

SCIFAIKU: A DEFINITION

Scifaiku is a form of science fiction poetry first announced by Tom Brinck with his 1995 Scifaiku Manifesto. It is inspired by Japanese haiku, but explores science, science fiction, and other speculative themes, such as fantasy and horror. They are based on the principles and form of haiku but can deviate from its structure.

The Scifaiku Manifesto stresses the following points:

- Immediacy
- Minimalism
- Human Insight

While some practitioners adhere to a strict 5-7-5 syllable count, others eschew such guidelines much like their contemporaries writing modern Western haiku. In addition, the Scifaiku Manifesto explicitly states that “it is acceptable to spill over the limit of 17 syllables, particularly when the subject matter clearly involves a complex technical term.”

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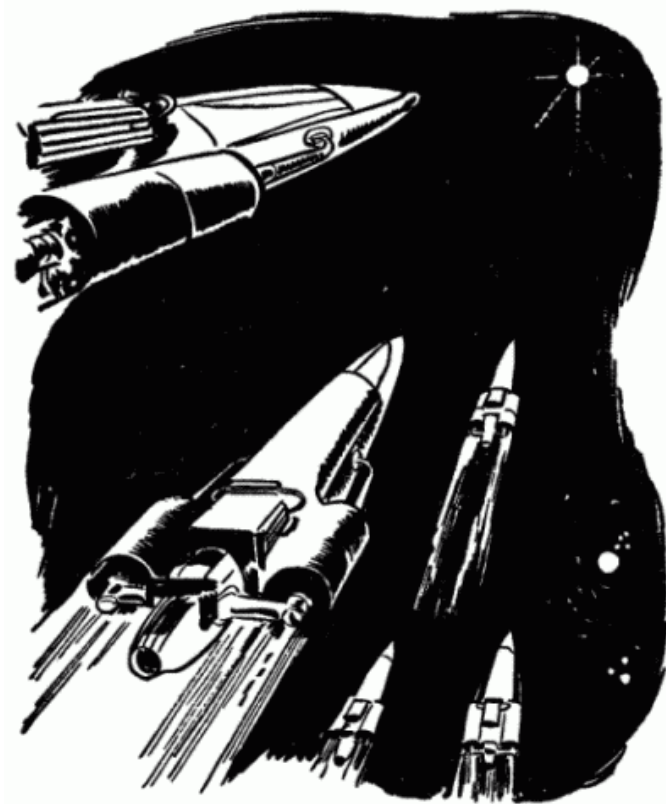
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The Shantytown Anomaly
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THE UNIVERSE IN THREE LINES



A SAMPLER OF SCIFAIKU

written in frost
inside the visor:
death poem
—oino sakai

Buries its leaves
and waves its roots. . .
strange little weed
—Mary Margaret Serpento

welcome home
to this crater
once bright Ithaca
—Dan Smith

red planet dust
covers beta colony
the only green her eyes
—Deborah P Kolodji

we burst forth
now to choose a system
for our young
—assu



Stockholm Syndrome—
my skin turning
a pale green
—J. E. Stanley

alien atmosphere
we swear our love
beneath two moons
—C. William Hinderliter

Distant gray orb
Scientists discuss
The Moth Effect
—Stephen M. Wilson

rings eroding
on Saturn's surface
a methane rainbow
—Karen L. Newman

green moonlight
the engineer weeps
over a letter from home
—Joshua Gage

Valtec

tiring flight—
our trip to Valtec 12
for the Little House on the Prairie con

turning a page
of *The Daily Planet*
the Valtec wind

planet Valtec—
every snowflake
the same

dressed in costume
for the Earth con—
Valtec natives

—Michael Dylan Welch



rippling surface
of this floating world --
brain waves

—Wade German

a tree against the sky
sports a halo bright and clear
from the heavens' light
—Marge Simon