toki lili

27 poems in Toki Pona

Starring:

anon, jan Epen, jan Esi, jan Jonatan, jan Kolo, jan Melon, jan Nuse, jan Ojon, jan Polijan, jan Simiman, jan Simon, jan Siwen, jan sonala, jan suno, lon Jawin and tomato emoji (🍅)

Preface and publishing by jan Sema
Preface

Toki Pona is a constructed language built by Sonja Lang in 2001\(^1\).

I see so many applications for this language! I believe that its power shouldn’t stop at art and could help people from all around the world understanding each other. It could be a tool to help people communicate with each other. Natives and foreigners, abled and disabled people, children and caretakers, friends, couples, … the list is, in my opinion, endless.

This book regroups 27 poems made during a Discord\(^2\) contest. The sole rule

\(^2\) Discord is a VoIP, instant messaging and digital distribution platform.
for this contest was to make a poem using the syllable structure 5/5/6. Best poems were elected by community vote.

The winner can be found page 12 of this book. The second prize can be found page 5. I’ll let you appreciate the variety of each submission, not limited at all by the simplicity of the language.

It is with great pleasure that I publish this book, as a parting gift. For personal reasons, I will no longer be an active member of the community.

However, I hope everyone will keep the love for this language and that one day, everyone will have heard once of the Language of Good.
mi wile e ni: sina olin e lipu ni.
toki ale li pona mute.

pona tawa sina.

mi tawa!
sina, sina la,
ken ala mi la.
pilin. ante. seme?

anon
sina o lukin
o lukin e mi
mi en sina li wan³

jan Epen

³ This poem won the second best poem prize among other poems from this book, by community vote.
mi pilin e ni:
mi ko li lon kon.
mi jo ala e kon

mi awen awen.
tawa li kama.
mi la sina weka

jan Esi
mun lon pimeja
li suno walo
li pona pilin jan

moli li lon mi
la pilin ike
li lon jan poka mi

kijetesanta-
kalu tonsi li
lanpan e soko mi

jan Jonatan
This poem is inspired by haiku classics and depict a frog in a pond.
nena tu li lon.
meso la mi lon.
mi ken sona e tu.

sewi pimeja,
jaki ilo li,
lili e suno mun.

seli lon lili
lete lon suli
nasin tenpo li ni

jan Melon
ma ni li lete
sewi nena la
mi lukin e suno

jan Nuse
pimeja li lon.
sina lukin la
mun mute li kama.

jan Ojon
seli li pini.
moli li kama.
o monsuta ala.  

    tenpo kama la,
sina olin sin.
mi tu li pakala.

nimi li suli!
poki li lili!
kijetesantaka...  

jan Polijan

5 This poem won the best poem prize among other poems from this book, by community vote.
6 This poem won the most funny poem prize among other poems from this book, by community vote.
This poem is based on the English flash fiction “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”
seme li lon kin?
seme li wawa?
ali li ken pona!

mi lukin e ma
mi wile weka
taso - mi ken ala

o sona e ni:
ale li pona
o lukin e ona!

jan Simon
awan lon ma la,
lukin waso la,
pona li kama lon.

suno en sina,
li seli pona,
e sinpin lawa mi.

suno open la,
sewi li kule;
telo wawa li lon.

*jan Siwen*
kiwen li awen
kon wawa li lon
len li ala kiwen

jan sonala
kalama suli
jan mute li lon
ale li kalama

jan suno
...tan ni: tenpo li
tawa li weka
la mi tawa sina

 Ion Jawin
あああああ
あああああ
ああ“yupekosi”

🍅
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