

# RAISED HANDS:

Some thoughts about classroom pedagogy and conformity

**How many raised hands  
are never answered?  
How many questions  
are ignored or ridiculed?  
Why is curiosity  
so often disparaged?  
Why are so few educators  
willing to see things through?  
Tiredness and mediocrity?  
Or perhaps a deeper fear  
our knowledge  
is incomplete?  
The next time questions  
resisting simple answers appear  
what will you say or think?**

*Liao:* At first I was tempted to say something sarcastic, but it seems wiser to stay silent because the poem makes a valid point.

*Satoru:* (with a subdued smile) Yeah, it raises an uncomfortable truth. . .

*Melissa:* Anyway, often our questions seem irrelevant. Life goes on in a mostly pre-programmed manner regardless of our inquiries.

*Tim:* When to question? When to be silent? That is an issue we all need to reflect on.

**- T Newfields**

beg.: 2002 Nagoya \* Fin.: 2024 Yokohama

