

Gene Goldfarb

Why Godzilla Never Attacked Osaka

A key question to the mysteries
of Japanese monster movie culture.

Notice how often Tokyo's denizens
are reluctant to spend much time
in its surrounding hills or bay. They go
off to somewhere else such as Osaka,
a clear second rate town. Think about it
Godzilla would never bother with Osaka,
unlike Rodan or Mothra, that pair
of no-mercy types. Meanwhile, Osaka's
buildings, power lines, even its trucks
are like toys, Lego blocks being sturdier
and more fun to topple or burn with a dragon's
fiery breath. It's also rumored that Rodan and
Mothra have laid claim to certain neighborhoods
within Osaka, and Godzilla would rather spend
his time in Tokyo, so when he gives a roar
and crushes a train or a bridge effortlessly,
multitudes pour into the streets screaming
mindlessly, rushing ahead as if their favorite
seafood market's inexplicably run out of blowfish,
all the while alternating their shouts with *arigato*
to Godzilla for his ignoring most of them.

Gene Goldfarb is a free-lance poet and writer on Long Island in New York. His poetry has appeared in *Black Fox*, *Quiddity*, *Green Briar*, and elsewhere. His short fiction has appeared in *Bull & Cross*, *Adelaide*, *Twenty-Two Twenty-Eight* and elsewhere.