

Yo no naka wa
Jigoku no ue no
Hanami kana

In this world
We walk on the roof of hell
Gazing at flowers

Kobayashi Issa
(1763 - 1828)

“The human body is at root is a machine. It’s a really, really complicated machine. There’s no dispute about this... but as we all know the human body is a machine. (Swigs beer) Machines accumulate wear and tear. Machines have what you might think of as a warranty period. They’re built to last a certain amount of time and they probably won’t last much longer than that, other things being equal. (Shows slide of VW jeep) Here is a machine that has lasted unusually long, for a car. This is more than fifty years old. And the reason it has lasted that way is because it was built unusually well. (...) That’s one way for a car to last longer than the ten or fifteen years your average car is likely to last. (...)

There is another way to achieve that level of longevity for a car. (...) There are just as many fifty year old VW bugs driving around the streets of the U.S.A as there are fifty year old land rabbits. (Shows slide of VW bug) And the reason is because they’ve got style. Their owners are sufficiently in love with them that they’ve done enough maintenance on them; comprehensive enough maintenance to keep them going.”