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Reactivated Trauma: Visual Performance of Nakazawa Keiji's *Barefoot Gen*

Nakazawa Keiji's autobiographical manga *Barefoot Gen* is known for its traumatic depictions of the devastations caused by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. This paper investigates the ways in which this manga utilized visual representations to activate trauma among readers in postwar Japan. In so doing, it examines the depictions of the disasters to show how the manga's imagery functions in a performative way. In this graphic novel, visual images are often conceived not so much as representations of reality but rather as moments that trigger various actions and events. By examining the performativity of the visual images, this paper argues that *Barefoot Gen* urged the younger generation to share the event of the atomic bomb they would otherwise not experience as an alternative to the officially produced memories of the event in postwar Japan.