

Season's Greetings and A Happy New Year

December 2011

Dear Friends,

Herewith I should like to express my thanks again to my overseas friends who kindly asked me in March about my family as well as the situation of the country when Japan was hit by the extraordinary earthquake and tsunami. Although my friends who lived in the suffered area fortunately survived, I was in low spirit since then praying for the souls of numerous victims. While most people took the disaster for granted that it was the consequence of a geological phenomenon, I could not but feel that what happened, viz., the destruction of the nuclear power station, was a divine retribution to the conceit of people who had lost humility to the Creator.

For this Christmas, allow me to present a story, *Jagatara, the destination of Haru*, printed overleaf, i.e., a synopsis of the first chapter of my essay on Java, the full manuscript of which is not yet ready to be distributed.

Wishing the year 2012 will be a peaceful one for all of us,

Yours sincerely,

Toshi



De Kruiskerk (Cross Church), built in 1640. The remodelled Nieuwe Hollandse Kerk, inaugurated in 1736 was destroyed by earthquake in 1808. The building is now of use as Wayang Museum.
<http://www.onderwijsbeeldbank.geheugenvannederland.nl/>



Pieter Cnoll and his Family, Jacob Coeman 1665
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam <http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/>