

**About the electronic version:**

Title : Selected Poems of Masaoka Shiki, Translated by Janine Beichman

Author: Masaoka Shiki

Translator: Beichman, Janine

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Note: Poem numbers are not native to the original source but were derived from the page number and position of each poem in the Beichman edition. For example, 50.2 refers to the second poem on page 50.

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About the original Japanese source text:

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About the original Romaji and English source text:

Title: Masaoka Shiki

Author: Janine Beichman

Publisher: Tokyo: Kodansha, 1986

Poem Number	Japanese	Romaji	English
16.1	水無月の虚空に涼し 時鳥	minazuki no kokū ni suzushi hototogisu	In the coolness of the empty sixth-month sky... the cuckoo's cry.
48.1	木をつみて夜の明や すき小窓かな	ki o tsumite yo no akeyasuki komado kana	the tree cut, dawn breaks early at my little window
49.1	一重づゝ一重つゝ散 れ八重櫻	hitoezutsu hitoezutsu chire	scatter layer by layer, eight-layered

		yaezakura	cherry blossoms!
49.2	名月の出るやゆらめ く花薄	meigetsu no deru ya yurameku hanasusuki	at the full moon's rising, the silver-plumed reeds tremble
50.1	ちる花にもつるゝ鳥の 翼かな	chiru hana ni motsururu tori no tsubasa kana	entangled with the scattering cherry blossoms— the wings of birds!
50.2	麥蒔やたばねあげた る桑の枝	mugi maki ya tabane agetaru kuwa no eda	wheat sowing— the mulberry trees lift bunched branches
50.3	松杉や枯野の中の不 動堂	matsu sugi ya kareno no naka no Fudōdō	pine and cypress: in a withered field, a shrine to Fudō
51.1	すゝしさや神と佛の隣 同士	suzushisa ya kami to hotoke no tonaridoshi	in the coolness gods and Buddhas dwell as neighbors
51.2	御佛に尻むけ居れば 月涼し	mihotoke ni shirimuke oreba tsuki suzushi	I turn my back on Buddha and face the cool moon
51.3	見下せば月にすゞし や四千軒	mioroseba tsuki ni suzushi ya yonsenken	looking down I see, cool in the moonlight, 4000 houses
52.1	月涼し蛙の聲のわき あがる	tsuki suzushi kawazu no koe no wakiagaru	the moon is cool— frogs' croaking wells up
52.2	すゞしさや瀧ほとばし る家のあひ	suzushisa ya taki hotobashiru ie no ai	coolness— a mountain stream splashes out between houses

52.3	春風に尾をひろげたる孔雀かな	harukaze ni o o hirogetaru kujaku kana	fanning out its tail in the spring breeze, see—a peacock!
53.1	柿くへば鐘が鳴るなり 法隆寺	kaki kueba kane ga narunari Hōryūji	I bite into a persimmon and a bell resounds— Hōryūji
57.1	稲の花道灌山の日和 かな	ine no hana Dōkanyama no hiyori kana	rice flowers— fair weather on Dōkanyama
57.2	稲刈るや焼場の烟 たゝぬ日に	ine karu ya yakiba no kemuri tatanu hi ni	rice reaping— no smoke rising from the cremation ground today
63.1	古庭や月に湯婆の湯 をこぼす	furuniwa ya tsuki ni tanpo no yu o kobosu	old garden—she empties a hot-water bottle under the moon
64.1	庭前 鶏頭の十四五本もあ りぬべし	"teizen" keitō no jūshigohon mo arinubeshi	"Before the Garden" cockscombs... must be 14, or 15
65.1	いくたびも雪の深さを 尋ねけり	ikutabi mo yuki no fukasa o tazunekeri	again and again I ask how high the snow is
65.2	雪ふるよ障子の穴を 見てあれば	yuki furu yo shōji no ana o mite areba	snow's falling! I see it through a hole in the shutter...
66.1	雪の家に寝て居ると 思ふばかりにて	yuki no ie ni nete iru to omou bakari ni te	all I can think of is being sick in bed and snowbound...

66.2	障子明けよ上野の雪 を一目見ん	shōji ake yo Ueno no yuki o hitome min	open the shutter! I'll just have a look at Ueno's snow!
69.1	春雨や傘さして見る 繪草紙屋	harusame ya kasa sashite miru ezōshiya	spring rain: browsing under an umbrella at the picture-book store
69.2	榎の實散る此頃うとし 鄰の子	e no mi chiru konogoro utoshi tonari no ko	the nettle nuts are falling... the little girls next door don't visit me these days
70.1	しぐるゝや蒟蒻冷えて 臍の上	shigururu ya konnyaku hiete heso no ue	it's drizzling... devil's tongue, cold on my belly button
70.2	鬚剃るや上野の鐘の 霞む日に	hige soru ya Ueno no kane no kasumu hi ni	getting a shave! on a day when Ueno's bell is blurred by haze...
71.1	臥病十年 首あげて折々見るや 庭の萩	"Gabyō Jūnen" kubi agete oriori miru ya niwa no hagi	"Sick in Bed Ten Years" lifting my head, I look now and then— the garden clover
72.1	餘命いくばくかある夜 短し	yomei ikubaku ka aru yo mijikashi	how much longer is my life? a brief night...
83.1	こころみに君の御歌 を吟ずれば堪へず や鬼の泣く聲聞ゆ	kokoromi ni kimi no miuta o ginzureba taezu ya oni no naku koe kikoyu	I tried to speak your poems but I could not! The weeping of the gods fell upon my ears.
84.1	とばり垂れて君いまだ 覺めずくれなゐの 牡丹の花に朝日さ	tobari tarete kimi imada samezu kurenai no botan no hana	curtains drawn, the emperor's love still lies abed— on crimson peonies,

	すなり	ni asahi sasu nari	the morning sun shines
84.2	楊貴妃の寐起顔なる 牡丹哉	Yōkihi no neokigao naru botan kana	the peony seems to think itself Yōkihi as she awakes
85.1	縁先に玉巻く芭蕉玉 解けて五尺のみど り手水鉢を掩ふ	ensaki ni tama maku bashō tama tokete goshaku no midori chōzubachi o ōu	the plaintain at the veranda's edge unfolds its coiled leaves, its jewels, and veils the water basin in five feet of green
87.1	病中對鏡 昔見し面影もあらず おとろへて鏡の人 のほろほろと泣く	"Byōchū Taikyō" mukashi mishi omokage mo arazu otoroete kagami no hito no horohoro to naku	"Invalid Facing Mirror" The man I used to meet in the mirror is no more. Now I see a wasted face. It dribbles tears.
88.1	金州從軍中作 春寒み矛を枕に寐る 夜半を古里の妹ぞ 夢に見えつる	"Kinshū Jūgunchū Saku" haru samumi hoko o makura ni neru yowa o kori no imōto zo yume ni mietsuru	"In China with the Army" In the spring chill, as I slept with sword by pillow, deep at night my little sister came to me in dreams from home.
88.2	里を見て歸りし夜半 の枕上菜の花咲く 野目に見ゆるかも	sato o mite kaerishi yowa no makuragami na no hana saku no	saw the country and returned—now deep at night I lie in bed and fields of mustard flowers

		me ni miyuru kamo	bloom before my eyes
88.3	うれしくも登りし不盡 の頂に足わなゝき て夢さめんとす	ureshikumo noborishi Fuji no itadaki ni ashi wananakite yume samen to su	happily I climbed Mt. Fuji and as my legs trembled on its peak awoke
89.1	うたゝ寐のうたゝ苦し き夢さめて汗ふき 居れば薔薇の花散 る	utatane no utata kurushiki yume samete ase fuki oreba bara no hana chiru	wakened by pain from a dream of pain I wipe the sweat and rose petals scatter
89.2	一桶の水うちやめば ほろほろと露のた ま散る秋草の花	hitooke no mizu uchiyameba horohoro to tsuyu no tama chiru akikusa no hana	the bucket's water poured out and gone, drop by drop dew drips like pearls from the autumn flowers
91.1	久方のアメリカ人のほ じめにしベースポー ルは見れど飽かぬ かも	hisakata no Amerikabito no hajime ni shi bēsubōru wa miredo akanu kamo	far away under the skies of America they began baseball—ah, I could watch it forever!
92.1	上野山夕越え來れば 森暗みけだもの吠 ゆるけだもの園	Ueno yama yū koekureba mori kurami kedamono hoyuru kedamono no sono	as evening comes across Ueno Hill the woods grow dark and wild beasts howl in the wild beast garden
93.1	松の葉の細き葉毎に おく露の千露もゆら	matsu no ha no hosoki hagoto ni oku tsuyu no chitsuyu mo	on the pine needles, each of the slender needles, a dewdrop rests—

	に玉もこぼれず	yura ni tama mo koborezu	a thousand pearls lie quivering, yet never fall
93.2	松の葉の葉さきを細 み置く露のたまりも あへず白玉散るも	matsu no ha no hasaki o hosomi oku tsuyu no tamari mo aezu shiratama chiru mo	the tips of the pine needles, so thin... no sooner does the dew collect than white pearls scatter
93.3	松の葉の葉毎にむす ぶ白露のおきては こぼれこぼれては おく	matsu no ha no ha goto ni musubu shiratsuyu no okite wa kobore koborete wa oku	to every needle of the needled pine it clings— the pearl white dew, forming but to scatter, scattering but to form
94.1	冬ごもる病の床のガ ラス戸の曇りぬぐ へば足袋干せる見 ゆ	fuyugomoru yamai no toko no garasudo no kumori nugeba tabi hoseru miyu	huddled up for winter upon a bed of pain I wipe the window clear of frost and see tabi, hung out for drying
96.1	はしきやし少女に似 たるくれなゐのボタ ンの蔭にうつうつ眠 る	"Gogatsu nanuka (taion sanjūhachido gobu)" hashikiyashi otome ni nitaru kurenai no botan no kage ni utsuutsu nemuru	"May 7 (temperature 38.5°)" how like a lovely young girl it is, this peony of scarlet red whose shadow shades my fitful dreaming
97.1	藤の花長うして雨ふら んとす	fuji no hana nagōshite ame furan to su kuroki made ni	wisteria plumes sweep the earth, and soon the rains will fall purple unto

97.2	黒きまでに紫深き葡萄 かな	murasaki fukaki budō kana	blackness: grapes!
98.1	くれなゐの二尺伸び たる薔薇の芽の針 やはらかに春雨の ふる	kurenai no nishaku nobitaru bara no me no hari yawaraka ni harusame no furu	two feet tall, the crimson-budded roses, their young thorns tender in the soft spring rain
98.2	病み臥せるわが枕邊 に運びくる鉢の牡丹 の花ゆれやまず	yami fuseru waga makurabe ni hakobikuru hachi no botan no hana yure yamazu	to where I lie, sick upon my bed, they brought for me these potted peonies... their petals' trembling never ends
99.1	病牀の我に露ちる思 ひあり	byōshō no ware ni tsuyu chiru omoi ari	I thought I felt a dewdrop on me as I lay in bed
99.2	病む我をなぐさめが ほに開きたる牡丹 の花を見れば悲し も	yamu ware o nagusamegao ni hirakitaru botan no hana o mireba kanashi mo	as if to cheer me on my bed of pain, the peony spreads its petals wide and seeing this I grieve
99.3	まくらべに友なき時は 鉢植の梅に向ひて ひとり伏し居り	makurabe ni tomonaki toki wa hachiue no ume ni mukaite hitori fushi ori	when to my pillow no friend comes I lie alone, turned to face the potted plum
100.1	紅梅の散りぬ淋しき 枕元	kōbai no chirinu sabishiki makura moto	crimson plum blossoms scattered over the loneliness of the bed...

100.2	紅梅の落花をつまむ 疊哉	kōbai no rakka o tsumamu tatami kana	fallen petals of the crimson plum I pluck from the tatami
100.3	瓶にさす藤の花房み じかければたたみ の上にとどかざりけ り	kame ni sasu fuji no hanabusa mijikakereba tatami no ue ni todokazarikeri	wisteria in the vase so short it doesn't touch the floor
101.1	佐保神の別れかなし も來ん春にふたた び逢はんわれなら なくに	Saogami no wakare kanashi mo kon haru ni futatabi awan ware naranaku ni	ah, sad to part from Lady Sao... in the spring to come it will not be me who meets her again
101.2	いちはつの花咲きい でて我目には今年 ばかりの春行かん とす	ichihatsu no hana saki-idete waga me ni wa kotoshi bakari no haru yukan to su	the wall iris opens its buds: before my eyes the last spring begins to fade
102.1	夕顔の棚つくらんと 思へども秋待ちがて ぬ我いのちかも	yūgao no tana tsukuran to omoedomo aki machigatenu waga inochi kamo	I dream of making a trellis for moonflowers to climb, but oh my life, that will not bear the wait till autumn!
102.2	絲瓜咲て痰のつまりし 佛かな	hechima saite tan no tsumarishi hotoke kana	the gourd flowers bloom, but look—here lies a phlegm-stuffed Buddha!
103.1	痰一斗絲瓜の水も間 に合はず	tan itto hechima no mizu mo ma ni awazu	a quart of phlegm— even gourd water couldn't mop it up
		ototoi no	they didn't gather

103.2	をとゝひのへちまの水 も取らざりき	hechima no mizu mo torazariki	gourd water day before yesterday either
113.1	ごて / \と草花植し 小庭かな	gotegote to kusabana ueshi koniwa kana	a jumble of flowers planted— see, the little garden!
117.1	瓶にさす藤の花ぶさ 一ふさはかさねし 書の上に垂れたり	kame ni sasu fuji no hanabusa hitofusa wa kasaneshi fumi no ue ni taretari	wisteria in the vase— one plume hangs down, brushing a pile of books
117.2	藤なみの花をし見れ ば奈良のみかど京 のみかどの昔こひ しも	fuji nami no hana o shi mireba Nara no mikado Kyō no mikado no mukashi koishi mo	I see the wisteria that moves like waves and longings rise for Nara and Kyoto, the ancient courtly days
117.3	藤なみの花をし見れ ば紫の繪の具取り 出で寫さんと思ふ	fuji nami no hana o shi mireba murasaki no e no gu tori-ide utsusan to omou	I see the wisteria that moves like waves and think to take up the purple paint and sketch its likeness
117.4	藤なみの花のむらさ き繪にかかばこき 紫にかくべかりけり	fuji nami no hana no murasaki e ni kakeba koki murasaki ni kakubekarikeri	the purple of the wisteria that moves like waves, if made into a painting, would have to be a deep, deep purple
118.1	瓶にさす藤の花ぶさ 花垂れて病の牀に 春暮れんとす	kame ni sasu fuji no hanabusa hana tarete yamai no toko	wisteria in the vase trails its plumes— at my sickbed, spring is

		ni haru kuren to su	drawing to its close
118.2	去年の春龜戸に藤を 見しことを今藤を見 て思ひ出でつも	kozo no haru Kamedo ni fuji o mishi koto o ima fuji o mite omoi idetsumo	last spring I saw wisteria at Kamedo—seeing the wisteria now brings it to mind
118.3	くれなゐの牡丹の花 にさきだちて藤の 紫咲きいでにけり	kurenai no botan no hana ni sakidachite fuji no murasaki saki-ide ni keru	showing the way to the crimson peonies, the purple of the wisteria has come into bloom
118.4	この藤は早く咲きたり 龜戸の藤咲かまく は十日まり後	kono fuji wa hayaku sakitari Kameido no fuji sakamaku wa tōka mari nochi	these wisteria have bloomed early... the blossoming of those at Kameido will be more than ten days later
118.5	八入折の酒にひたせ ばしをれたる藤な みの花よみがへり 咲く	Yashiōri no sake ni hitaseba shioretaru fuji nami no hana yomigaeri saku	if soaked in Yashiōri wine, withered wisteria flowers will revive and bloom again
134.1	絲瓜さへ佛になるぞ 後るゝな	hechima sae hotoke ni naru zo okururu na	hey!—even snake gourds become Buddhas— don't get caught behind!
134.2	成佛ヤ夕顔ノ顔ヘチ マノ屁	jōbutsu ya yūgao no kao hechima no he	Buddha-death: the moonflower's face, the snake gourd's fart
136.1	病牀の財布も秋の錦 かな	byōshō no saifu mo aki no nishiki kana	the wallet by the bed is my autumn brocade

136.2	栗飯ヤ病人ナガラ大 食ヒ	kurimeshi ya byōnin nagara ōkurai	chestnut rice— though a sick man, still a glutton
136.3	カブリツク熟柿ヤ髯ヲ 汚シケリ	kaburitsuku jukushi ya hige o yogoshikeri	I sink my teeth into a ripe persimmon— it dribbles down my beard
136.4	驚くや夕顔落ちし夜半 の音	odoroku ya yūgao ochishi yowa no oto	surprise! a moonflower fell— midnight sound
138.1	世の中は常なきもの と我愛づる山吹の 花散りにけるかも	yo no naka wa tsunenaki mono to waga mezuru yamabuki no hana chirinikeru kamo	thinking how soon all in this world passes I loved the yellow roses that now have scattered
138.2	別れ行く春のかたみ と藤波の花の長ふ さ繪にかけるかも	wakareyuku haru no katami to fujinami no hana no nagafusa e ni kakeru kamo	in memory of the spring now passing I drew the long clusters of wisteria that move like waves
138.3	くれなゐの薔薇ふふ みぬ我病いやまさ るべき時のしるしに	kurenai no ubara fufuminu waga yamai iyamasarubeki toki no shirushi ni	the crimson roses have come into bud— omen of the time when my illness will grow worse
139.1	薩摩下駄足にとりは き杖つきて萩の芽 摘みし昔おもほゆ	Satsuma geta ashi ni torihaki tsue tsukite hagi no me tsumishi mukashi omōyu	I remember plucking buds of bush clover long ago with Satsuma geta on my feet and a walking stick in my hand

139.2

若松の芽だちの緑長
き日を夕かたまけ
て熱いでにけり

wakamatsu no
medachi no
midori
nagaki hi wo
yūkata makete
netsu idenikeri

the green of the young
pine seedlings...
as the long day
succumbs to night
my fever rises

139.3

いたづきの癒ゆる日
知らにさ庭べに秋
草花の種を蒔かし
む

itatsuki no
iyuru hi shirani
saniwabe ni
akikusabana no
tane o
makashimu

I do not know the day
my pain will end yet
in the little garden
I had them plant
seeds of autumn flowers

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