

Hiroyuki Takahashi

Hiroshi

Little Hiroshi was having a good time making houses out of mud. He was having a wonderful time playing in his father's newly planted garden. Little Kazuo who lived near by came over.

"Can I play with you?" Kazuo asked.

"Yes, you can play with me," Hiroshi replied.

They played together, both lost in the interesting pastime of building ~~the~~ mud houses. They built many houses, destroyed them, and ~~started making~~ ^{made} new ones. They were having a wonderful time.

Hiroshi stopped and said,

no H

~~"I think" parents are funny people."~~ ^{funny}

"Yes," Agreed Kazuo and resumed playing.

"Parents have funny ideas," Continued Hiroshi?

"UH-huh."

"My mama said I can't play with you."

"Why?" asked Kazuo and resumed playing.

"She said your parents were not as good as mine and that is why I can't play with you," Hiroshi said.

"My papa and mama are just as good as yours!" said Kazuo. He stopped making mud houses.

"They are ~~not~~ not! My mama said so!" said Hiroshi.

"They are so!"

"They are not! My mama said your papa and mama are Eta,* and you are Eta too, and that is why you are ~~(not)~~ no? good!"

* Eta - a pariah

"My mama and papa are just as good as yours! I'm going to tell my mama!" Kazuo said. He grabbed a mud house, ~~and~~ threw it at Hiroshi and ran home.

Little Hiroshi no longer found making mud houses very much fun. He washed the mud from his ear and started to go in the house when he saw Bobby Mills walking by.

"Hello, Bobby."

"Hello, Hiroshi."

"Where are you going?" asked Hiroshi.

"I'm going to Johnny's ^{house} to play."

"Why don't you play with me?"

"Oh, all right," said Bobby. Then he ~~change~~ changed his mind.

"No, I better not."

"Why not?"

"Because....oh, because...."

Silence. Then

"Because my mama said not to play with you because you are a Jap and because your papa and mama are not as good as mine and she said ~~she~~'d spank me if I played with you."

"Oh." Hiroshi said ~~this~~ in a very small voice.

"Parents are funny ~~people~~, aren't they? They have funny ideas," said Bobby.

"Yes," said Hiroshi.

"Goodby, Hiroshi."

"Goodby, Bobby."