

GRASS TREE STUPA (SOMOKUTOH)

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1.

Pine trees

With branches all drooping--

Namu-kanzeon sutra.

(Matsu wa mina/ eda tarete/ namu-kanzeon)

2.

Ringing the temple-bell

To the sound of pine trees;

Mornings and evenings.

(Matsukaze ni/ ake kure no/ kane tsuite)

3.

Sweeping the yard for a change,

Flowers in the hedge are in bloom.

(Hisashiburini haku/ kakine no hana ga saita)

4.

Getting further and further

Into the mountains,

But still deep blue mountains.

(Wakeittemo/ wakeittemo/ aoi yama)

5.

Soaked and Soggy to the core,

It's a milestone.

(Shitodo ni nurete/ korewa michishirube no ishi)

6.

Under the canopy of scorching heaven

I walk and beg.

(Enten wo itadaite/ koi aruku)

7.

Lone crow is cawing;

I'm alone too.

(Karasu naite/ watashi mo hitori)

8.

**In the midst of life and death
Snow's falling thick and fast.**

(Shoji no naka no/ yuki furishikiru)

9.

**Leaves are falling;
I walk and walk.**

(Konoha chiru/ aruki tsumeru)

10.

**All alone,
Letting mosquitoes bite my flesh.**

(Hitoride/ ka ni kuwareteiru)

11.

**Stretching my legs
To the light of a westering sun.**

(Nagedashite/ mada hi no aru ashi)

12.

**Walking with a dragonfly
Resting on my sedge-hat.**

(Kasa ni tombo wo/ tomarasete/ aruku)

13.

**It's a straight road
That makes me feel lonely.**

(It's a lonely road that has no turning.)

(Massuguna michi de/ samishii)

14.

**In silence
I put on straw sandals for today.**

(Damatte/ kyo no waraji haku)

15.

**Late autumn rain's falling;
I have yet to die.**

(Shigururu ya/ shinanai de iru)

16.

**My shadow on the water,
Traveler I am.**

(Mizu ni kage aru/ tabibito de aru)

17.

**Late autumn rain's falling
Into the mountain,
Towards which I go on walking.**

(Shigururu ya/ shigururu yama e/ ayumi iru)

18.

**Buds of trees,
Buds of grasses,
I keep on walking.**

(Kinome/ kusanome/ aruki tsuzukeru)

19.

**I've survived--
Scratching my body.**

(Iki nokotta karada/ kaite iru)

20.

**Mountains I've left for good
Are going out of sight.**

(Mata miru koto mo nai yama ga/ toozakaru)

21.

**Crickets are chirping,
Chirping to me all the time.**

(Koorogi ni/ nakarete bakari)

22.

**Shrike is chirping;
No place to throw away myself.**

(Mozu maite/ mi no sutedokoro nashi)

23.

**Slipped, tumbled,
Mountain is quiet and alone.**

(Subette koronde/ yama ga hissori)

24.

**My tired legs--
Dragonfly landed on one.**

(Tsukareta ashi e/ tombo tomatta)

25.

**Monk-robe
Threadbare so--
Grass seeds.**

(Houe/ konnani yaburete/ kusa no mi)

26.

**Behind the rocks,
Sure enough, a fountain;
Eureka!**

(Yuwa kage/ masashiku/ mizu ga waite iru)

27.

**Those clouds threw a rain shower;
I'm wet through.**

(Ano kumo ga/ otoshita ane ni/ nurete iru)

28.

**Autumn is come;
Sitting on the weeds.**

(Aki to natta/ zasso ni suwaru)

29.

**Water so tasty,
Flowing all over.**

(Konnani umai mizu ga/ afurete iru)

30.

**Have come down to the village
With the sound of water.**

(Mizuoto to isshoni/ sato e orite kita)

31.

**No clouds whatsoe'er,
I took off my sedge-hat.**

(Mattaku kumo ga nai/ kasa wo nugi)

32.

**Drunk,
Found myself sleeping with crickets.**

(Youte/ koorogi to/ nete itayo)

33.

**Sound of raindrops,
You're getting old, too.**

(Amadare no oto mo/ toshi totta)

34.

**No more doors to beg,
Clouds o'er the mountains.**

(Mono gou ie mo nakunari/ yama niwa kumo)

35.

--Reminiscence--

**My sedge-hat
Getting leaky at last.**

(Kasa mo/ moridashita ka)

36.

--Self-ridicule--

**I'm leaving
With my backside wet
In late autumn rain.**

Note: Another self of Santoka's is watching himself from behind with self-scorn. He is dual-eyed, before and hind, like a frog or a dragonfly.

(Ushiro sugata no/ shigurete yuku ka)

37.

**Into begging bowl of iron
Down came the hailstones.**

(Teppachu no naka e mo arare)

38.

**My native town
Far, far away--
Burgeoning trees.**

(Furusato wa/ tooku shite/ ki no me)

39.

**Getting out of a nice bath
Into lovely moonlight.**

(Yoi yu kara/ yoi tsuki e deta)

40.

**Among budding trees
Birds are now singing.**

(Haya mebuku ki de/ naite iru)

41.

**Something fell on my sedge-hat--
Camellia.**

(Kasa e pottori/ tsubaki datta)

42.

**Eating fully enough with thanks,
I put down chopsticks;
All alone.**

(Itadaite/ tarite hitori no/ hashi wo oku)

43.

**In autumn wind
I pick up a pebble.**

(Akikaze no/ ishi wo hirou)

44.

**Alongside today's road
Dandelions in bloom.**

(Kyo nomichi no/ tampopo saita)

45.

**It's raining in my hometown;
I'm walking barefoot.**

(Ame furu furusato wa/ hadashi de aruku)

46.

**Having moved in and settled down,
I'm surrounded by flowers of the opposite shore/
flowers of the autumnal equinox.***

*opposite shore (Higan)--Buddhistic term.

autumnal equinox (Higan/Shuubun-no-hi)--day on the calendar.

(Utsuri kite/ o-higanbana no/ hana zakari)

47.

**Glory of the morning sky
Heralds the coming of rain;
Must sow the seeds of radish.**

(Asayake/ ame furu/ daikon makou)

48.

**Out of the evening sky
I pick and pluck a yuzu-citrus.***

*Yuzu--yellow, sour and fragrant citrus resembling a lemon, not oval but round and softer. It is symbolic of Japan's winter.

Yuzu-trees, together with persimmon-trees, are seen in the yards of rural houses--typical scenery of Japan's countryside just as the apple tree is to the West. On the day of winter solstice, it is the custom with the Japanese to enjoy yuzu-bath (Yuzu-yu) either in the household or in public bathhouses (Sentoh). Urban dwellers can get yuzu at stores. Yuzu is also used as healthy natural vinegar. A good subject (season-word) for Haiku. Lots of Haikuists like to compose yuzu-ku around this season. (T. Nonin)

(Yuuzora kara/ yuzu no hitotsu wo morau)

49.

**Tea-blossoms keep falling--
Let them fall as they do.**

(Cha-no-hana no/ chiru bakari/ chirashite oku)

50.

**Winter is come;
Sticks of wood,
Sticks of bamboo.**

(Fuyu ga kiteiru/ kigire/ takegire)

51.

**The moon has risen;
I'm awaiting nobody and nothing.**

(Tsuki ga nobotte/ nani wo matsu deno naku)

52.

**There's something to eat,
This and that--
Windy all day.**

(Are kore/ taberumo wa atte/ kaze no ichinichi)

53.

**Sound of water--
I'm truly settled down and relaxed.**

(Mizuoto/ shinjitsu/ ochitsuki mashita)

54.

**Falling leaves--
Far beyond,
I see Buddha.**

(Ochiba furu oku fukaku/ mi-hotoke wo miru)

55.

**Snow is falling
All around Gochu hermitage;
I build a fire as a lonely self.**

(Gochu yuki furu/ hitori to shite/ hi wo taku)

56.

**Warm day,
I have something more to eat.**

(Nukui hi no/ mada taberumono wa aru)

57.

**Snow's falling on snow,
I'm in quietude.**

(Yuki e yuki furu/ shizukesa ni oru)

58.

**Moonlit night,
He came with a handout gift;
I found 'twas rice.**

(tsukiyo/ temiyage wa/ kome datta-ka)

59.

**Camellias are in bloom;
There are tombstones.**

(Tsubaki hiraite/ haka ga aru)

60.

**A tiny vase,
A twig of camellia in it.**

(Ichirin-zashi no/ tsubaki ichirin)

61.

**What's that sound--
Must be a bird
Eating berries since morning.**

(Oto wa/ asa kara kinomi wo tabe ni kita tori ka)

62.

**Uprooted many a time,
Diehard is the weed;
I pull out its tenacity.**

(Nuitemo/ nuitemo/ kusa no shuuchaku wo nuku)

63.

**Today I picked butterburrs,
Ate butterburrs.**

(Kyo wa/ fuki wo tsumi/ fuki wo tabe)

64.

**Sparrows dance,
Dandelions fall.**

(Suzume odoru ya/ tanpopo chiru ya)

65.

**Morn is about to dawn,
Windows just opened--
Fresh young leaves.**

(Mou ake souna/ mado akete/ aoba)

66.

**Long hair...
Gray.**

(Nagai ke ga/ shiraga)

67.

**I'm true and obedient to my mind;
Rice has just been cooked well.**

(kokoro sunaoni/ gohan ga fuita)

68.

**It's good after all
To be all by myself--
Weeds.**

(Yappari/ hitori ga yoroshii/ zasso)

69.

**Whole day long
No one has come today--
Fireflies.**

(Kyo mo ichinichi/ dare mo konakatta/ houtaru)

70.

**Stark naked I am,
Dragonfly trying to land on me.**

(Suppadaka e/ tombo tomarou to suru ka)

71.

**Making a rustling sound,
Mute insect has come.**

(Kasari kosori/ oto sasete/ nakanu mushi ga kita)

72.

**Wind through the pines;
Cool--
People eat, horses eat.**

(matsukaze suzushiku/ hito mo tabe/ uma mo tabe)

73.

**All day long, today
I have walked in the wind.**

(Kyo mo ichinichi/ Kaze wo aruite kita)

74.

**What's this? What's that?
Everything is blooming.**

(Nani ga nani yara/ minna saite iru)

75.

**When I walk, I see buttercups;
When I sit, I see buttercups.**

(Arukeba kinpohge/ suwareba kinpohge)

76.

**Thistles--
Bright in the morning
After the rain.**

(Azami azayakana/ asa no ame agari)

77.

**Hanging down my head,
I see nothing but pebbles.**

(Utsumuite/ ishikoro bakari)

78.

**Drippings from young leaves,
Drippings from my bamboo-hat.**

(Wakaba no shizuku de/ kasa no shizuku de)

79.

**Come on, fireflies, come on;
I've come to my native town.**

(Houtaru koi koi/ furusato ni kita)

80.

**Bamboo sprouts of the temple
Have grown into bamboos.**

(Otera no takenoko/ take ni natta)

81.

**Wind through the pines,
Shadows of the pines;
I'm lying down in the shade.**

(Matsukaze matsukage/ nekoronde)

82.

**Day is breaking;
I whet a sickle.**

(Akete kuru/ kama wo togu)

83.

**I'm listening alone--
Woodpecker.**

(Hitori kiite ite/ kitsutsuki)

84.

(The spa--)

**Gushing out and overflowing:
I immerse my body in it.**

(Waite afureru nakani/ neteiru)

85.

**I'm waiting;
Cherries are ripe.**

(Matte iru/ sakuranbo urete iru)

86.

**Nestling down in the mountain (spa),
I doff my clothes.**

(Yama futokoro no/ hadaka to nari)

87.

**A whole day in the mountains;
Ants are walking, too.**

(Yama no ichinichi/ ari mo aruite iru)

88.

**Clouds are sailing fast
To make the moon look better.**

(Kumo ga isoide/ yoi tsuki ni suru)

89.

**I'm always alone,
Red dragonfly.**

(Itsumo hitori de/ akatombo)

90.

**I'm on travel;
Until my monk's robe dries up,
Wind comes from the weeds.**

(Tabi no houe ga/ kawaku made/ zasso no kaze)

91.

**It wiggles;
A bagworm.**

(Ugoite/ minomushi datta yo)

92.

**Across the water
Lights of the brothels
Began to twinkle.**

(Mizu wo hedatete/ onagoya no hi ga/matataki dashita)

93.

**The mountains
Hazed and overlapped--
My home town.**

(Kasunde Kasanatte/ yama ga furusato)

94.

**In the spring breeze
One begging-bowl is there.**

(Harukaze no/ hachinoko hitotsu)

95.

--Returning to my hermitage--

**I'm home after a long absence;
Bamboo sprouts are shooting forth
Everywhere.**

(Hisabisa modoreba/takenoko nyoki nyoki)

96.

**Soaked with rain and sweat,
Plough-horse gets many a scolding.**

(Bisshori nurete/ shiro kaku uma wa/ shikararete bakari)

97.

**Rain and shine--
The fields have turned
Into green paddies.**

(Haretari futtari/ aota ni natta)

98.

**A thicket--
That's the place
Corpses are cremated.**

(kusa shigeru/ soko wa shinin wo/ yaku tokoro)

99.

**Wet with morning dew,
I take a wayward course.**

(Asatsuyu shittori/ Ikitai hou e iku)

100.

**Little cuckoos--
I will go beyond
That mountain morrow.**

(Hototogisu/ asu wa ano yama/ koete ikou)

101.

**Doffing my bamboo-hat,
I'm thoroughly wet.**

(Kasa wo nugi/ shimizimi to nure)

102.

**cockroach!
your whiskers are long
and so are mine**

(Aburamushi/ omae no hige mo/ nobite iru)

-from Terebess Asia Online