

SELECTED HOKKU BY BASHŌ WITH MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS

1.

ara umi ya
sado ni yokotau
ama no gawa

rough sea !
Sado over stretch-across
heaven 's river

stormy sea:

stretching over Sado,
Heaven's River

--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 97, #409

the rough sea—

flowing toward Sado Isle
the River of Heaven

--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 260

The rough sea--

Extending toward Sado Isle,
The Milky Way.

--Ueda, *Matsuo Bashō*, 54

a wild sea—

stretching to Sado Isle
the Milky Way

--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 242, 263, 303

High over wild seas

surround Sado Island—
the River of Heaven

--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 28

Across rough seas,

it arches toward Sado Isle—
The River of Heaven

--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 357

Turbulent the sea—

Across to Sado stretches
The Milky Way.

--Keene, *Narrow Road* 127

Rough sea: lying toward Sado Island the River of Heaven

--Sato, *Narrow Road* 109

A wild sea,

And stretching out towards the Island of Sado,
The Milky Way.

--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 3, 367

2.

**furu ike ya
kawazu tobikomu
mizu no oto**

*old pond !
frog jump-in
water 's sound*

old pond—
 a frog jumps in,
 water's sound
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 54, #180

the old pond—
a frog jumps in,
water's sound
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 140

The old pond--
A frog leaps in,
And a splash.
--Ueda, *Matsuo Bashō*, 53

an old pond ...
a frog leaps in,
 the sound of water
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 13, 16, 77, 103

At the ancient pond
a frog plunges into
the sound of water
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 117

At an old pond,
a frog takes a sudden plunge.
The sound of water.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 353

An old pond: a frog jumps in--the sound of water
--Sato, *Eight Islands*, 282

The old pond:
The sound
Of a frog jumping into the water.
--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 4, xxxv

Old pond.
Frog jumps in
Kerplunk.
--Allan Ginsberg [sung as part of a country and western song]

3.

**inazuma ya
yami no kata yuku
goi no koe**

*lightning !
darkness 's direction go
night-heron 's voice*

lightning--
 into the darkness
 a night-heron's cry
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 150, #700

a flash of lightning—
passing through the darkness
a night heron's scream
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 394

A lightning flash—
and, piercing the darkness,
the night heron's cry
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 158

A lightning flash—
and into the gloom it goes:
a heron's cry.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 365

A flash of lightning:
The screech of a night heron
Flying in the darkness.
--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 3, ii

A flash of lightning;
Through the darkness goes
The scream of a night heron.
--Aitken, *A Zen Wave*, 101

4.
kare eda ni
karasu no tomarikeri
aki no kure

*withered branch on
crow's has settled
autumn 's evening*

on a withered branch
 a crow has settled--
 autumn evening
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 25, #38

on a bare branch
a crow has alighted . . .
autumn nightfall
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 57

On a bare branch
A crow is perched--
Autumn evening.
--Ueda, *Matsuo Bashō*, 44

Crows resting
on a withered branch—
evening in autumn
--Shirane, *Early Modern Japanese Literature*, 181

on a leafless branch
a crow comes to rest—
autumn nightfall
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 91 (45)

On a bare branch,
a solitary crow—
autumn evening
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 115

On dead branches crows remain perched at autumn's end
--Sato, *Eight Islands*, 279

On a bare branch
a crow has settled down to roost.
In autumn dusk.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 349

Autumn evening;
A crow perched
On a withered bough.
--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 3, 338

5.

**kono michi ya
yuku hito nashi ni
aki no kure**

*this road !
going person not-be
autumn 's evening*

this road--
with no one on it,
autumn dusk
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 153, #718

on this road
where nobody else travels
autumn nightfall
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 406

The road here--
No traveler comes along
This autumn evening.
--Ueda, *Matsuo Bashō*, 61

this road—
no one goes down it
autumn's end
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 285

All along this road
not a single soul—only
autumn evening
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 156

This road: no one taking it as autumn ends
--Sato, *From the Country of Eight Islands*, 288

Along this road
Goes no one,
This autumn eve.
--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 3, 342

This road!
With no one going--
Autumn evening
--Aitken, *A Zen Wave*, 25

6.
natsugusa ya
tsuwamonodomo ga
yume no ato

summer-grass !
warriors 's
dreams remains/ruins

summer grass--
 all that remains
 of warriors' dreams
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 93, #386

summer grasses
where stalwart soldiers
once dreamed a dream
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 242

summer grasses—
traces of dreams
 of ancient warriors
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 238

Summer grasses:
all that remains of great soldiers'
imperial dreams
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 19

Summer grasses—
all that is left to us now
 of warriors' dreams.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 356

A dream of warriors,
and after dreaming is done,
the summer grasses.
--McCullough, *Classical Japanese Prose*, 537

The summer grasses--
Of brave soldiers' dreams
The aftermath.
--Keene, *Narrow Road*, 87

Summer grass: where the warriors used to dream

--Sato, *Narrow Road* 87

Ah! Summer grasses
All that remains
Of the warriors' dreams
--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 3, 309

7.
shizukasa ya
iwa ni shimiiru
semi no koe

stillness!
rocks into pierce
cicada 's cry

stillness--
 sinking into the rocks,
 cicadas' cry
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 94, #392

the stillness—
seeping into the rocks
cicadas' screech
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 249

Quietness--
Sinking into the rocks,
A cicada's cry.
--Ueda, *Matsuo Bashō*, 52

stillness—
sinking deep into the rocks
 cries of the cicada
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 228, 273

Lonely stillness—
a single cicada's cry
sinking into stone
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 22, 143

Ah, such stillness:
that the very rocks are pierced
 by cicadas' drone!
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 356

Ah, tranquility!
Penetrating the very rock,
a cicada's voice.
--Helen Craig McCullough, *Classical Japanese Prose*, 539

How still it is here—
Stinging into the stones,
The locusts' trill.
--Keene, *Narrow Road* 99

Quietness: seeping into the rocks, the cicada's voice
--Sato, *Narrow Road*, 95

8.

**tabi ni yande
yume wa kare no o
kakemeguru**

*journey on ill
dream as-for withered
field on run-around*

ill on a journey:
 my dreams roam round
 over withered fields
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 154, #724

on a journey, ailing—
my dreams roam about
on a withered moor
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 413

On a journey, ill--
My dreams roam
Over a wild moor.
--Ueda, *Literary and Art Theories of Japan*, 171

sick on a journey
dreams roam about
 on a withered moor
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 279, 337

Ill on a journey,
I run about in my dreams
 over withered fields.
--Carter, *Traditional Japanese Poetry*, 366

Sick on my journey,
only my dreams will wander
these desolate moors
--Hamill, *Sound of Water*, 41

Falling ill on a journey, my dreams run round a withered field
--Sato *Eight Islands*, 289

Ill on a journey;
My dreams wander
Over a withered moor.
--Blyth, *History of Haiku*, vol. 1, 107

9.

**takotsubo ya
hakanaki yume o
natsu no tsuki**

*octopus trap !
transient dream (dir.obj.)
summer 's moon*

octopus traps--
 fleeting dreams under
 summer's moon
--Barnhill, *Bashō's Haiku*, 76, #295

an octopus pot—
inside, a short-lived dream

under the summer moon
--Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters*, 201

Octopus traps—
fleeting dreams
under the summer moon
--Shirane, *Early Modern Japanese Literature*, 184

octopus traps—
fleeting dreams beneath
a summer moon
--Shirane, *Traces of Dreams*, 9

A trapped octopus—
one night of dreaming
with the summer moon
--Hamill, *The Essential Bashō*, 73, 124

The octopus trap:
Fleeting dreams
Under the summer moon.
--Blyth, *Haiku*, vol. 3, 41

Octopus jar!
Evanescent dreams;
The summer moon.
--Aitken, *A Zen Wave*,

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