

Taishô Tennô

(Wakas written by Yoshihito, the emperor of the Taishô era, between 1896 and 1917. In addition some diary entries of his Japanese travels 1900 – 1903 and about his wish to travel abroad) :

As far as I see the waves are not raging

On the great ship

With a drifting soul

Moving forward today

The flower opens

For those who look

For those who are no longer there

The flower of home

Its traces are still visible

But where does the snail's shadow hide now?

The fleet sinks

One by one the warriors vanish in the ocean foams

Such a loss

The winds of spring are blowing

And when I lie down in my southern chambers

The dream starts floating

To my surprise

Across the ocean to the west

How mighty the palaces of the great cities are

Yet birds and flowers

sparkle in the early light

We pay London and Berlin a thorough visit

Brilliant cultures, glorious regimes
Why compare our countries, why judge their customs?
Japan should show itself from its best side
I wish for nothing else

At dusk, fireflies swirl in the sky
Everywhere
It's like watching fireworks from abroad

Rain falls
I hear its melancholic drums
I ponder the world
Then night awakens
The autumn wind
Bringing its rain onto my window
Carrying its drops into my body
Winter's close

In deep snow that now has fallen
Little dogs play with one another
I watch them and I forget about the cold

Her hair slide made of thorns
Futon mats as thin as rice cakes
Her poor and pure life
She wastes not a thought
About decorating her appearance with a flower
She works in the fields from morning till night
Year after year, her suffering repeats
In her poor little hut