

ONE HUNDRED POEMS  
FROM  
ONE HUNDRED POETS

BY  
H. H. HONDA

THE HOKUSEIDO PRESS







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ONE HUNDRED POEMS  
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*Being a Translation of the Ogura  
Hyaku-nin-issui*

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H. H. HONDA



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1957

## WORDS OF COMMENDATION

One hundred little poems of Old Japan collected in an anthology during the Kamakura era are still alive in the memory of our literate people. These are pathetic effusions of the human heart which transcends racial differences, and, since the abolition of our isolation policy, they have been waiting about a century for their début in the international society in a proper costume.

Indeed, some attempts to give them the opportunity have already been made, of which the fruit of Mr. Honda's previous experiment was a significant instance. Now this same translator, himself a poet, has at last succeeded in giving these classical poems a most attractive new dress in the lovely attire of neat quatrains embellished with full rhyme.

I think I shall not be deceived in my expectation that these lyrics, which have stood the test of time, will prove, in this exotic make-up, to be the source of enjoyment for years to come to many lovers of poems of the heart both at home and abroad.

MINORU TOYODA

December 5, 1956

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## FOREWORD

The *Ogura Hyaku-nin-issui* or "One Hundred Poems From One Hundred Poets" were selected in the third decade of the thirteenth century. As to the person responsible for compiling this anthology there are two different opinions. Many give credit to Fujiwara-no-Sadaiye, whose song appears on Page 97, while others maintain Priest Rensho, a contemporary of the said Sadaiye, is the real compiler.

These verses are ranged in approximately chronological order: the first poem was written by the Emperor Tenchi who ruled from 668-671, and the last by the retired Emperor Juntoku whose last year of reign was 1221, so that more than five centuries come between them.

Almost all Japanese know these poems by heart, so that when they hear the upper part, i.e. the first two lines of the song, read, they are reminded of the lower part, i.e. the last two lines. Thus we have a time-honoured game played with these hundred verses on cards.

It is hoped the reader will find pleasure in the present translation.



My thanks are due to Dr. Minoru Toyoda for his kind recommendation, and to Mr. William E. Gilkey, the musician, who, besides giving me good advice, kindly read through the manuscript.

H. H.

*November 15, 1956*

ONE HUNDRED POEMS  
FROM  
ONE HUNDRED POETS

ねてわ かてこ か

<p>わがころもでは つゆにぬれつつ</p> <p>秋の田の かりほの 庵の苔を</p> <p>天の 未だ</p> 	<p>しにけら 白妙の ころもはすて</p> <p>天の かく</p> <p>持統天皇 春すきて 夏</p> 	<p>しだりをの ながしよを ひとりかもねむ</p> <p>あし夷の 山鳥の尾の</p> <p>林本人麻呂</p> 
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ふねふ かきこ け

<p>ば白妙の ふじのたかねに ゆきはふりつつ</p> <p>田子の浦にうち いでてみれ</p> <p>山辺赤人</p> 	<p>こゑきくときそ あきはかなしき</p> <p>奥山に 紅葉 ふみ分け なく鹿の</p> <p>徳丸大夫</p> 	<p>よぞふけにける</p> <p>かささの 渡せる橋に おく霜の しろきをみれば</p> <p>中納言家持</p> 
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つまみ いまよ せ

<p>みかきのやまに いでしつきかも</p> <p>天の原ふりさけ みれば 春日なる</p> <p>安倍仲磨</p> 	<p>よをうちやまと ひとはいふなり</p> <p>我がはは 都の つまみ</p> <p>善撰法師</p> 	<p>なめせしまに</p> <p>花の色は 移り にけりな いた づらにわが みよにふる</p> <p>小野小町</p> 
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How wet my sleeves with dew of night,  
For in this ill-thatched cot I sleep,  
Guarding the fields of autumn bright  
With grain for farmers now to reap.

つ	わ		秋	天 智 天 皇
ゆ	が		の	
に	衣		田	
ぬ	手		の	
れ	は			
つ		苦	か	
ゝ		を	り	
		あ	ほ	
		ら	の	
		み	庵	

*Aki no ta no kari ho no iho no toma wo arami*

*Waga koromode wa tsuyu ni nure tsutsu*

—The Emperor Tenchi



Spring is already gone and now

It seems the summer's come, for lo,

All white is yonder Kagu's brow

With garments airing row on row.

持統天皇  
春すぎて  
夏きにけらし  
衣ほすてふ  
あまの香具山  
白妙の

*Haru sugite natsu ki ni keraishi shirotae no*

*Koromo hosu chyô ama-no-kagu yama*

—The Empress Jito

Oh, no one knows how me it ails

To lie in bed and thus to brood

All night which seems long as the tails

Of mountain pheasants of the wood.

柿本人麿  
あし曳の  
山鳥の尾の  
しだり尾の  
ながくし夜を  
ひとりかもねん

*Ashibiki no yamadori no o no shidari o no*

*Naganaga shi yo wo hitori kamo nen*

—Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro

From Tago Beach I view the sight,

Above the clouds, of Fuji's brow

Sublime, all covered with the white

Of snow that seems there falling now.

山 邊 赤 人  
田 子 の 浦 に  
打 ち 出 で 見 れ ば  
白 妙 の  
ふ じ の た か ね に  
雪 は ふ り つ ぐ

*Tago no ura ni uchi idede mireba shirotae no*

*Fuji no takane ni yuki wa furi tsutsu*

—Yamabe-no Akahito

When in the forest deep and red

I hear the plaintive cries of deer,

As, wandering, on the leaves they tread,

Then autumn seems indeed so drear.

猿 丸 太 夫  
お く や ま に  
紅 葉 ふ み わ け  
な く 鹿 の  
こ ゑ き く 時 ぞ  
秋 は か な し き

*Oku yama ni momiji fumi wake naku shika no*

*Koe kiku toki zo aki wa kanashiki*

—Sarumaru



I look up at the starry sky,  
 And see the frost laid clear and white  
 Upon the Magpie Bridge on high  
 To know how far spent is the night.

かさゝぎの  
 渡せる橋に  
 おくしもの  
 白きを見れば  
 夜ぞふけにける  
 中納言家持

*Kasasagi no wataseru hashi ni oku shimo no  
 Shiroki wo mireba yo zo fuke ni keru*

—Ohtomo-no Yakamochi

Behold, the moon now rises clear—  
 The selfsame moon the people find  
 At Kasuga town, my home, appear  
 From old Mt. Mikasa behind.

安倍仲麿  
 天の原  
 ふりさけみれば  
 春日なる  
 三笠の山に  
 出でし月かも

*Ama no hara furisake mireba kasuga naru  
 Mikasa no yama ni ideshi tsuki kamo*

—Abe-no Nakamaro

Here on a mountain do I stay,  
 South-east of the capital,  
 In hermitage forlorn and grey—  
 Upon Mt. Drear, so called by all.

わが いほは  
 都の たつみ  
 しかぞすむ  
 世を宇治山と  
 人は云ふなり  
 喜撰法師

*Waga ibo wa miyako no tatsumi shika zo sumu*  
*Yo wo Uji yama to hito wa iu nari*

—The Priest Kisen

As in the long and weary rain  
 The hue of flowers is all gone,  
 So is my young grace spent in vain  
 In these long years I lived alone.

花の色は  
 移りにけりな  
 いたづらに  
 わが身世にふる  
 眺めせしまに  
 小野小町

*Hana no iro wa utsuri ni keri na itazura ni*  
*Waga mi yo ni furu nagame sehi ma ni*

—Ono-no Komachi



Lo, at this barrier people greet,

Those leaving home, and those who hope

Home to return; so it is meet

To call the barrier Trysting Slope.

こ  
れ  
や  
こ  
の  
蟬  
丸  
行  
く  
も  
歸  
る  
も  
知  
る  
も  
知  
ら  
ぬ  
も  
あ  
ふ  
さ  
か  
の  
關  
別  
れ  
て  
は

*Kore ya kono yuku mo kaeru mo wakarete wa*

*Shiru mo shiranu mo ôsaka no seki*

—Semimaru

O Fisherman, tell it for me

To my dear folks at home that I

Set out alone across the sea

For Isles which far off groupèd lie.

和  
田  
の  
原  
参  
議  
篁  
八  
十  
島  
か  
け  
て  
こ  
ぎ  
出  
ぬ  
と  
人  
に  
は  
告  
げ  
よ  
あ  
ま  
の  
つ  
り  
ぶ  
ね

*Wada no hara yasoshima kakete kogi idenu to*

*Hito ni wa tsugeyo ama no tsuribune*

—Ono-no Takamura

O Heaven's Wind, be kind and close

The gate whereby clouds pass away,

For lo, the maiden dancing goes,—

The maiden beautiful and gay.

あまつ	雲の	乙女の	し
風	通ひ	姿	ば
	路		し
		ふ	と
		き	と
		と	め
		ち	ん
		よ	

僧 正 遍 照

*Amatsu kaze kumo no kayoiiji fuki tojiyo*

*Otome no sugata shibashi todomen*

—The Priest Henjo

As fast the Mina Stream is brought

Down, down Mt. Tsukuba to fall

Into deep pools there to be caught,

So love profound holds me in thrall.

陽	筑波	み	こ
成	嶺の	ね	ひ
院		より	そ
		落	つ
		つ	も
		る	り
			て
		み	
		な	
		の	
		川	

*Tsukuba ne no mine yori otsuru mina no gawa*

*Koi zo tsumorite fuchi to nari nuru*

—The Retired Emperor Yōzei



Like the cloth patterns all confused  
Of Shinobu with colours bright,  
For you, alas, I'm so bemused.

河原左大臣

みちのくの  
しのぶもぢずり  
たれ故に  
亂れそめにし  
われならなくに

*Michinoku no shinobu moji-zuri tare yue ni*  
*Midare some nishi ware naranaku ni*

—*Minamoto-no Toru*

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To gather young herbs for your sake,  
But now, alas, here comes the snow  
To wet my coat-sleeves with its flake.

光孝天皇  
君がため  
春の野に出で  
若菜つむ  
わが衣手に  
雪はふりつゝ

*Kimi ga tame haru no no ni idete wakana tsumu*  
*Waga koromode ni yuki wa furi tsutsu*

—The Emperor Koko

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Now I shall leave, but do not grieve.

If like the wellknown mountain tree

You *pine* indeed for me, I'll speed

Homeward wherever I may be.

中納言行平  
たち別れ  
いなばの山の  
まつとしきかば  
今かへりこん

*Tachi wakare inaba no yama no mine ni ôru*

*Matsu to shi kikaba ima kaeri kon*

—Ariwara-no Yukihiro

How fair the Tatsuta, for lo,

Was the stream ever carpeted,

Even when Gods were here below,

With such bright maple-leaves and red?

在原業平  
ちはやふる  
神代もきかず  
からくれない  
水くどるとは  
龍田川

*Chihaya furu kami yo mo kikazu tatsuta gawa*

*Kara kurenai ni mizu kuguru to wa*

—Ariwara-no Narihira



By day, alas, well do I know

I must shun people and their eye

When to meet my love I go;

But must I be in dreams so shy?

敏行朝臣  
すみの江の  
岸による浪  
ゆめのかよひ路  
人めよくらん  
よるさへや

*Sumi-no-ye no kishi ni yoru nami yoru sae ya*

*Yume no kayoi-ji hito-me yokuran*

—Fujiwara-no Toshiyuki

Oh, come to me, for I must needs

Behold you. Even for a space

As that between the joints of reeds

Fail not to come to me apace.

伊勢  
なには渴  
みじかきあしの  
ふしのまも  
逢はでこのよを  
過してよとや

*Naniwa gata mijikaki ashi no fushi no ma mo*

*Awade kono yo wo sugoshite yo to ya*

—Princess Ise

Weary my mind and all cast down;  
 And like the watermarks we see  
 At Naniwa if I must drown  
 To meet her, I will die in glee.

元良親王  
 わびぬれば  
 今はたおなじ  
 難波なる  
 みをつくしても  
 逢はんとぞ思ふ

*Wabi nureba ima hata onaji naniwa naru*  
*Mi wo tsukushite mo awan to zo omon*

—The Heir-Apparent Motoyoshi

She promised me to come here soon,  
 And eager I await her call,  
 Yet who comes but the morning moon?  
 And oh, no sight of her at all.

素性法師  
 今こんと  
 いひしばかりに  
 なが月の  
 有明の月を  
 待ちいづるかな

*Ima kon to iishi bakari ni naga-tsuki no*  
*Ariake no tsuki wo machi izuru kana*

—The Priest Sosei



Tree leaves and grass from withering die  
When mountain winds come in the fall.  
And well the wind may be called high  
That comes down blowing over all.

文屋 康秀  
吹くからに  
秋の草木の  
しをるれば  
むべ山風を  
嵐といふらん

*Fuku kara ni aki no kusa ki no shiorureba*  
*Mube yama kaze wo arashi to iuran*

—Bunya-no Yasuhide

Whene'er the autumn moon I see  
Pathos soon comes me to enthrall,  
Though I'm aware not only me  
But to us all does come the fall.

大江 千里  
月みれば  
ちぎにものこそ  
悲しけれ  
わが身ひとつの  
秋にはあらねど

*Tsuki mireba chiji ni mono koso kanashi kere*  
*Waga mi hitotsu no aki ni wa aranedo*

—Oe-no Chisato

I bring no offerings to thy shrine,  
 For with the Sovereign now I be;  
 But here the maple leaves so fine  
 Better than aught will pleasure thee.

神	も		こ	菅
の	み		の	家
ま	ち	幣	た	
に	の	も	び	
ま	に	と	は	
に	し	り		
	き	あ		
		へ		
		ず		
		手		
		向		
		山		

*Kono tabi wa nusa mo tori-aezu tamuke-yama*  
*Momiji no nishiki kami no mani mani*

—Sugawara no Michizane

If you knew how much I love you,  
 You would not fail to come to me.  
 Will no prayer of mine e'er move you  
 To come and see me secretly?

く	人		名	三
る	に		に	條
よ	し	逢	し	右
し	ら	坂	お	大
も	れ	山	は	臣
が	で	の	ど	
な				
		さ		
		ね		
		か		
		づ		
		ら		

*Na ni shi owaba ôsaka yama no sanekazura*  
*Hito ni shirarede kuru yoshi mo gana*

—The Minister Sadakata



If for us, Maple leaves, you care,  
 That now Mt. Ogura adorn,  
 Wait for our Sovereign's visit ere  
 You fall, and leave the peak forlorn.

小倉山 貞信公  
 峯のもみちば  
 心あらば  
 いまひとたびの  
 みゆきまたなん

*Ogura yama mine no momiji-ba kokoro araba  
 Ima hito tabi no miyuki matanan*

—Prince Teishin

When, I wonder, did I greet her?  
 All's gone out of my memory.  
 Still I long and yearn to meet her  
 Beside the stream of Izumi.

中納言兼輔  
 みかの原  
 湧きて流るゝ  
 いづみ川  
 いつみきとてか  
 戀しかるらん

*Mika no hara wakite nagaruru Izumi gawa  
 Itsu mikitote ka koishi karuran*

—Kanesuke

Of all the seasons of the year

Winter in mountain hamlets bare

Is the most forlorn and drear,

Since men and grass then are so rare.

人めも草も  
枯れぬとおもへば  
冬ぞさびしさ  
まさりける  
やま里は  
源宗千朝臣

*Yama zato wa fuyu zo sabishisa masari keru*

*Hito-me mo kusa mo karenu to omoeba*

—Minamoto-no Muneyuki

The year's first frost this morning fell,

And I who seek some flowers white

Of my chrysanthemums can't tell

The blossom from the rime aright.

凡河内躬恒  
こゝろあてに  
折らばや折らむ  
初霜の  
置きまどはせる  
しら菊の花

*Kokoro ate ni orabaya oran hatsu shimo no*

*Oki madowaseru shira giku no hana*

—Oshikochi-no Mitsune



Since I experienced to my grief

That parting in the early morn,

Naught is so sad in my belief

A morning moon, and so forlorn.

有明の  
壬生忠岑  
つれなくみえし  
わかれより  
あかつきばかり  
憂きものはなし

*Ariake no tsurenaku mieshi wakare yori*

*Akatsuki bakari uki mono wa nashi*

—Mibu-no Tadamine

The moon at Yoshino, how bright!

I marvelled at the break of day,

And looked to see the town so light

In falling snow's serene array.

坂上是明  
あさぼらけ  
有明の月と  
みるまでに  
吉野の里に  
降れるしらゆき

*Asaborake ariake no tsuki to miru made ni*

*Yoshino no sato ni fureru shira yuki*

—Sakanouye-no Korenori

Who laid this hurdle fair and red  
 Here in the mountain rivulet?  
 'Tis but the mischievous wind that led  
 The fallen leaves in drifts to set.

も	流		山	
み	れ		か	春
ち	も		は	道
な	あ	し	に	列
り	へ	が		樹
け	ぬ	ら		
り		み		
		は		

*Yama kawa ni kaze no kaketaru shigarami wa*  
*Nagare mo aenu momiji nari keri*

—Harumichi-no Tsuraki

Upon this sunlit vernal day  
 The cherry flowers give me pain.  
 Why on their boughs can they not stay?  
 Why shower the petals down like rain?

	し		ひ	紀
	づ		さ	友
	心		か	則
	なく		た	
花		光	の	
の		の	ど	
散		け	け	
る	春	き		
らん	の			
	日			
	に			

*Hisakata no hikari nodokeki haru no hi ni*  
*Shizu kokoro naku hana no chiruran*

—Ki-no Tomonori



I mourn a host of old friends gone;

Alas, I have outlived them all.

The old pines on the hill alone

Stand there forlorn, deaf to my call.

誰れをかも  
知る人にせむ  
高砂の  
まつもむかしの  
友ならなくに  
藤原興風

*Tare wo kamo shiru hito ni sen takasago no*

*Matsu mo mukashi no tomo nara naku ni*

—Fujiwara-no Okikaze

How the village friend may meet me

I know not, but the old plum flowers

Still now with their fragrance greet me

Kindly as in the bygone hours.

紀貫之  
ひとはいさ  
心も知らず  
ふるさとは  
花ぞ昔の  
香ににほひける

*Hito wa isa kokoro mo shirazu furu sato wa*

*Hana zo mukashi no ka ni nioi keru*

—Ki-no Tsurayuki

The day soon breaks in summertime

Even while night seems young as yet;

And does the moon forlornly ride

Cloud-hidden till it comes to set?

清原深養父  
夏の夜は  
まだ宵ながら  
明けぬるを  
くものいづこに  
月やどるらん

*Natsu no yo wa mada yoi nagara akenuru wo*

*Kumo no izuko ni tsuki yadoruran*

—Kiyowara-no Fukayabu

Cold the autumn wind is blowing,

Scattering the dew about the lea.

And here I see the gusts now sowing

Rare unstringèd pearls free.

文屋朝康  
しらつゆに  
風のふきしく  
秋の野は  
つらぬきとめぬ  
玉ぞちりける

*Shira tsuyu ni kaze no fukishiku aki no no wa*

*Tsuranuki tomenu tama zo chiri keru*

—Bunya-no Asayasu





Let him forget me, if he please,

But to the gods he made a vow;

And how their anger to appease

Is what I'm worrying for him now.

右 近  
わすらるゝ  
身をば思はず  
誓ひてし  
人のいのちの  
惜しくもあるかな

*Wasuraruru mi wo ba omowazu chikaite shi*

*Hito no inochi no oshiku mo aru kana*

—The Lady Ukon

I try my feelings to conceal,

But deep, sweet, is my love for you

And 'twill in vain itself reveal,

Leaving me but to sigh in rue.

参 議 等  
浅茅生の  
小野のしの原  
しのふれど  
あまりてなか  
人のこひしき

*Asajifu no ono no shinowara shinoburedo*

*Amarite nado ka hito no koishiki*

—Minamoto-no Hitoshi

Hard though I try my love to hide,  
 The telltale blushes soon betray;  
 And people ask what I abide  
 That causes me to waste away.

人	も		忍	平
の	の		ぶ	兼
と	や		れ	盛
ふ	お	わ	ど	
ま	も	が		
で	ふ	戀		
	と	は		

*Shinoburedo iro ni de ni keri waga koi wa*  
*Mono ya omou to hito no tou made*

—Taira-no Kanemori

Ill news indeed will run apace;  
 For though I loved so secretly,  
 Word is abroad of my disgrace.  
 And oh, forlorn now I must cry.

	人		戀	壬
	知		す	生
	れ		て	忠
思	ず	我	ふ	見
ひ	こ	が		
そ	そ	名		
め		は		
し	た	ま		
が	ち	だ		
	に	き		
	け			
	り			

*Koi su chô waga na wa madaki tachi ni keri*  
*Hito shirezu koso omoi someshi ga*

—Mibu-no Tadami



Soaking with flowing tears our sleeve,  
 We vowed that we should love on still,  
 Though waves rise and no traces leave  
 Of our love-trysting pine-clad hill.

契りきな  
 かたみに袖を  
 しぼりつゝ  
 すゑの松山  
 浪こさじとは  
 清原元輔

*Chigiriki na katami ni sode wo shibori tutsu*  
*Sue no matsu yama nami kosaji to wa*

—Kiyowara-no Motosuke

How happy was I in those days  
 Ere of her yet I had no sight!  
 I live in sorrow now that preys  
 Upon my heart by day and night.

あひみでの  
 後の心に  
 くらふれば  
 むかしはものを  
 思はざりけり  
 中納言執忠

*Ai mite no nochi no kokoro ni kurabureba*  
*Mukashi wa mono wo omowazari keri*

—Atsutaka

If man and woman did not meet,  
 Never sorrow would them bother;  
 The love-tryst, then, can not be sweet,  
 When it grieves one and the other.

あふことの  
 絶えてしなくば  
 なかなか  
 人をもみをも  
 うらみざらまし

中納言朝忠

*Au koto no taete shi nakuba naka naka ni*  
*Hito wo mo mi wo mo uramizarama shi*

—Chunagon Asatada

Worthy of her I try to prove,  
 But she is cold to me, and scorned  
 Thus in my unrequited love  
 Oh, I shall pass away unmourned.

あはれとも  
 いふべき人は  
 おもほえて  
 みのいたづらに  
 なりぬべきかな

謙徳公

*Aware to mo iu beki hito wa omohoete*  
*Mi no itazura ni narinu beki kana*

—Prince Kentoku



The wretched boatmen do not know,

Their rudder gone at Yura Strait,

Where will their drifting vessel go.

And where my love, and to what fate?

會根好忠  
由良の戸を  
渡る舟人  
楫をたえ  
ゆくえも知らぬ  
こひの道かな

*Yura no to wo wataru funabito kaji wo tae*

*Yukue mo shiranu koi no michi kana*

—Sone Yoshitada

Wretched is my cottage where

Only the cleavers hold their sway.

And to this bower lorn and bare

In secret comes the autumn grey.

惠慶法師  
八重むぐら  
しげれる宿の  
寂しさに  
ひとこそみえね  
秋はきにけり

*Yaemugura shigereru yado no sabishisa ni*

*Hito koso miene aki wa ki ni keri*

—The Priest Ekei

As the wind-driven billows shriek  
 Against the rocks and vainly break,  
 So, though to win you hard I seek,  
 You'll not be shaken for my sake.

く		風	
だ		を	源
け		いた	重
て		み	之
物	お	岩	
を	の	う	
	れ	つ	
	の	な	
	み	みの	
おも			
ふ			
ころ			
かな			

*Kaze wo itami iwa utsu nami no onore nomi*  
*Kudakete mono wo omou koro kana*

—Minamoto-no Shigeyuki

Like watch fires burning bright to light  
 The men who guard the palace ground,  
 My bosom glows aflame by night,  
 And wastes by day in grief profound.

		御		大
		垣		中
		守		臣
				能
				宣
		衛		
		士		
		の		
		焚		
		く		
		火		
		の		
		よ		
		は		
		燃		
		え		
		て		
		ひ		
		る		
		は		
		消		
		え		
		つ		
		ゝ		
		物		
		を		
		こ		
		そ		
		お		
		も		
		へ		

*Mikaki mori eji no taku hi no yo wa moete*  
*Hiru wa kie tsutsu mono wo koso omoe*

—Yoshinobu



Before I came to know you, love,

Little my life was worth to me.

I prize it now all things above,

And wish long in this world to be.

君がため  
惜しからざりし  
命さへ  
ながくもがなと  
思ひけるかな  
藤原義孝

*Kimi ga tame oshikazarishi inochi sae*

*Nagaku mogana to omoi keru kana*

—Fujiwara-no Yoshitaka

Oh, does she know I suffer so

From fire which in my heart doth burn,

Blazing ever, ceasing never,

Only because for her I yearn?

かくとだに  
えやはいぶきの  
さしも草  
さしもしらじな  
もゆるおもひを  
藤原實方朝臣

*Kaku to dani eyawa Ibuki no sashi-mogusa*

*Sashimo shiraji na moyuru omoi wo*

—Fujiwara-no Saneata

If day breaks, I am well aware

Night soon will come to us again,

And yet I find it hard to bear

Our parting and lament in vain.

朝ぼらけかな  
なほうらめしき  
知りながら  
くるゝものとは  
明けぬれば

藤原道信朝臣

*Akenureba kururu mono to wa shiri nagara*

*Nao urameshiki asaborake kana*

—Fujiwara-no Michinobu

The night seems long, you are aware,

When in your bed you lie awake,

Sighing, weeping, full of care,

Waiting for the day to break.

いかに久しき  
ものとかはしる  
ひとりぬる夜の  
歎きつゝ  
明くるまは

右大將道綱母

*Nageki tsutsu hitori nuru yo no akuru ma wa*

*Ikani hisashiki mono to kawa shiru*

—The Mother of Michitsuna



Not that your words I disbelieve,

But that the minds of men do change.

Therefore I wish to die this eve

Ere you from me yourself estrange.

儀同三司母  
わすれじの  
行末までは  
かたければ  
今日を限りの  
命ともがな

*Wasureji no yukusue made wa katakereba*

*Kyo wo kagiri no inochi tomo gana*

—The Mother of Korechika

Although for long the booming sound

Of our old Fall has been unheard,

I know that in the stream is found

Its great renown as yet unblurred.

大納言公任  
たきの音は  
絶えて久しく  
成りぬれど  
名こそ流れて  
なほきこえけれ

*Taki no oto wa taete hisashiku narinuredo*

*Na koso nagarete nao kikoe kere*

—Dainagon Kinto

My sands of life are running low,

So grant me now my one request,

And let me see you ere I go

Well to remember when I rest.

逢ふこともがな	今ひとたびの	思ひ出に	この世の外に	あらざらん	和泉式部
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*Arazaran kono yo no hoka no omoide ni*

*Ima hito tabi no au koto mo gana*

—The Lady Izumi Shikibu

After long years we met, O Moon,

And how I wished to have him stay;

But as you hide in clouds too soon,

So did he likewise go away.

夜半の月かな	雲かくれにし	わかぬまに	見しやそれとも	めぐり逢ひて	紫式部
--------	--------	-------	---------	--------	-----

*Meguri aite mishi ya sore tomo wakanu ma ni*

*Kumo kakure nishi yowa no tsuki kana*

—The Lady Murasaki Shikibu



Shall I forget you, love? oh, nay!

Nor shall I e'er my pledge forsake.

But if you should my love betray—

'Tis this that makes my poor heart ache!

大貳三位  
ありま山  
あなのさゝ原  
風ふけば  
いでそよ人を  
忘れやはする

*Arima yama ina no sasawara kaze fukeba*

*Ide soyo hito wo wasure yawa suru*

—The Lady Katako, Daini Sammi

Alas, if only I had known

That you could be so false to me,

I'd not have sat up all alone

In vain the setting moon to sec.

赤染衛門  
やすらはで  
ねなましものを  
さ夜ふけて  
かたぶくまでの  
月をみしかな

*Yasurawade nenamashi mono wo sayo fukete*

*Katabuku made no tsuki wo mishi kana*

—The Lady Akazome Emon

My mother's gone away, alas,

And now great distance lies between,

And many days and months must pass

Before her words come to be seen.

大江山  
いく野の道の  
とほければ  
まだふみもみず  
天の橋立  
小式部内侍

*Ohye yama ikuno no michi no toh kereba*

*Mada fumi mo mizu ama-no-hashidate*

—Lady-in-Waiting Koshikibu

The double cherry blossoms, lo,

Of Nara, the ancient capital,

Now in the Imperial Palace blow,

Glorious and sweet before us all.

伊勢大輔  
いにしへの  
奈良の都の  
八重櫻  
けふ九重に  
にほひぬるかな

*Inishie no nara no miyako no yae-zakura*

*Kyô kokonoe ni nioi nuru kana*

—The Lady Ise-no Ohsuke



The cock's cry one might imitate

Barriers to pass before sunrise,

But oh, to cross my barrier-gate

What power of yours can well devise?

清少納言  
夜をこめて  
鳥のそらねは  
よにあふさかの  
はかるとも  
關はゆるさじ

*Yo wo komete tori no sorane wa hakaru tomo*

*Yo ni Osaka no seki wa yurusaji*

—The Lady Sei Shonagon

Alas, I have to give her up,

Try to endure whatever pain;

But ere I drink this fateful cup,

Oh, let me see her once again.

左京大夫道雅  
いまはたゞ  
思ひ絶えなんと  
ばかりを  
人づてならで  
いふよしもがな

*Ima wa tada omoi taenan to bakari wo*

*Hito zute narade iu yoshi mo gana*

—Sakyo Dayu Michimasa

Now in the Uji River where

The rolling mist has gone from view

Appears clear in the morning air

The basket-work of split bamboo.

瀬々のあじろぎ  
あらはれ渡る  
たえだえに  
宇治の川霧  
あさぼらけ  
権中納言定頼

*Asaborake uji no kawagiri tae dae ni*

*Araware wataru zeze no ajiro-gi*

—Gon Chunagon Sadaayori

Ah, my heart, my heart is broken,

Sodden are my sleeves with brine;

Ne'er I hear my name now spoken

Save as a secret gibe malign.

恨みわび  
ほさぬ袖だに  
あるものを  
こひに朽ちなん  
名こそおしけれ  
相模

*Urami wabi hosanu sode dani aru mono wo*

*Koi ni kuchinan na koso oshikere*

—The Lady Sagami



I pray, O fair wild Cherry Tree

That stand alone upon the peak,

Let us be of one mind, for we

Are friendless both, forlorn and weak.

前大僧正行尊  
諸共に  
あはれとおもへ  
山ざくら  
花よりほかに  
知る人もなし

*Morotomo ni aware to omoe yama zakura*

*Hana yori hoka ni shiru hito mo nashi*

—The Former Archbishop Gyoson

I laid my head upon an arm

A little while one night of spring,

And now, alas, must feel alarm

At the dread rumour on the wing.

周防内侍  
春の夜の  
夢ばかりなる  
手まくらに  
かひなくたゝむ  
名こそをしけれ

*Haru no yo no yume bakari naru ta-makura ni*

*Kainaku tatan na koso oshi kere*

—The Lady-in-Waiting Suwo

Harassed with much chagrin and care,  
 I live on still, yet in my sight  
 The moon this midnight looks so fair  
 There in the heavens shining bright.

心も  
 三條院  
 あらで浮き世に  
 ながらへば  
 こひしかるべき  
 夜半の月かな

*Kokoro ni mo arade uki yo ni nagaraeba  
 Koishikarubeki yowa no tsuki kana*

—The Emperor Sanjo

Across Mt. Mimuro did blow  
 The wind, scattering leaves so red,  
 And on the stream of Tatta, lo,  
 A fine brocade is overspread.

能因法師  
 あらしふく  
 三室の山の  
 もみちばは  
 龍田の川の  
 にしきなりけり

*Arashi fuku mimuro no yama no momiji-ba wa  
 Tatsuta no kawa no nishiki nari keri*

—The Priest Nôin



Sad, I wandered out, and weary,  
 To soothe my mind, but everywhere  
 Did I see the shadows dreary  
 Of autumn twilight in the air.

良 暹 法 師  
 寂しさに  
 宿をたち出でゝ  
 ながむれば  
 いづこもおなじ  
 秋の夕ぐれ

*Sabishisa ni yado wo tachi-idete nagamureba*  
*Izuko mo onaji aki no yugure*

—The Priest Ryōsen

Courteous the autumn breeze and sweet;  
 On making farms a twilight call,  
 First farmers' rice-ears it will greet,  
 Then go into their reed-thatched hall.

大 納 言 經 信  
 ゆふされば  
 門田の稻葉  
 おとづれて  
 あしのまろ屋に  
 秋風ぞふく

*Yusareba kado-da no inaba otozurete*  
*Asbi no maroya ni aki kaze zo fuku*

—Minamoto-no Tsunenobu

Do you ever wish to love me?

You are aware 'tis I who grieve.

Never, therefore, seek to move me,

And, pray, unsodden leave my sleeve!

おとにきく  
たかしの濱の  
あだ波は  
かけじや袖の  
ぬれもこそすれ

祐子内親王紀伊

*Oto ni kiku takashi no hama no adanami wa*

*Kekeji ya sode no nure mo koso sure*

—The Lady Kii

I see the cherry-trees so fair

On yonder hillsides all abloom.

Let not the fog now come and dare

To veil the nearer hills in gloom.

高砂の  
尾の上のさくら  
咲きにけり  
外山のかすみ  
たゞずもあらなむ

前中納言匡房

*Takasago no onoe no sakura saki ni keri*

*Toyama no kasumi tatazu mo aranan*

—Ohye-no Masafusa



Blow, gently, Wind, down Hasse's peak  
 Where the old temple we behold.  
 I came to pray my love be meek,  
 And not so hard as you and cold.

は	う	源
げ	かり	俊
しか	ける	頼
かれ		朝
とは	人を初瀬の	臣
	山おろし	
祈らぬものを		

*Ukari keru hito wo hasse no yama oroshi*  
*Hageshi kare to wa inoranu mono wo*

—Minamoto-no Toshiyori

Upon your word do I rely,  
 As grass on dew from day to day,  
 But you have made me no reply,  
 And autumn soon will pass away.

あ	ち	藤
は	ぎり	原
れ	置きし	基
こと		俊
しの	させもが露を	
	命にて	
秋もいぬめり		

*Chigiri okishi sasemo ga tsuyu wo inochi nite*  
*Aware kotoshi no aki mo inumeri*

—Fujiwara-no Mototoshi

I have rowed out, and yonder where

The boundless ocean meets the sky

I see the billows white and fair

Leaping against the clouds on high.

雲井にまがふ  
沖津白なみ  
漕ぎ出でゝみれば  
久方の  
わたの原  
法性寺入道  
前關白太政大臣

*Wada no hara kogi idete mireba hisakata no*

*Kumoi ni magoh okitsu shira nami*

—Tadamichi

As water of a stream will meet,

Though, barred by rocks, apart it fall

In rash cascades, so we too, sweet,

Shall be together after all.

瀬を早み  
岩にせかるゝ  
たき川の  
われても末に  
あはんとぞ思ふ  
崇徳院

*Sewo hayami iwa ni sekaruru taki-gawa no*

*Warete mo sue ni awan to zo omou*

—The Retired Emperor Sutoku



Across the stilly air of night

Awaji-wards the plovers fly,

And barrier-keepers sleeping light

Are oft awakened by their cry.

あはぢ島  
通ふ千鳥の  
なく聲に  
いく夜ねさめぬ  
須磨の關守  
源 兼 昌

*Awaji shima kayou chidori no naku koe ni*

*Iku yo nezamenu suma no seki-mori*

—Minamoto-no Kanemasa

Out of the rifts of clouds of night

There by the wind of autumn blown

Appears the moon so fair and bright,

Sailing the misty skies alone.

あき風に  
たなびく雲の  
たえ間より  
もれ出る月の  
影のさやけさ  
左京大夫顯輔

*Aki kaze ni tanabiku kumo no taema yori*

*More-izuru tsuki no kage no sayakesa*

—Akisuke

If he be true I'm unaware;

But since the dawn saw him depart,

As all dishevelled is my hair,

So in confusion is my heart.

待賢門院堀川  
ながからむ  
こゝろもしらず  
黒髪の  
みだれてけさは  
物をこそおもへ

*Nagakaran kokoro mo shirazu kuro kami no*

*Midarete kesa wa mono wo koso omoe*

—Lady Horikawa

I hear a cuckoo in the sky,

But when I seek to spot the call,

Only the morning moon's on high,

And of the bird no sign at all.

後徳大寺左大臣  
ほととぎす  
なきつる方を  
眺むれば  
たゞ有明の  
月ぞのこれる

*Hototogisu nakitsuru kata wo nagamureba*

*Tada ariake no tsuki zo nokoreru*

—Gotokudaiji Sanesada



I live on, thinking life is vain,

And tired of lover's care, but still

'Tis strange that I can not refrain

From tears, which come against my will.

道因法師  
おもひわび  
さても命は  
あるものを  
うきに堪へぬは  
なみだなりけり

*Omoi wabi satemo mochi wa aru mono wo*

*Uki ni taenu wa namida nari keri*

—The Priest Dōin

How can I from my sorrow flee?

For though I'm in the mountains drear,

There's no surcease of grief for me,

And still the deer's sad cries I hear.

皇太后宮大夫俊成  
世の中よ  
道こそなけれ  
思ひいる  
やまの奥にも  
鹿ぞなくなる

*Yo no naka yo michi koso nakere omoi iru*

*Yama no oku ni mo shika zo naku naru*

—Fujiwara-no Toshinari

If only these days I survive,  
I shall enjoy their memory;  
For with regret I keep alive  
The weary bygone days in me.

藤原清輔朝臣  
ながらへば  
まだこの頃や  
しのばれん  
うしと見し世ぞ  
今はこひしき

*Nagaraeba mada konogoro ya shinobaren*  
*Ushi to mishi yozo ima wa koishiki*

—Fujiwara-no Kiyosuke

It seems the day will never break,  
As sad I lie the livelong night.  
Even the door-chinks make me ache,  
Because they will let in no light.

俊恵法師  
よもすがら  
物思ふ頃は  
明けやらで  
闇のひまさへ  
つれなかりけり

*Yomosugara mono omou koro wa ake yarade*  
*Neya no hima sae tsurena kari keri*

—The Priest Shunye



Oh, never call the moon perverse,

Because she makes us feel so drear.

We weep unbidden, and lay the curse

Upon her for our eyes turned blear.

西行法師  
なげけとて  
月やは物を  
思はする  
かこち顔なる  
わが涙かな

*Nageke tote tsuki ya wa mono wo omowasuru*

*Kakochi-gao naru waga namida kana*

—The Priest Saigyō

How fair the twilight of the fall!

After the shower a vapour fine

Arises from the earth to crawl

And veil the sodden leaves of pine.

寂蓮法師  
むら雨の  
露もまだひぬ  
まきの葉に  
きり立ちのぼる  
秋の夕ぐれ

*Murasame no tsuyu mo mada hinu maki no ha ni*

*Kiri tachi noboru aki no yugure*

—The Priest Jyakuren

By Naniwa Canal where thrive

The reeds I spent a happy night,

And ever while I am alive

I shall keep hoping for his sight.

皇嘉門院別當  
難波江の  
あしのかりねの  
ひとよゆゑ  
みをつくしてや  
戀ひわたるべき

*Naniwa e no ashi no karine no hito yo yue*

*Mi wo tsukushite ya koi wataru beki*

—Daughter of Toshitaka

Oh, let me die! What do I care?

For if I live, I only strive

In vain and peak in love, aware

My heart's dead, though I be alive.

式子内親王  
玉の緒よ  
絶えなば絶えね  
長らへば  
しのぶることの  
よわりもぞする

*Tama no o yo tsenaba taene nagaraeba*

*Shinoburu koto no yowari mo zo suru*

—Princess Shikishi



Though wet with spray, the divers' sleeve  
Will never change its hue as mine;  
For lo, I yearn for you and grieve  
To see my robes all soiled with brine.

見せばやな  
雄島のあまの  
袖だにも  
ぬれにぞぬれし  
色はかはらじ

股富門院大輔

*Misebayana ojima no ama no sode dani mo*  
*Nure ni zo nureshi iro wa kwaraji*

—Princess Sukeko

Alas, upon this frosty eve  
The crickets chirp so wearily;  
And cold I lie upon my sleeve,  
Hearing the insect's plaintive cry.

きりぎりす  
なくや霜夜の  
さむしろに  
衣片しき  
ひとりかもねん

後京極攝政太政大臣

*Kirigirisu naku ya shimo yo no samushiro ni*  
*Koromo katashiki hitori kamo nen*

—Gokyogoku Yoshitsune

My sleeves are like the rocks that lie

Hidden even at low tide,

And have no moment to be dry:

Unknown this doom must they abide!

わが袖は  
汐干に見えぬ  
二條院讃岐  
おきの石の  
人こそ知らね  
かわくまもなし

*Waga sode wa shiohi ni mienu oki no ishi no*

*Hito koso shirane kawaku ma mo nashi*

—The Lady Sanuki

O for longevity! No speech

Can tell this love for life of mine;

Even yon boat along the beach

The men are dragging looks so fine.

世の中は  
常にもがもな  
なぎさこぐ  
あまのをぶねの  
綱手かなしも  
録倉右大臣

*Yo no naka wa tsune ni mo gamo na nagisa kogu*

*Ama no obune no tsunade kanashi mo*

—Minamoto-no Sanetomo



How cold the autumn wind and drear  
 Now blowing down Mt. Yoshino,  
 And somewhere in the town I hear  
 The sound of beating linen go.

参議雅經  
 みよし野の  
 山のあき風  
 さよふけて  
 ふるさと寒く  
 衣うつなり

*Miyoshino no yama no aki kaze sayo fukete*  
*Furu sato samuku koromo utsu nari*

—Masatsune

Oh, how profound is my delight  
 That for all fellow-creatures now  
 I, though a poor priest, can recite  
 The prayers upon this mountain brow!

前大僧正慈圓  
 おふけなく  
 うき世の民に  
 おほふかな  
 わが立つそまに  
 すみそめの袖

*Ohkenaku uki yono tami ni oho kana*  
*Waga tatsu soma ni sumizome no sode*

—The Former Archbishop Jien

'Tis not the snow by tempests blown  
 Of cherries falling to the ground,  
 But me I grieve so aged grown  
 Soon to be in a sleep profound.

花さそふ  
 あらしの庭の  
 雪ならで  
 ふりゆくものは  
 わが身なりけり

入道前太政大臣

*Hana sasou arashi no niwa no yuki narade*  
*Furi yuku mono wa waga mi nari keri*

—Saionji Kintsune

Weary it is indeed to yearn  
 For one who comes not for my sake:  
 My heart's afire like weeds they burn  
 That salt they in that wise may take.

こぬ人を  
 まつほのうらの  
 夕なぎに  
 焼くやも鹽の  
 身もこがれつゝ

權中納言定家

*Konu hito wo matsu-ho no ura no yunagi ni*  
*Yaku ya mo shio no mi mo kogare tsutsu*

—Fujiwara-no Sadaiye



Though cool the breeze athwart the trees,

I see some bathers in the stream.

But for their sight in this twilight,

Spring is the season it would seem.

風そよぐ  
奈良の小川の  
夕ぐれは  
みそぎぞ夏の  
しるしなりけり

從二位家隆

*Kaze soyogu nara no ogawa no yugure wa*

*Misogi zo natsu no shirushi nari keri*

—Iyetaka

How I adore the men of yore,

And pity those who live today;

I muse in pain on life in vain,

And have, alas, of hope no ray.

後鳥羽院  
ひとをし  
人も恨めし  
あぢきなく  
世をおもふ故に  
もの思ふ身は

*Hito mo oshi hito mo urameshi ajiki naku*

*Yo wo omou yue ni mono omou mi wa*

—The Retired Emperor Gotoba

Never the palace I behold

But pathos seizes soon on me;

And I regret the days of old

Upon its eaves the ferns to see.

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け	る	に		
り		も		

*Momoshiki ya furuki nokiba no shinobu ni mo*

*Nao amari aru mukashi nari keri*

—The Retired Emperor Juntoku

## APPENDIX



## THE RHYME SCHEME

An English friend of mine once wondered if these songs could not be rendered in such a way as to enable English readers to play cards with them just as we do in Japanese. And this I hope I have attained to some extent in the present attempt. The rhyme scheme of each quatrain is a, b, a, b: the first line of the upper part or *kami-no-ku* rhymes with that of the lower part or *shimo-no-ku*, and the second line with the last. There are, however, a few exceptions in which internal rhymes in the first and third lines take the place of end-rhymes. These are puzzle cards, if they may be so called, and will make the game more amusing, if confusing.

## HOW TO PLAY POETRY CARDS

Two sets of cards, the reading cards and the playing cards, consisting of one hundred cards respectively, are used. On the reading card the whole poem is written or printed, while on the playing card only the last two lines are given.

The game is usually played between two parties

made up of four or five persons. Each party faces the other with fifty playing cards spread before them on the floor. As the reader recites one of the well-shuffled reading cards, the players try to find and take the corresponding playing card faster than the others. In this way the party that has first finished with their allotted cards wins.

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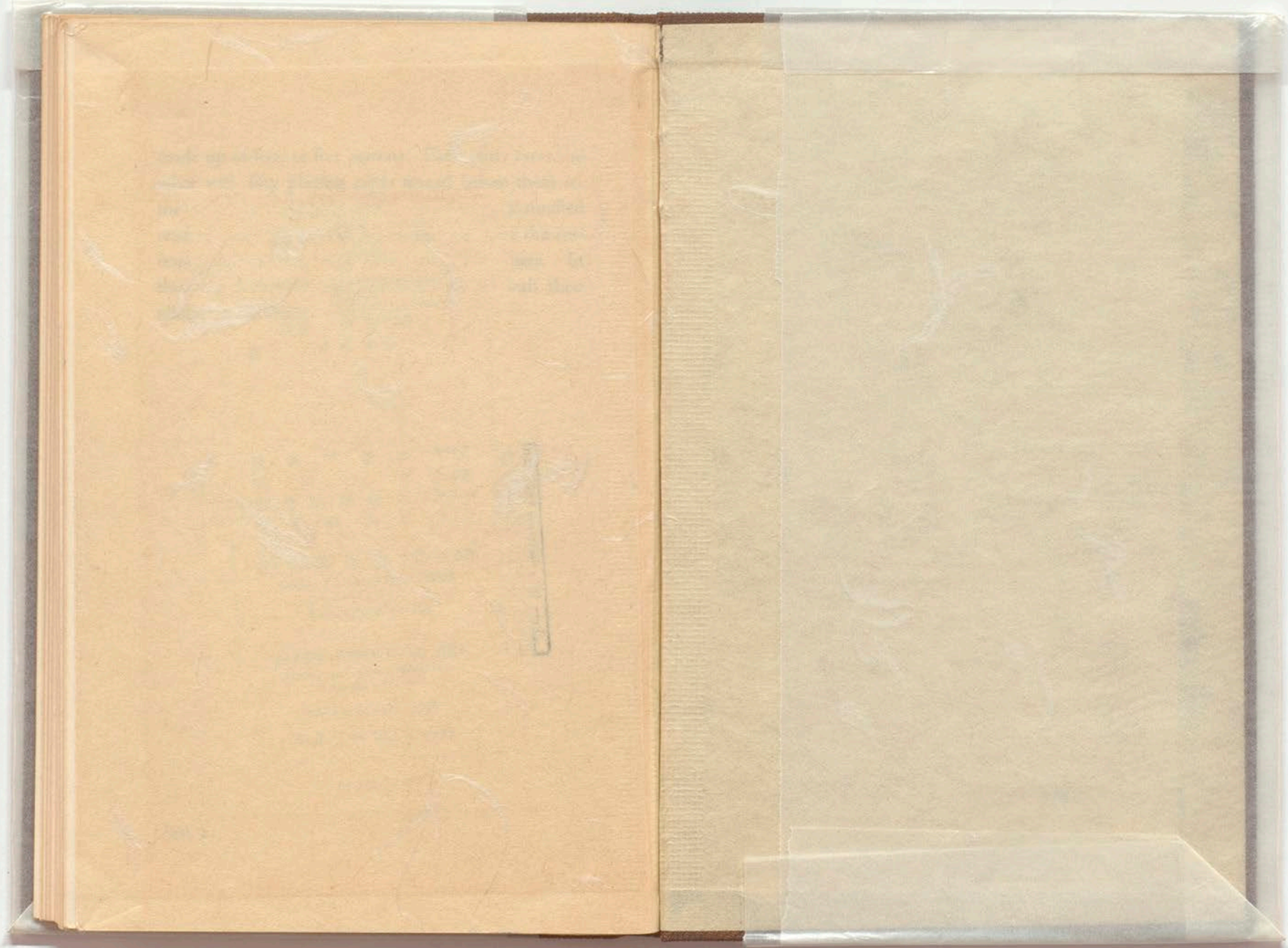
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