

Harry Gallagher

The Love Song Of The Hibaku-Jumoku

**They came with their blazing wind
to incinerate the ground,
to strip the skin
from every living thing
in a lit victory parade.**

**But we hibaku-jumoku children
bleed stardust at our roots,
our elders having stood
bare and scorched
through man's blistering rage.**

**Our leaves are balm
to becalm a mad world.**

**Where there is war
we bring dreams of peace,
where there is hate
we bring love.**

The trees in question grew in and survived Hiroshima - and still grow there. Their cuttings are sent all over the world by two local women, to wherever there is war, as a sign of hope and peace.

Harry x