

# Alec Soth's Archived Blog

December 29, 2006

## Friday Poem

Filed under: [poetry](#) — alecsothblog @ 12:10 am

After a productive [Snow Week](#), I decided to take a break from the blog. Along with all of the holiday cheer, we've been having 40-degree weather. My enthusiasm for writing seems to have vanished with the snow. I'd rather just leave the writing to the pros – at least until the New Year. So here is poem by a pro, Robert Hass, in celebration of the New Year.

### **After the Gentle Poet Kobayashi Issa**

by Robert Hass

New Year's morning—  
everything is in blossom!  
I feel about average.

A huge frog and I  
staring at each other,  
neither of us moves.

This moth saw brightness  
in a woman's chamber—  
burned to a crisp.

Asked how old he was  
the boy in the new kimono  
stretched out all five fingers.

Blossoms at night,  
like people  
moved by music

Napped half the day;  
no one  
punished me!

Fiftieth birthday:

From now on,  
It's all clear profit,  
every sky.

Don't worry, spiders,  
I keep house  
casually.

These sea slugs,  
they just don't seem  
Japanese.

Hell:

Bright autumn moon;  
pond snails crying  
in the saucepan.

## 2 Comments

1. I'm with you Alec Soth. Love, love and love.

*Comment by [Zoe Strauss](#) — December 31, 2006 @ [2:58 pm](#)*

2. i am your blog reader from china.Thanks to give us so much.  
happy new year!

*Comment by [click](#) — January 1, 2007 @ [7:29 pm](#)*