

# Re: "Kouya Ruten" – Song Translation – Full Version

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2006-12/msg00356.html>

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- *From:* "B. Ito" <jg2cme@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 9 Dec 2006 13:08:20 +0900
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"Phil Yff" <phil.yff@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:i4v277nlafeb\\$.16p4ofmnj5yl0\\$.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:i4v277nlafeb$.16p4ofmnj5yl0$.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

On Thu, 7 Dec 2006 14:05:47 +0900, B. Ito wrote:

"Phil Yff" <phil.yff@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:gi49dpmhcgp2\\$.1r42dja1ynxkw.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:gi49dpmhcgp2$.1r42dja1ynxkw.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

On Thu, 7 Dec 2006 03:07:03 +0900, B. Ito wrote:

the title as "Wasteland  
Vicissitudes". You can  
listen to a promotional  
video of the full length song  
at the below URL.

[http://www.jvcmusic.co.jp/fj\\_yuuka/](http://www.jvcmusic.co.jp/fj_yuuka/)

Kouya Ruten (RÎAâ)  
Wasteland Vicissitudes

qÍ<'0'  
âLŠ QfLO  
Åsh nBâLË~<

ê1'ÍO²Rf

Across this earth the  
moonlight has frozen,  
Stumbling, I proceed

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beating a path  
As the age of ruin and  
rebirth begins.

Hoisting the weighty banner  
of freedom,

Tsukikage kooru daichi wo  
Korogari humiwakete yuku  
Horobi to saisei no jidai ga  
hajimaru

Jiyuu wo omoku kakagete

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Aren't these all wonderful?  
I could read very smoothly all your  
translations comparing  
with the Japanese lines.

You must have spent very much time  
interpreting all these  
Japanese with tough phrases.

If I am forced to point out one line I'll pick  
up the 4th line.

Hoisting the weighty banner of freedom,

If the banner is hoisted, doesn't it stay there?  
Don't you have to proceed in the dark  
upholding the  
important banner of freedom?

The fourth line was one of the difficult lines to translate. The  
meaning  
in Japanese is fairly straightforward, but it is difficult to  
translate  
directly into English.

持上げる is most often used to describe flying or hoisting a flag (or  
banner).  
However, it does not have to refer to a flag or banner. One  
can easily  
say, 自由を持上げる. That is easy to translate into English. "Hold up  
freedom"  
implying holding up freedom as an ideal. The problem  
comes with the

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modifier –  $\dot{\text{O}}$ . Again, this is a simple word that can easily be translated into English as "heavily", or "seriously". However, one cannot combine "Hold up freedom" with the modifier "heavily" as one can in Japanese.

I thought  $\dot{\text{O}}$  was an important descriptor and I should not leave it out.

It reinforces the struggle the singer has stumbling beating the path. I chose to solve the problem by using the metaphor of hoisting the banner of freedom. This is consistent with one of the connotations of  $\text{}^2\text{R}\leftarrow$ . However, as you rightly point out, once I move from the literal translation of "holding up freedom" to the metaphorical substitution of "hoisting up the banner of freedom" I lose some if not all of the meaning of continuing to hold up freedom as a weighty ideal.

I am open to suggestions. I had considered "Bearing the weighty banner of freedom" as a possible alternative. However, that ignores much of the meaning and connotation of  $\text{}^2\text{R}\leftarrow$ . "Flying the weighty banner of freedom" or "Unfurling the weighty banner of freedom" are two other alternatives with advantages and disadvantages over the alternative I chose. I could say, "Holding up freedom as a weighty ideal," but that sounds clumsy and loses the poetic sound of the Japanese.

Phil Yff

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How about;

"With a mental big banner of freedom,"  
"With a backing of big banner of freedom,"  
"Backed up by a great banner of freedom,"

I think "Hoisting ....." may sound immobile (stationary) and that

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"Holding (up)....." sounds mobile like "Holding (up) something to do some other thing."

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B. Ito

Would "Holding up the weighty banner of freedom" work?

This would accurately translate ²R< as in ê1'²R< – holding up freedom [as an ideal]. It also translates ÍO accurately as weighty (accurately rather than literally because a literal translation would be heavily or seriously).

Phil Yff

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Sorry, the "Holding up the weighty banner of freedom" is very hard to sing, I think.

"Holding up high the banner of freedom." could be possibly sung instead, I think.

I just tried humming and the second paragraph seem to be possibly sung as follows:

"Holding up high the banner of free\_dom

Where there s no pa\_th, I choo\_se a\_ pa\_\_th  
And pass through a radiant sinking sun brighter than high noon"

The word "radiant" sounds a little redundant.

How about "shining" which may be a little time saving by one mora.

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B. Ito

Shining?  
I think.

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