

Kukai on Koya

*[“Alas! Men, unaware of the treasures they
possess, regard their deluded state of
madness to be the state of enlightenment”
Introduction to the Precious Key]*

that last day

Kukai
did not eat or drink
i read

turning the pages:

Kukai's poems

Buddha took pity
on diseased minds

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. .
.

earthquake in Kobe.....TV

pictures

the desolation

.
. .
.

*gas attack
on the subway
police*

*look for some obscure
religious cult – i read
the newspapers rollout fresh
on the streets*

the sky rains down leaflets
the shrivelled modern man
cowers and shivers
night comes – it's cold, cold

.
. .
.

On *Koyasan* the last day
of the fifth month of *Jowa*
Kukai

calls his disciples
“I am returning to the mountains”
says he, bliss dancing in his eyes
(bliss dancing on his eyes?)

Subway shooting in Manhattan
Gunman gets away
the police
are still looking, however

(still looking?)

In the early part of the ninth month
the master chose his burial place

floods in Bangladesh take 100,000 lives
in Guatemala innocents are tortured and killed
(flooding and killing---the present continues in the future imperfect)

From the first month of the second year
the master drank no water
(a dry mouth... index of a dry soul?)

in the Mulvinas a once mighty lion kicks a rather nasty mouse
(here the sun also rises---- and sets)

Screams of a bloody beast slouching from a modern
Bethlehem to the post-Columbine Europe and America
(chief Seattle's sad ghost hovers in the clouds)

At midnight on the twenty-first day
of the third month, Master
Kukai
breathed his last
he was lying on his right side

his face showed no pain
(no pain at all?) only a dream was ending...
(what a dream!..... only a dream ?)

*Others like us have to live
With unending nightmares.
We call this history*

*haider a. khan
Dec. '99*

Kukai on Koya II

...before I die
one
thought and
a prayer

love made me whole

in a world
of
fragments...
Let
that be the *reality*

in a world

of *Maya*

into which

the

I

that

dissolves

will never

come again

haider a. khan

Dec. 99