

With appalling sight of swarming worms
Knowing not that the more they cherish;
The more it annoys them
The more they treasure;
The more it captivates them
The more they are attached;
The more it obsesses them

Without any ideas to give it away to the children
To donate to the public institution
To give up to the museums

Impossible to return it to the wind and breeze
To the shower and sleet, snow and slush
To the shivering cold of night
To the scorching heat of the day
To the animal bite and insect sting

Incapable to forget
Unimaginable to leave it behind
They wrap, wrap, wrap
They store, store, store,
They build, build, build
They construct, construct, construct
Tombs, houses, mansions, castles, palaces, cathedrals,
temples, shrines, pyramids, Borobudur, Angkor Wat

Stripping all forests
Cutting centuries old sacred trees
Demolishing monumental hills and knolls
Changing the flow of rivers
Draining lakes and ponds

At the labor of the powerless
To avoid cold and hot,
Arid or humid,
Coarse or greasy

Oh!
Sensitivity,
Commander-in-chief?

Look at the flowers
Scattering petals holds on emptiness

Look upon the birds
Flown away by the winds
To the empty space without returning to the forms

See the fishes
Broken to pieces into rapid mountain stream
After achieving spawning

Watch at the man lying down among the four sala-trees
Manifests *mahaparinibbana*

Observe the full moon
Shining all alone in the void to decrecent

Natsuo Shibuya



They wrap

They wrap, wrap, wrap
With a sheet of paper
With a sheet of cloth,
With a sheet of silk,
With a sheet of sheepskin,
With a sheet of brocade;
They wrap their bodies
Hoarded food and beverage
Their tools and weapons;
A jewel of memory,
A letter of devotion
Life sharing self-portrait
Life time secrets;
A icon of faith
Their scars and wrinkles,
A theory of discovery
A formula of invention,
The dream of life

Wishing it survive forever
Realizing that all fade away into oblivion
Remembering that all decay in dust
All decompose into organic chemicals
All rot with stinking smell