

## ZEN HAIKU FOR COMPUTER USERS

A contest to replace the impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft error messages with *Haiku* poetry messages led to the following beauties. (Some tiny editing done.)

A file that **big?**  
It might be very useful.  
But now it is gone.  
*David J. Liszewski*

Everything is gone;  
Your life's work has been destroyed.  
Squeeze trigger (yes/no)?  
*David Carlson*

The web-site you seek  
Cannot be located,  
but  
Countless more exist.  
*Joy Rothke*

*Errors have occurred.*  
*Look within for where and why.*  
*Lazy programmers.*  
Charlie Gibbs

Serious error.  
All shortcuts have disappeared.  
Screen, mind, both are blank. . . .  
*Ian Hughes*

You step in the stream,  
But the water has moved on.  
This page is not here.  
*Chass Whittington*

Program aborting:  
Close all you have worked on.  
You ask far too much.

Windows NT crashed.  
I am the Blue Screen of Death.  
No one hears your screams.

*Peter Rothman*

With searching comes  
loss  
And the presence of  
absence:  
“My Novel” not found.  
*Howard Korder*

*No keyboard present  
Hit F1 to continue  
Zen engineering?  
Jim Griffith*

Yesterday it worked.  
Today it is not working.  
Windows is like that.  
*Margaret Segall*

The Tao that is seen  
Is not the true Tao until  
You bring fresh toner.

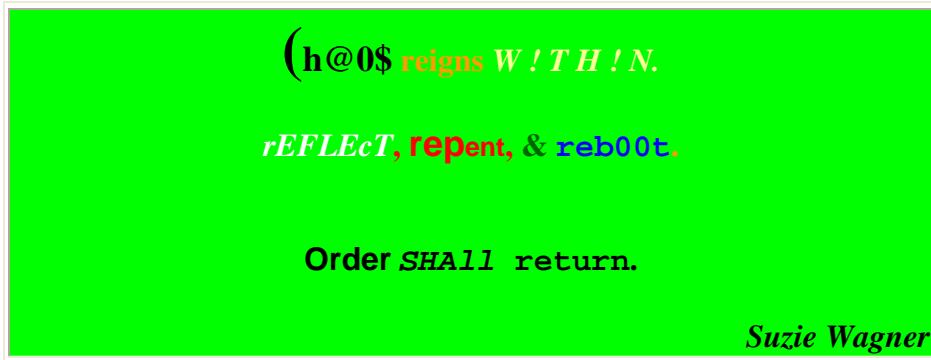
Three things are certain:  
Death, taxes and lost  
data.  
Guess which has  
occurred.  
*David Dixon*

Out of memory.  
We wish to hold the whole  
sky,  
But we never will.  
*Francis Heaney*

Having been erased,  
The document you're  
seeking  
Must now be retyped.  
*Judy Birmingham*

A crash reduces  
Your expensive computer  
To a simple stone.  
*James Lopez*

Stay the patient course.  
Of little worth is your ire.  
The network is down.  
*David Ansel*



First snow, then silence.  
This thousand-dollar screen dies  
So beautifully.  
*Simon Firth*

*Last rebirth of this page: November 23, 2006*

--oOo--

*More from Salon.com:*

I'm sorry, there's -- um --  
insufficient -- what's-it-called?  
The term eludes me. . .

-- Owen Mathews

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Seeing my great fault  
Through darkening blue windows  
I begin again

-- Chris Walsh

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The code was willing,  
It considered your request,  
But the chips were weak.

-- Barry L. Brumitt

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Printer not ready.  
Could be a fatal error.  
Have a pen handy?

-- Pat Davis

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Errors have occurred.  
We won't tell you where or why.  
Lazy programmers.

-- Charlie Gibbs

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Server's poor response  
Not quick enough for browser.  
Timed out, plum blossom.

-- Rik Jespersen

== End ==