

Waka (和歌) "Japanese poem"

5-7-5-7-7

Exchanged and sometimes answered

"Though I would hide it,
In my face it still appears -
My fond, secret love.
And now people question me:
"Is something bothering you?"

-Taira no Kanemori

(? –991, 平 兼盛) was a middle Heian period waka poet

Featured in the card game "*Hyakunin Isshu*"



Poetry is important in the Tale of Genji

"He was not displeased that she should feel deeply enough, in the saddest of seasons, to contrive a secret note. So he had the messenger wait, and opened the cabinet, where he kept his Chinese paper. He chose a particularly fine sheet, and prepared his brush with great care. The gentlemen present nudged each other and wondered who the lady could be, for his every gesture was a lover's."



From *The Tale of Genji*

*nagaki yo wo
tanomete mo naho
kanashiki ha
tada asu shiranu
inochi narikeri*

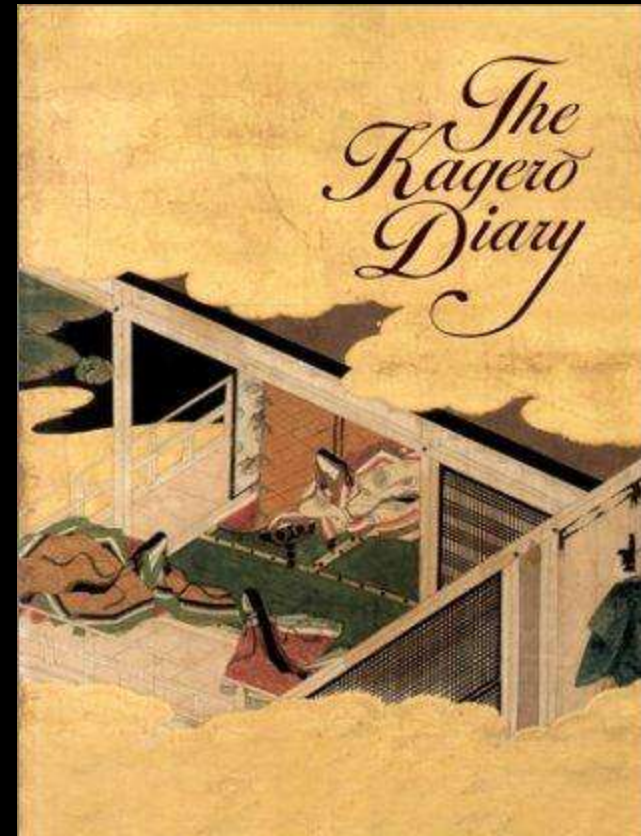
*Though we rely on
love enduring forever,
the true sadness is
that we don't even know what
life tomorrow will be like*



*idzuretomo
wakanu kokoro ha
sohetaredo
kotabi ha saki ni
minu hito no gari*

*Despite who wrote it,
it is your unknown heart that
accompanies it.
But this time I address the
one who has remained unseen*

The Kagerō Diary – Heian period



first love poem of the *Kokinshū*,

hototogisu
naku ya satsuki no
ayamegusa
ayame mo shiranu
kohi mo suru kana

As cuckoo birds sing
in the purple irises
during the fifth month,
it seems I've fallen in love
with no pattern to follow

The repeated sound “ayame” also means Iris. It is *kakekotoba*.



The essence of haiku is "cutting" (*kiru*). This is often represented by the juxtaposition of two images or ideas and a *kireji* ("cutting word") between them, a kind of verbal punctuation mark which signals the moment of separation and colors the manner in which the juxtaposed elements are related.

"Zen moment"

Season word

5-7-5 pattern (Is it asking for 7-7? Is it bio-rhythm?)

*Kara eda ni
Karasu mo tomari keru
Aki no kure*

*On a withered branch
A crow has stopped
Autumn's eve*

- Bashō

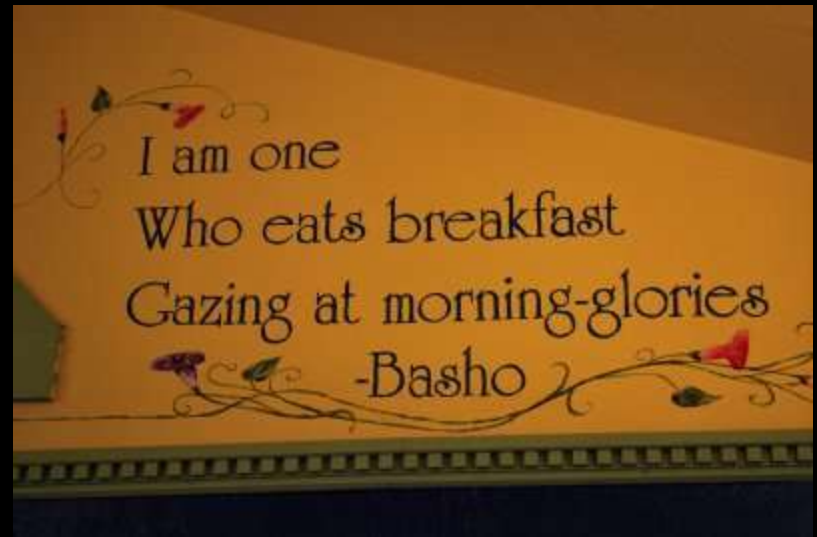




Matsuo Bashō (松尾芭蕉, 1644 –1694)

朝顔に
我は飯食ふ
男かな

*asagao ni
ware wa meshi kû
otoko kana*



行く春や
鳥啼き魚の
目は泪

*yuku haru ya
tori naki uo no
me wa namida*

**Spring passes
birds cry and fish's
eyes tear**



静けさや
岩に滲み入る
蝉の声

*shizukesaya
iwa ni shimiiru
semi no koe*

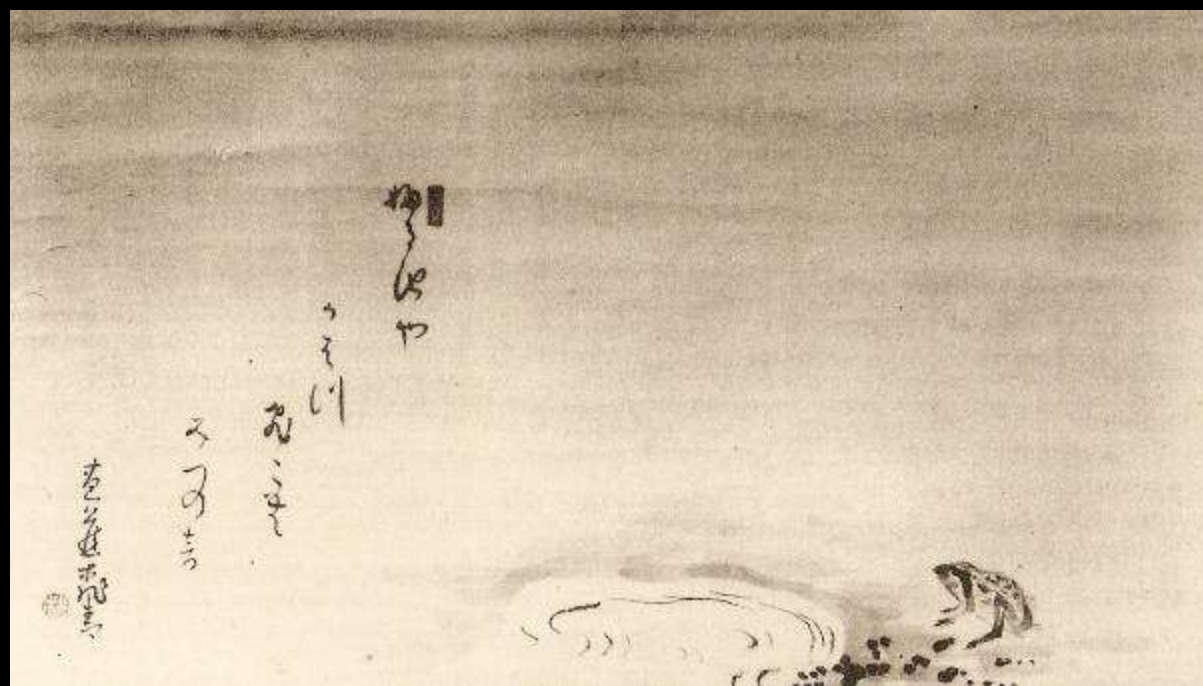
*utter silence
penetrating the rocks
the Cicada's voice*

*Aldous Huxley said, in this poem
“the divine ground breaks through eternity into time.”*



古池や
蛙飛び込む
水の音

*furu ike ya
kawazu tobikomu
mizu no oto*



旅に病で
夢は枯野を
かけ廻る

*tabi ni yande
yume wa karenno wo
kake-meguru*

**Sick on a journey,
my dreams wander
the withered fields.**

Matsuo Bashō statements:

古人の跡を求めず、
古人の求めたるの所を求めよ。

*kojin no ato wo motomezu,
kojin no motometaru no tokoro wo motome yo*

**Seek not the paths of the ancients;
Seek that which the ancients sought.**

さびは句の色なり。閑寂なる句をいふにあらず。たとへば、老人の甲冑をたいし戦場に働き、錦繡をかざり御宴に侍りても、老の姿有るがごとし。

sabi wa ku no iro nari. kanjaku naru ku wo iu ni arazu. tatoeba, roujin no katchuu wo taishi senjou ni hataraki, kinshuu wo kazari goen ni haberitemo, oi no sugata aru ga gotoshi.

Sabi is the color of the poem. It does not necessarily refer to the poem that describes a lonely scene. If a man goes to war wearing stout armor or to a party dressed up in gay clothes, and if this man happens to be an old man, there is something lonely about him. Sabi is something like that.

見るところ花にあらずと云ふことなし、
思ふところ月にあらずと云ふことなし。

*Miru tokoro hana ni arazu to iu koto nashi,
omou tokoro tsuki ni arazu to iu koto nashi*

**There is nothing you can see that is not a flower;
There is nothing you can think that is not the moon.**

“Where there are humans,
You'll find flies,
And Buddhas.”

— Kobayashi Issa

“Don't weep, insects --
Lovers, stars themselves,
Must part.”

— Issa

“Never forget:
we walk on hell,
gazing at flowers.”

— Issa

“In the cherry blossom's shade there's no such
thing as a stranger.”

— Issa

“Don't kill!...
The fly is asking you
To save his life
By rubbing his hands together”

— Issa

雀らよ
小便無用
古衾

suzume-ra yo
shōben muyō
furu fusuma

“hey sparrows
peeing useless
old quilt”

— Issa