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Japanese Culture & Art
Haiku, its Characteristics and Fertility



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1. Characteristics (Rules)

Japanese Haiku (俳句) has the world's shortest poem with “**Yuki Teikei**” (有季定型).

1) “Yuki”(有季)

“**Kigo**”, seasonal reference (words), should be included.

→ Japanese emotion has been united with nature in its long history.

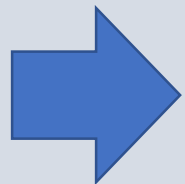
2) “Teikei” (定型)

Determined form with **Three phrases, 17** phonetic units similar to syllables in a **5, 7, 5 pattern.**

→ Rhythm of Japanese feeling has been changed into a 5, 7, 5 pattern in its long history.

The shortest poem means:

1. We cannot express everything.
2. We try **not to explain the meaning**, but to express the world or nature which we have felt.



“**Kireji**” (**Cutting word**) is its effective method to cut the meaning.

e.g. “**Kana(かな)**”, “**ya(や)**”, “**keri(けり)**”

3. We try to find the suitable words, **entrusting to the seasonal word or objects**, which we are watching.
4. It is better to avoid direct words like “sad” or “happy”.

★ Quiz:

What are seasonal words to use from the photos and for which season?

①



②



3



4



5



6



2. History of Haiku (俳句)

Haiku originated as an opening part of a larger Japanese poem called "**renga**" (連歌) *Continuous long poems with 5.7.5 →7.7→5.7.5→7.7

The opening stanza were known as "**hokku**" (発句) and over time writers began to write them as stand alone poems.

◆ Beginning of the modern Haiku at the end of the 19th century:

Haiku was given its current name by **Masaoka Shiki** (1867-1902)



Takahama Kyoshi (1874-1959) followed Shiki and popularized Haiku

Kyoshi's thoughts about Haiku represents "**kachofuei**" (花鳥諷詠) and asserted "**kyakkan shasei**" (客観写生) as its technique.



“Kacho fuei”(花鳥諷詠)

“kacho”(花鳥)

Any phenomenon (both in nature and the human world) under the changing of the four seasons

“fuei”(諷詠)

Composing poetry

“kyakkan shasei”(客観写生)

“kyakkan”(客観)

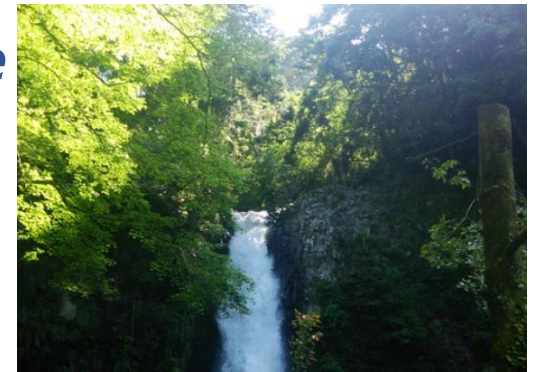
An object

“shasei”(写生)

To express based on observations

“kyakkan shasei”(客観写生)

To put the impression of the object into words, which manifests in consciousness as a phenomenon



3. Enjoy Haiku (俳句)

◆ 閑さや岩にしみ入る蝉の声 松尾芭蕉

【shizukasa-ya iwa-ni shimiiru semi-no-koe】

by Matsuo Basho(1644-1694)

The stillness
the voice of a cicada
seeping into the crags

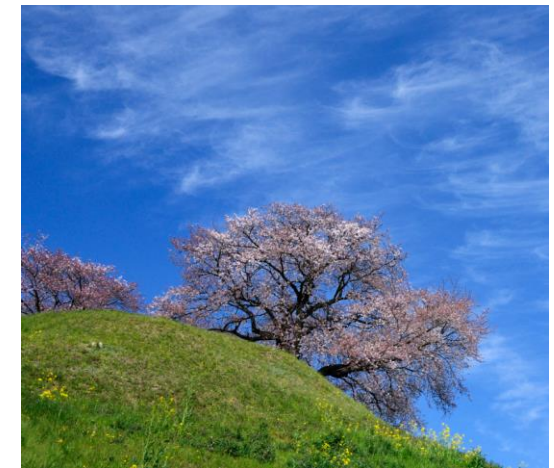


◆ 春風や闘志いだきて丘に立つ

【Harukaze ya toshi idakite oka ni tatsu】

by Takahama Kyoshi

Standing on a hill
with a spring breeze
and a fighting spirit



4. The Japanese haiku (俳句) and haiku

Haiku by Robert Lommon (Germany)

A starry night sky

merges into spring's first dawn

Birds already chirping

星空が (hoshizora ga)

春暁となる (shungyo tonaru)

鳥の声 (tori no koe)

Haiku by Mila Temnyalova (Bulgaria)

Sailing through calm waters

to meet twelve stars

a paper boat

12の星に会うため(12 no hoshi ni autame)

静かな水を航く(shizukana mizu wo hiku)

一艘の紙舟(issou no kamibune)

◆ Common

Short poem

◆ Difference

Seasonal words & Rhythm with 5, 7, 5

Japanese haiku (俳句) is one and only !

Japanese unique culture & Japanese language world

1) "Yuki" (有季)

"Kigo", seasonal reference (words) , should be included.

→ Japanese emotion has been united with nature in its long history.

2) "Teikei" (定型)

Determined form with Three phrases, "17 phonetic units similar to syllables in a 5, 7, 5 pattern.

→ Rhythm of Japanese feeling has been melted into 5, 7, 5 pattern in its long history.

5. Haiku from the photo

**(1) Why did you take such a photo ?
(What did you feel ?)**

**(2) Let's try to express your impression
from the photo into words with 3 phrases
as a haiku.**