SELECTED COURT POETRY WITH MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS

1. *hana wa chiri / sono iro to naku / nagamureba / munashiki sora ni / harusame zo furu*
   --Princess Shikishi (Shokushi)
   
   • spring

   The cherry petals gone,
   There is no special color to my thoughts,
   Yet as I gaze,
   From the vacant sky there falls
   The quiet sadness of spring rain.
   --Miner, *Introduction to Japanese Court Poetry*, 118

   With the blossoms gone,
   I look for no special color
   as I gaze afar—
   and then from the empty sky
   spring rain begins to fall.
   --Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, #344

2. *haru no yo no / yume no ukihashi / todae shite / mine ni wakaruru / yokogumo no sora*
   --Teika, SKKS 38
   
   • Spring: spring night.

   The bridge of dreams
   Floating on the brief spring night
   Soon breaks off:
   Now from the mountaintop a cloud
   Takes leave into the open sky.
   --Miner, *Introduction to Japanese Court Poetry*, 114

   On this spring night,
   The floating bridge of my dreams
   has broken away:
   and lifting off a far peak—
   a cloudbank trails into the sky.
   --Carter, *Waiting for the Wind*, #12

   On this spring night,
   The floating bridge of my dreams
   has broken away:
   and lifting off a far peak—
   a cloudbank in empty sky.
   --Carter, *Waiting for the Wind*, #12
In the moon drenched night the floating
Bridge of dreams breaks off. The clouds
Banked against the mountain peak
Dissipate in the clear sky.
--Rexroth, *Complete Poems*, 681

3. *koma tomete / sode uchiharau / kage mo nashi / sano no watari no / yuki no yûgure*
--Teika, SKKS 671
   - winter: snowy evening

There is no shelter
Where I can rest my weary horse
And brush my laden sleeves:
The Sano ford and its adjoining fields
Spread over with a twilight in the snow.
--Miner, *Intro to Japanese Court Poetry*, 115

No shelter in sight
   to give my pony a rest
   and brush off my sleeves--
in the fields around Sano Ford
   on a snowy evening.
--Carter, *Waiting for the Wind*, #18; *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, #399

4. *miwataseba / hana mo momiji mo / nakarikeri / ura no tomaya no / aki no yûgure*
--Teika; SKKS 363
   - autumn: autumn evening

As I look about,
What need is there for cherry flowers
Or crimson leaves?
The inlet with its grass-thatched huts
Clustered in the growing autumn dusk.
--Miner

Looking far, I see
   no sing of cherry blossoms
   or crimson leaves.
A reed-thatched hut on a bay
   on an evening in autumn
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, #397

I gaze afar
And ask for neither cherry flowers
Nor crimson leaves:
The inlet with its grass-thatched huts
Clustered in the growing autumn dusk.
--Brower and Miner, *Japanese Court Poetry*:307

5. Omokage ni / hana no sugata o / sakidatete / ikue koekinu / mine no shirakumo
   --Shunzei, Chūshū Eisō; 2:207
   • Spring: blossoms.

Sending on ahead
My contemplated image of the form
Of remembered cherry flowers,
How many ranges have I vainly crossed
Taking for blossoms white clouds upon the peaks?
--Miner, *Introduction to Japanese Court Poetry*, 110

Written on the topic “Going After Blossoms in the Distance,” when Retired Emperor Sutoku was
on a visit to the Konoe Mansion.

How many times now
   have I crossed over hill crests
with the image
   of blossoms leading me on—
toward nothing but white clouds?
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, #290

Composed when Sutoku In, during a progress to the Konoe Mansion, commanded us to compose
on the topic "Seeking Blossoms in Distant Mountains."

I set the vision
Of the flowers’ configuration
Before me as I go:
How many mountains have I crossed,
Oh, white clouds that wreath the peaks?
--Konishi III:70

6. tabibito no / sode fukikaesu / akikaze ni / yūhi sabishiki / yama no kakehashi
   --Teika, SKKS:953
   • autumn: autumn wind

The traveler goes on,
His sleeves blowing back and forth
With the autumn wind,
And the evening sun sheds lonely light
Upon the bridge suspended between the cliffs.
--Miner, *Introduction to Japanese Court Poetry*, 115

With the autumn wind
  turning back the flowing sleeves
  of a traveler,
how lonely in evening light
  is the bridge above the gorge.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, #400

The autumn wind
flutters the long sleeves
of a traveler--
how lonely in the evening light
is the shaky mountain bridge
--Carter, MN 42.2 (1987), 187; *Waiting for the Wind*, #21

7. *yū sareba / nobe no akikaze / mi ni shimite / uzura naku nari / fukakusa no sato*
--Shunzei, SZS IV:258

- Autumn: autumn wind.

As evening falls,
From along the moors the autumn wind
Blows chills into the heart,
And the quails raise their plaintive cry
In the deep grass of secluded Fukakusa
--Miner, *Introduction to Japanese Court Poetry*, 109

Daylight fades away
  and the autumn wind on the fields
  pierces to the soul:
a quail cries from the deep grass
  of Fukakusa Village.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, #273

As evening falls,
Along the fields the autumn wind
Pierces to my heart,
And the quails can be heard to cry
At Fukakusa lost in deep plants.
--Konishi III, 56