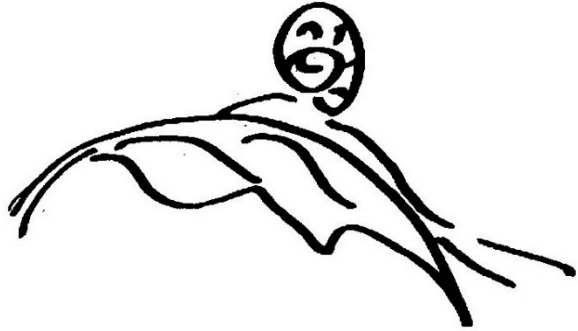
CAME BACK TO CAPISTRANO

THE PASTA WAS OFF

THE SALMON RUSHES

UPSTREAM SMILES ETERNITY

& THE CAN NING WORKS



THE SNAIL MOVES SLOWLY  
THE LEAF BOWS TO NEW WEIGHT  
SPLAT GRAVITY RULES

FUNDAMENTALISTS  
SO BUSY PROTECTING GOD  
THREATENED GOD NEEDS THIS



THE FIRST MIRACLE  
TRANSMUTING WATER TO WINE  
GOT IT RIGHT FIRST TIME

PERCEIVING TWO MOONS  
UNAWARE OF MIRACLES  
THE DRUNKARD WEAVES HOME

LEGEND DROWNS LI PO  
KISSING THE MOON ON A POND  
DRUNKEN REFLECTION

PARED THIGHS OF HER SOUL

SUCH VULNERABILITY

THE NAPE OF HER NECK

BETTER A TIGER

FOR A DAY THAN A RABBIT

FOR SEVENTY YEARS

CENTURIES-OLD CARP

ICONOCLASTIC AN GLER

FRIED ICON & CHIPS

WHEN ASKED TO LISTEN  
TO SOUNDS OF ONE HAND CLAPPING  
SOMEONE HERE'S A FOOL

A TRANQUIL POND AS OLD AS SIN.  
WHEN, SUDDENLY, A FROG JUMPS IN.  
PLOP!





GUS FERGUSON IS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A CAPE TOWN PUBLISHING HOUSE, DIRECTOR OF AN INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, AND READER FOR A NEW YORK AND CHICAGO FIRM OF BOOK DISTRIBUTORS SPECIALIZING IN BOOK CLUBS. HIS ARTWORKS APPEAR IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTIONS OF THE LOUVRE, THE TATE AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY, AND IN THE GUGGENHEIM'S PRIVATE COLLECTION. HE IS A FORMER POET LAUREATE OF THE HESPERIDES (ELECTED TWICE).

DOUGLAS LIVINGSTONE IS A MICROBIOLOGICAL CONSULTANT ON WATER POLLUTION, BASED IN DURBAN. INTERNATIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED AS A TRANSLATOR, HE WAS RECENTLY AWARDED THE GOLDEN RICE BOWL OF THE POETS' COOPERATIVE IN FUKUOKA FOR HIS RENDERINGS OF BASHO, BUSON AND KIKAKU, AND THE SILVER OAR OF THE XXVth CONVENTION ON MEDIAEVAL LATIN POETRY IN VENICE. ONE OF HIS SONNETS IS CONFINED TO THE BLACK ROOM OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

FERGUSON AND LIVINGSTONE WERE JOINTLY ACCORDED VENERABLE SCRIBE (FIRST CLASS) STATUS OF THE GRAND ORDER OF BUFFALOES' AT THE BREAD (LOAF) BASKET WRITERS' FEST IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN 1994.



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