

Self-Evident Poems

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What can be said at all can be said clearly....

– LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

Poetry says what it says by saying it.

– JACQUES ROUBAUD

Poem Written to Be Translated

It is my express wish
that this poem be translated.

To encourage translators
I have kept it brief and to the point,
avoiding difficult and unusual words,
convoluted syntax,
and complicated formal schemes
that may be difficult to translate
or off-putting for potential readers.

I have likewise refused to address topics
that might be unknown or irrelevant
in countries and cultures
other than my own.

To encourage foreign editors and publishers,
I hereby declare
that you may use this poem free of charge
in any of your publications,
and give you my permission
to reprint it
as frequently as you like.

Poem Defying Translation

I, Guy Bennett,
author of this poem,
do hereby defy anyone
to translate it.

Poem in a Foreign Language

At this very moment,
somewhere in the world
a poet stubbornly persists writing
a poem in a foreign language.