

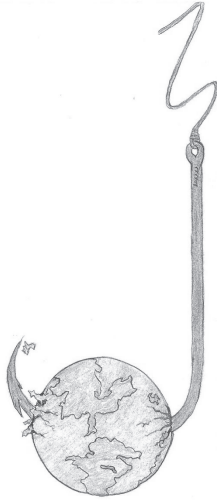
AIKU

Haiku

by

Ray Scott

Jaiku



Ray Scott



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*To Katherine L. Gordon & I. Bunny Iskov
for their on-going support and encouragement*

Sun warms the wings
after flying near the jail
crimson razor wire.

§

Sparrow sits and stares
atop the stainless steel fence
galvanized blood.

§

Migration shadows
as I stand staring
from jail.

Along the jail fence
starlings hang on razor wire
stare at us.

§

Just before dawn
past the old jail fence
starling migration.

§

Pulling the last shade
of night heading south
a million starlings.

Playing Scrabble with
their backs to the window
a red-tailed hawk.

§

First leaf of fall
as temperatures drop
letter from home.

§

Facing north
after the snowstorm
windless clouds.

Along the fence
the gravity of snow
reveals barbed wire.

§

Sleeping on the floor
three to a cell at Maplehurst
sounds the guards make.

§

I hope I never
have to hear these sounds
keys lock hopelessness.

In his need for words
he had never ever read
1984.

§

Three years in jail
everything changes, except
Mr. Noodles.

§

Just when you think
it's time to go for Yard
short staff lock down.

No shortness of breath
among the proletariat
his life story.

§

The old guys
all get stereotyped.
Goof-y eh!

§

I have been here
longer than I like
without butter tarts.

Waiting
for my coffee while
the server eats.

§

Still no wind
this long dreary winter
solitary bird.

§

At the table
they talk about me
beggars pimps thieves.

Tomorrow
my celly leaves
for a breach.

§

At the roof line
blue sky windows reveal
wishes only.

§

Another cold day
snow along the fence
escapes in the wind.

Licorice slides
over the tongue
broken tooth.

§

After the escape
I win the lottery.
O! A dream.

§

The last six months
should be the fastest.
It is still winter.

Traveling through
the long winter nights
at the speed of dark.

§

Criticisms
my mother brings up
February thaw.

§

Old friend
from London Middlesex
at the bus stop.

After the search
not even a sound
outside a hawk.

§

Prison Justice Day
the silence of history
quiet August

§

Some months to go
and I'm still dreaming
about vacation.

My new celly
shipped to OCI today.
Goose droppings.

§

Stabbed in the back
someone Googled my name
half-friends.

§

How short was
his life on drugs?
Oxy Moron.

Justin Bieber
and the prison boys
no reason no rhyme.

§

All new on the Range
they rush to the toilet.
Kinder egg surprise.

§

Just as meds come
a new fight off range
no surprise.

Short winter sun
but trees do not care
until spring comes.

§

Dark city nights
are free of drugs and crime
two years less a day.

§

Another day in jail
gotta keep positive
late winter thaw.

How many half-friends
did he have upon release?
One hand-butt.

§

Solitary
last question mark
at his parole.

§

After lockup
orange sun goes down
tired reflection.

Sudden March sun
as the world turns south
towards my release.

§

Sure sign of spring
through bare trees heading south
jets vapor trails.

§

Someone keeps
sending me orphans
I send them back.

Out the cell window
new year's snow has melted
lazy bird flies south.

§

In this cold
fresh dust seems heavy
on my blanket.

§

Wild turkeys walk
past the memory of snow
this spring's first bird.

New Year's Day
along the barbed wire
two white-tailed deer.

§

After three months
staring at the brick floor
Christmas card.

§

Christmas Day
the search for world peace
continues.

About the Author:

Ray Scott grew up in Woodstock, Ontario and started on his poetic journey in 1970. He has published three other collections of haiku poetry. This is his first Stanza Break Series chapbook.



The Ontario Poetry Society
has published the following chapbooks
for its members.

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