

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

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- *From:* "B. Ito" <jg2cme@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sun, 10 Dec 2006 16:52:48 +0900
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"Phil Yff" <phil.yff@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:y5p5fav4apa.1qyt5tzecsbyk.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:y5p5fav4apa.1qyt5tzecsbyk.dlg@xxxxxxxxxxxx)

On Sat, 9 Dec 2006 13:08:20 +0900, B. Ito wrote:

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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.

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

The main issue for both these cases is the nuance. In the first case, 'holding up high' implies strength and vigor. Yet, the singer is stumbling and appears to labor while beating a path. I haven't thought of a good solution though.

The second issue is also complicated. The song says:

<^Š)WDâ;’ŠHf

Literally this is, "Passing through a more dazzling than mid-day setting sun."

Of course, that is not idiomatic English. The very compact Japanese construction is able to give the sense that both the mid-day and the setting sun are bright.

The English grammatical equivalent is a relative clause – a setting sun that is more radiant than mid-day. However, the setting sun now loses the direct modifier that is there in the Japanese thus considerably weakening the image.

Furthermore, the relative clause, itself, does not sound as emphatic as the Japanese. My solution was to use two modifiers, one for mid-day and one for the setting sun. I also felt that high noon was better in this context than mid-day and sinking sun better conveyed the sense of nichibotsu than setting sun.

And pass through a radiant sinking sun brighter than high noon.

Out of many alternatives, I chose to translate mabushii as radiant because it seemed to allow the metaphor to work best. It seemed to me that radiant was the word that allowed the listeners to visualize for themselves the nature of the brightness. Words like 'shining', 'dazzling', 'glaring', 'blinding', etc. – all valid translations of mabushii – carry with them connotations that affect the metaphor. Shining, for example, usually has positive qualities associated with it. However, the song is a song of struggle so I didn't want to change the context of the Japanese.

I do have a solution, though. It is to sing the word 'radiant' as if it had two syllables rather than three. In other words, to pronounce it quickly like 'ray-dyent'.

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"Radiant" is hard but can be sung.  
'Ray-dyent' will help very much.

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B. Ito

Phil Yff