



Murasaki Shikibu

1000

The Tale of Genji

FRONT COVER



Tale of Genji Toyokuni Utagawa 歌川豊国

Ukiyo-e triptych print showing a snowy landscape with a woman brandishing a broom and a man holding an umbrella. A modern version of the Tale of Genji in snow scenes. 1 print (3 sheets) : woodcut, color ; 36.8 x 76.1 cm (whole image), 36.4 x 25.4 cm (left panel), 36.8 x 25.1 cm (center panel), 36.5 x 25.6 cm (right panel).

Format: Vertical Oban Nishikie triptych.

Date 1853

THE TALE
OF
GENJI

LADY
MURASAKI SHIKIBU
1008

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MURASAKI SHIKIBU

Murasaki Shikibu is said to be the author of *The Tale of Genji*. Although the same can be said for all women of Murasaki's time, her real name and the date of birth and death cannot be confirmed even for her, the leading author of her day. The name of Murasaki Shikibu was that used for a court lady with "Murasaki" being used as a given name while "Shikibu" refers to her father's position at the court. Beside writing *The Tale of Genji*, Murasaki also showed her genius in her other famous book called *The Diary of Murasaki Shikibu*.

Murasaki Shikibu was born in a middle-level family of nobility during the middle of the Heian Period. Her father, Fujiwara Tametoki, was known as a scholar and man of literacy although he accomplished little of note as an official in the government. Perhaps in compensation for this, he took pains to see that his daughter was well learned. Murasaki Shikibu was remarkable when yet a child learning to read books that even educated boys found difficult.

Murasaki's childhood was not a happy one as her mother passing away soon after she was born followed by her elder sister on whom she depended. Murasaki married rather late into a family of similar social class. Within a few years, her husband died leaving Murasaki with a daughter and much grief and pain. It was against this background that Murasaki began writing *The Tale of Genji* in which she looks closely at the relationships of men and women and the unfortunate circumstances in which women find themselves placed in.

Prime Minister Fujiwara no Michinaga appears to have found Murasaki a position working for the Empress Akiko based on the Murasaki's fame that resulted from the popularity of *The Tale of Genji*. Various theories exist as to when the writing of *The Tale of Genji* was finished but it seems likely that she continued writing it while serving the Empress. Although it is not certain as to the date of Murasaki's death, she likely passed away shortly after she finished the famous novel, perhaps when she was forty or so.

CHAPTER 1 *The Paulownia Court*

At an indeterminate time in Japan's history, an unnamed emperor is in love with a lady of lesser rank much to the chagrin of the grand ladies at court. Although this unnamed lady is very beautiful and is a member of the upper classes, she is not fully highborn and is something of a dirty little secret for the emperor. However, the secret is not well-kept, and everyone at court knows that this lady is the emperor's favorite. This frustrates the other royal wives, who are of higher social station, so they routinely speak against this upstart woman who holds the emperor's affections.

As time goes on and the lady frequently spends her evenings with the emperor, she becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son she names Genji.

“This was her farewell poem. Still she hesitated, on the point of getting into her carriage.
The old lady sent a reply:

*"Sad are the insect songs among the reeds.
More sadly yet falls the dew from above the clouds."*



Kiritsubo, Lady. Genji's mother, a favorite wife of his Emperor father, but persecuted by her rivals at court, who resented the favors granted someone of relatively undistinguished birth. She dies when he is very young.

CHAPTER 2 *The Broom Tree*

The young Genji lives with his wife at his father-in-law's house in Sanjo, but cannot resist his urge to stray from his wife. Though he detests the promiscuity that he sees all around him at court, he engages in a few trysts of his own. As Genji explores the wider world while meeting and sleeping with new women, he spends less and less time at Sanjo.

As well, Genji strikes up a friendship with To no Chujo, the son-in-law of the Minister of the Right. To no Chujo is not adverse to sleeping around, and is frequently out and about, getting into amorous adventures with several ladies.

One day, when Genji and To no Chujo are at court, they discuss the qualities of women and how difficult it is to find excellent women.

“I yearn to dream again the dream of that night.

The nights go by in lonely wakefulness.”



To no Chujo, is the servant of the wife of the Governor of Iyo.

CHAPTER 3 *The Cicada Shell*

Genji wakes up the next morning, still lying next to the boy, and he is disappointed. After all, he has been rebuffed time after time and has never had to deal with this sort of failure before. So, he tries for one more meeting with Utsusemi.

The day finally comes when Genji might be able to see this woman who has turned him away and her brother, once again, leads him into the house. While Genji is sneaking around the palace, he hears other women say that the lady is in another room playing a game, so Genji slyly works his way past the curtain to finally lay eyes on this woman who has so frustrated him. Seeing two women there, he realizes that the woman he is after is beautiful, if rather chatty....

*“The dew upon the fragile locust wing
Is lost among the leaves.
Lost are my tears.”*



Utsusemi, Lady. The traditional name of the woman also known as "the lady of the cicada shell." Seduced (too forcefully) by Genji while she is the wife of the governor of Iyo, beginning a long relationship. In this chapter, she gives him the slip, he winds up sleeping with her stepdaughter, the sister of the governor of Kii. Her younger brother, Kogimi tries unsuccessfully to get her to see Genji again.

CHAPTER 4 *The Twilight Beauty*

Genji goes to visit his former nurse, Koremitsu, who has become a nun. While he is visiting the woman who cared for him as he was growing up, he asks her about Yugao, a girl who lives in a house near the nunnery.

After making some investigations, Koremitsu reports that she has not seen Yugao, but has written to her. She reports that Yugao writes in a very respectable hand. Genji, who is always on the lookout for new conquests, attempts to contact her but his attempts are unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, Genji also strikes up a romance with a lady living in the palace of Rokujo. After some initial resistance, he finally sleeps with the Rokujo lady, but he finds that finally fulfilling his desires leaves him cold.

*The evening sky itself
becomes something to cherish
when I gaze at it,
seeing in one of the clouds
the smoke from her funeral pyre*

It also is important to know that Yugao's name means 'Evening Faces.' Therefore, Genji's reference to 'being deeply intimate with the evening sky' refers to the love he shared with Yugao.



Yûgao, Lady of the Evening Faces. Mistress of To no Chujo, by whom she has a daughter, Tamakazura. After his coldness makes her flee, she is briefly the mistress of Genji, till slain by the jealous spirit of the Lady of Rokujo, a tale told in this chapter. Her name comes from the white flowers on the eaves of the building she is living in when Genji comes across her.

CHAPTER 5 *Young Murasaki*

Genji is stricken with malaria and, after attempting several cures, is finally recommended to a sage who lives up the mountains. Eager to rid himself of the disease, Genji goes up to see the man who works his cures upon Genji.

As Genji is under the care of the sage, he happens to see Murasaki, a beautiful young girl who is only 10 years of age, living at a nearby nunnery. Despite Murasaki's age, Genji is suddenly taken with a desire to have this young girl as his own and make her his wife when she grows into a woman. Thus, with this new purpose, Genji is determined to take Murasaki under his care in order to instruct her properly, so he speaks with the bishop who runs the local nunnery.

*“Rushes hide the sea grass at Wakanoura.
Must the waves that seek it out turn back to sea?”*

“That would be too much to ask of them.”



Waka Murasaki, Lady. First enters the novel as a 10 year old child. She is the daughter of Prince Hyobu, but Genji carries her off because she reminds him of Hyobu's sister Fujitsubo, whom he loves. At 14, she becomes one of Genji's secondary wives and his favorite. Her name is from a plant which produces a lavender dye. Her prominence in the novel probably accounts for its author being known as Murasaki Shibiku.

CHAPTER 6 *The Safflower*

Genji is still forlorn over the death of Yugao and he attempts to find another woman to replace her. When he hears a report of a possible prospect, Genji sends notes to her. However, the affairs never go anywhere, generally petering out quickly after only a note or two.

In this sad state of affairs, Genji strikes up a friendship with Tayu, a daughter of one of Genji's former nurses. Tayu provides him with reports about a princess living in very poor conditions. Unfortunately, Tayu cannot report anything about the looks or disposition of the Safflower Princess. He has never seen her face, but Genji is not dissuaded and immediately asks Tayu to act as his go-between with the Safflower Princess.

*“Always, always my sleeve is wet like these.
Wet because you are so very cold.”*



Suetsumuhana, is the name of a kind of safflower or saffron flower. In this chapter, Genji tracks down a forgotten princess in romantic straits, the daughter of Prince Hitachi, only to discover that she has a large red nose; in a poem, he alludes to this feature by citing the flower. Genji treats her reasonably well, anyway, though he makes fun of her to Murasaki.

CHAPTER 7 *Beneath the Autumn Leaves*

In the Middle of the Tenth Month, there was a royal excursion to the Suzaku Palace.

Music came from boats decorated as various sized dragons, which were rowed out over the lake. People danced to a variety of Chinese and Korean songs. Most admirable flutists were selected when Genji and To-no- Chujo danced the "Wave of the Blue Ocean" together. The dancing was held among the falling leaves, whose beauty frightened the people.

On New Year's Day, on his way to the morning festivities at court, Genji went to the west wing to see Murasaki. She had already taken out her dolls. When Genji asked, "As New Year comes, do you feel grown up?"... The nurse, Shonagon, told her, "This year you must try to be more grown up. You should not play with dolls after the age of ten".

The Emperor showed off his new born baby saying that he resembled Genji very much.... It was early summer and the garden was full of wild carnations in full bloom. He broke off a few of them and sent them to Fujitsubo with a poem saying that the paper was weighted with his tears as with the dew of wild carnations.

The emperor enjoyed the company of pretty women in his court. All the court ladies around him were talented and charming.... She was wellborn and cultivated, but at the same time very indiscriminate towards love. When Genji had made a joke about her, she became serious.

One day when she had finished dressing the emperor's hair she found herself alone with Genji.... She gave him a sidelong glance that was hidden behind a gaudy fan.

One evening in the cool after a shower, Genji was strolling past the Ummeiden Pavilion.

*"I see her disappear behind the clouds
And am left to grope my way through deepest darkness."*



People danced to a variety of Chinese and Korean songs. Most admirable flutists were selected when Genji and To-no-Chujo danced the "Wave of the Blue Ocean" together. The dancing was held among the falling leaves, whose beauty frightened the people.

CHAPTER 8 *Under the Cherry Blossoms*

At the end of the Second Month, the festival of cherry blossoms took place in the Grand Hall. Late in the night, Genji went quietly up towards Fujitsubo's residence, but the door was tightly closed. He made his way to the gallery by Kokiden's pavilion, where he found the door was open. The sixth daughter of the Minister of the Right appeared. She recognized his voice and did not refuse him. The dawn soon approached. She did not tell him her name. They exchanged their fans and he was on his way in a hurry. The misty moon of the twentieth day hung over the sky.

The lady of that misty moon, remembering the encounter, was sunk in distress. She had to marry with the crown prince in the Fourth Month. Late in the Third Month, the Ministry of the Right held a wisteria banquet. He invited Genji to the festivities. His elegant dress dominated the other guests and his beauty outshone the blossoms. After playing the instruments, he went to a corner where the princess of the ministry stood pretending to be drunk. He tried to find out the owner of the fan. The voice who had replied to his poem was the lady's.

*“Late in the night we enjoy a Misty moon.
There is nothing misty about the bond between us.”*



Oborozukiyo, a younger sister of **Kokiden**, she seems to be a concubine of her nephew, the **Susaku Emperor**, but has an affair with **Genji**, which earns him exile.

CHAPTER 9 *Heart to Heart*

The Kamo festival was held on the birthday in the Forth Month. The older emperor's third daughter, whose mother was Kokiden, replaced the high priestess. Because of this alteration, the processions taking place were grander than usual. Genji was among the attendants. The roads were full of people and vehicles. The Rokujo lady had also come quietly to see the procession. But a latecomer took her place: it was Aoi's carriage. Aoi's servants had broken the stools for her carriage shafts. She was filled with tears at that insult.

On the following day, Genji decided to set out to view the festival with Murasaki. He went to her room in the west wing. Ladies were also preparing for the outing. He found that her hair was too long, so he summoned a doctor to check the Buddhist calendar to confirm whether the day was suitable for a haircut. Then he trimmed her hair himself. She stood on the Go plate to check the length of her hair.

Since the quarrel over the carriage, the Rokujo lady spent the time restlessly. Rumors spread that her spirit or that of her father clung to Aoi-no-Ue. That was the malign spirit. She herself dreamed that her soul had indeed gone to Aoi and tortured her. She believed that your soul left your body when you one hated someone strongly. The odor of poppy seeds never vanished.

Aoi died too soon. This was only after she gave birth to a baby boy safely, which was a great relief to all the people. But she was again seized with the malign spirit and died. Even the old emperor sent a personal message. He received condolences from the crown prince and Fujitsubo. The crowds of mourners overwhelmed the wide crematory of Torinobe. It was late in the Eight Month and a quarter moon still hung. Returning to Sanjo, Genji lamented over the death of Aoi while contemplating the moon of the dawn.

*“Many a desolate autumn have I known,
But never have my tears flowed as tonight.
Each year brings rains of autumn.”*



Aoi. Genji's first principal wife, married to him when he is 12 and she is four years older. Not surprisingly, she finds him childish, and their relations remain uncomfortable until her death. She is the only daughter of the Minister of the Left at the opening of the novel, and their marriage is meant to cement her father's close relations with the imperial family. Like her brother, Genji's friend To no Chujo, she is his child by his principal wife, Princess Omiya. She is the mother of Yugiri. Her death is attributed to the jealous spirit of the Lady of Rokujo.

CHAPTER 10 *The Green Branch*

Since the death of Aoi, Genji had stopped his visits to the Rokujo lady. She decided to go to Ise with her daughter. It was the beginning of September, and the departure date approached. Genji visited her at the temporary shrine at Sagano. The autumn flowers were gone and insects hummed weakly. A wind blew lonesome through the pine trees. The low wattle fence surrounded the shrines and the gate made of black wood gave an awesome dignity. The prince proffered a branch of the sacred tree, and told her in a poem:

“With heart unchanging as this evergreen sacred tree, I entered.”

After talking through the night, her bitterness was erased. In the middle of September, the Rokujo lady went down to Ise to escort her daughter. The family expected that she should be the empress in the future, so she had become the late crown prince's wife at sixteen. But at twenty he had left her behind. Now at thirty she left for Ise, filled with all these memories.

As the carriages of the ladies were lined up before the mansion of Genji, he sent a poem to be attached to a sacred tree. Then he spent the day alone, sunk in a sad reverie.

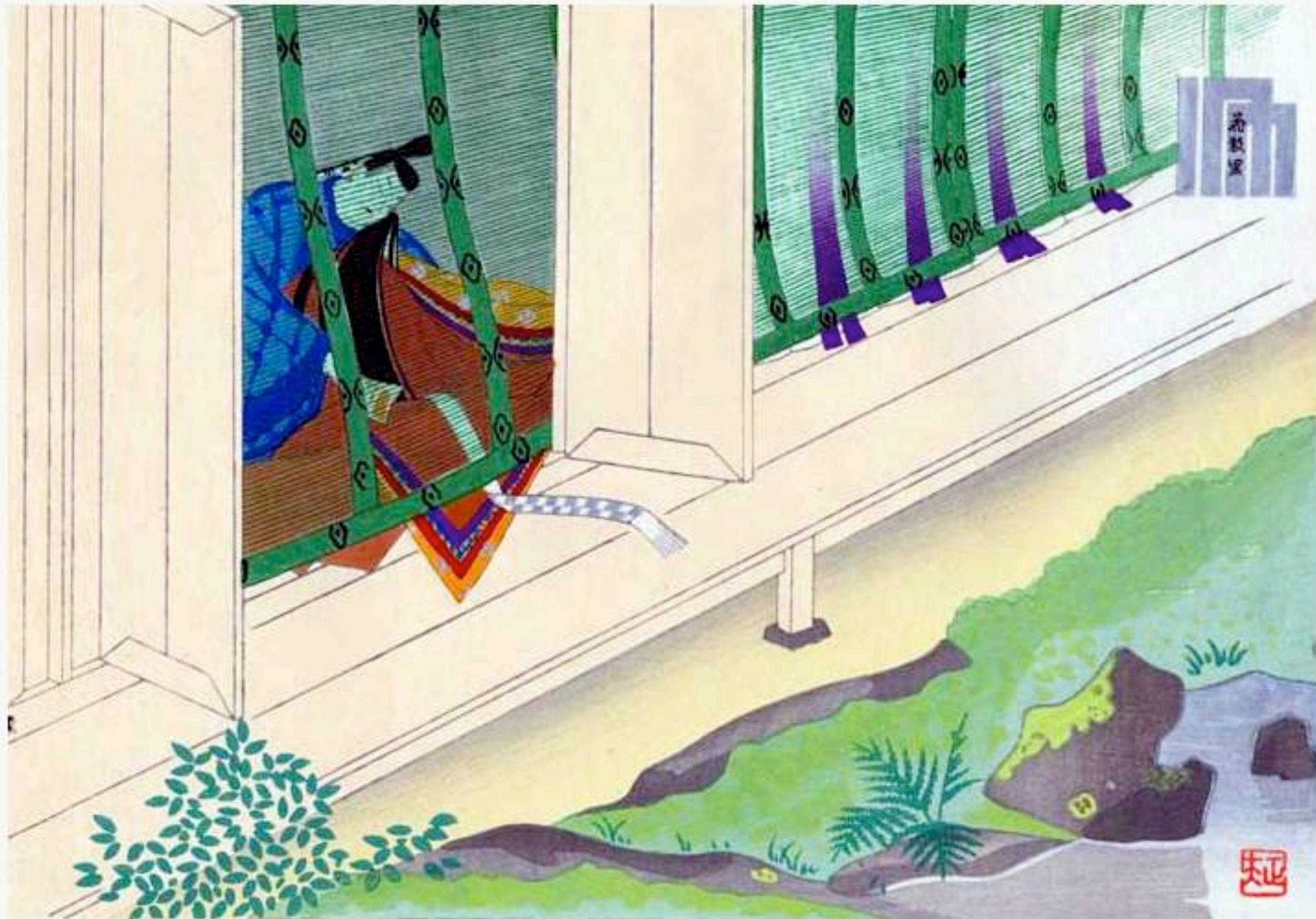


Rokujo, Lady. Widow of the crown prince Prince Zembo and a longtime mistress of Genji. Eight years older than Genji Her jealousy is so strong that her wandering spirit kills the Lady of the Evening Faces, Yugao and Aoi, and attacks others. Mother of Akikonomu.

CHAPTER 11 *Falling Flowers*

Reikeiden had been one of the old emperor's ladies. Taking advantage of a rare break in the early-summer rains, he visited her. Her residence was lonely and quiet, as he had expected. He talked over the memories of his lifetime with her during the night. The tall trees in the garden became darker in the light of the past twentieth day's moon. The scent of orange blossoms from the neighboring house drifted in, to call back the past. He heard the call of a cuckoo that was similar to the one he had heard at the Inner River on his way here. He met the sister of the lady Hanachirusato, with whom he had had a chance encounter at court before.

*“It catches the scent of memory, and favors
The village where the orange blossoms fall.”*



Hanachirusato. Literally "falling flowers" or the "village of falling flowers," this is the title of this chapter, which introduces the younger sister of Lady Reikeiden. She is thereafter known as "the lady of the village of falling flowers" in Waley and Tyler and, since the flowers are orange blossoms, as the "lady of the orange blossoms" in Seidensticker.

CHAPTER 12 *Suma*

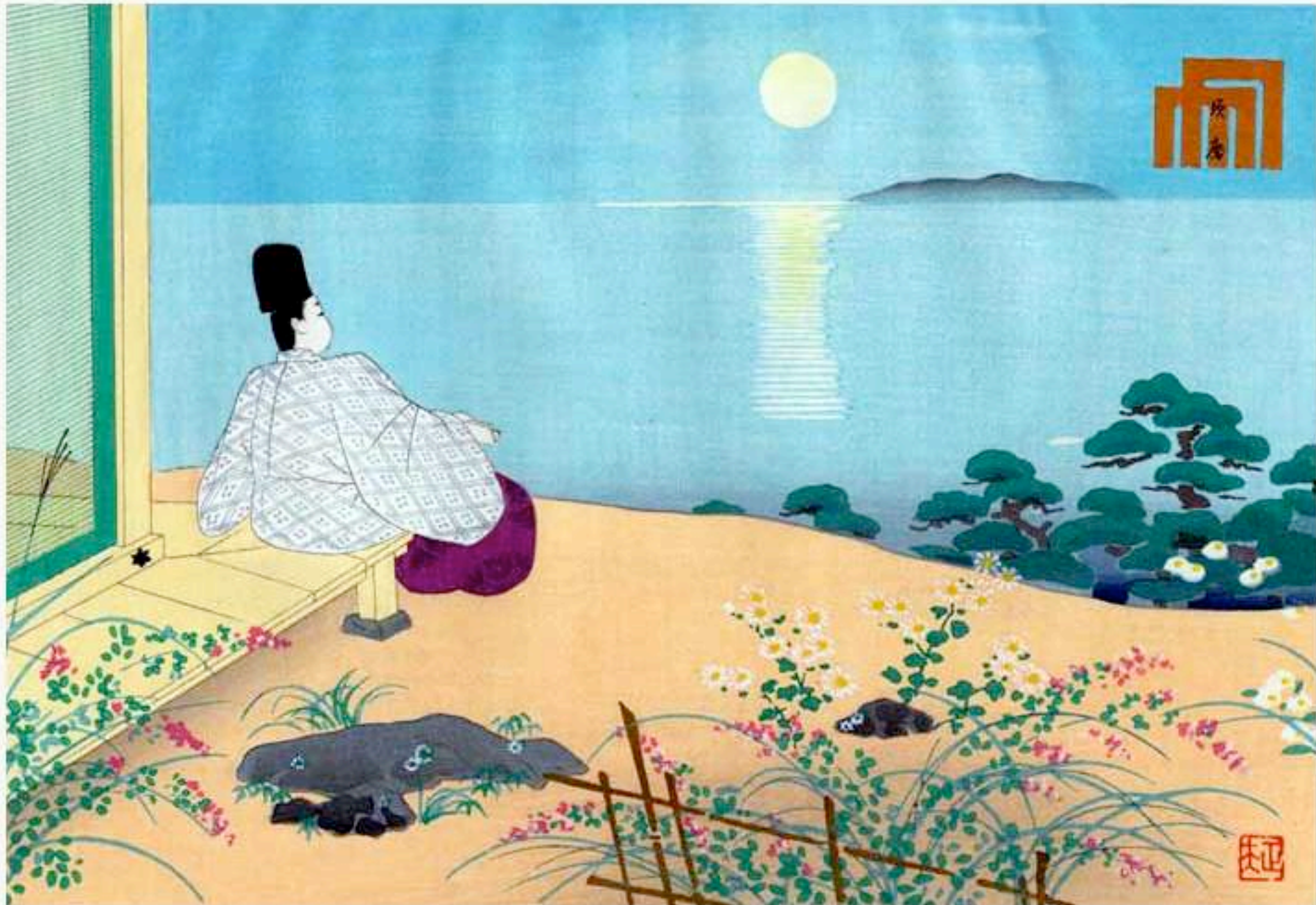
The scandal of his love affair with Oborozukiyo caused a worse situation for Genji. There was a possibility that he would be exiled. To avoid the worst punishment, he decided go to the Suma coast on his own initiative in the late Third Month.

Before his departure, he visited his father-in-law at night. His carriage was a humble one covered with cypress basketwork, so as not to attract the notice of Kokiden side. He talked of old times with the Minister and To-no-Chujo and lamented the uncertainty of life. His little son Yugiri also aroused his tears. He summoned and spent the night with Chunagon. When the moon in its first suggestion of daylight was most beautiful, he got up to leave. He sat against the railing a corner of the veranda and contemplated the falling cherry blossoms. Chunagon came out to see him off at the door.

To-no-Chujo and Prince Hotaru, Genji's brother, came calling. Since he was now without rank and office, he changed to informal, plain colored dress of silk. As he combed his hair he could not help noticing that loss of weight had made him even handsomer. Murasaki sat behind the pillar gazing at him with tears. Unable to see her sadness, he told her: "I must go into exile; in this mirror, an image of me will remain yet beside you." Prince Hotaru went back in the evening.

On the night before his departure he visited his father's grave in the northern hills. He went first to take leave of Fujitsubo to ask her message for him. The moon had risen and he set out. He was on horseback and had only five or six attendants. He stooped to bow at the Lower Kamo Shrine. Grasses overgrew the path to the grave. The forest was thick. Genji complained to him that his last will and testament was destroyed, and about other things. When the moon had gone behind a cloud, he seemed to his father as he once had been.

*"You eight hundred myriad gods must surely help me,
For well you know that blameless I stand before you."*



Suma. Along the shore around the modern city of Kobe. Genji presumably chooses this as a place of exile because it had been the place of exile for Ariwara no Yukiwaka, a ninth century poet whose poems he recalls. The place gives its title this chapter. After a year, he leaves here for Akashi, which is just a little further along the coast.

CHAPTER 13 *Akashi*

The days went by and the thunder and rain continued. Genji was intimidated. A messenger did come from Murasaki. He arrived soaked to the skin, appearing less than human. Genji would not normally have invited in such a shabbily dressed man. Yet the man brought him affection. He thought himself become weak and vulnerable. The letter of Murasaki and his story about city made him even lonelier.

On the following morning, when the storm had subsided, an old monk came from Akashi to see Genji. Genji was puzzled how the monk could have reached the shore in the severe storm. He sent Yoshiyuki to see the old man. Then he said that he had come here to take Genji to his own place, as he had been instructed in a dream. Genji also had a dream of the old emperor who had come through the skies to help him. After deliberation, he decided to go the Akashi coast. Taking along only four or five attendants, he boarded a boat. Then a strange wind came up and they arrived at Akashi as if they had flown.

On a quiet moonlit night in the Fourth Month, he could see the Awaji Island in front of his new residence. The sea was like the familiar water of his garden in the city. He took the seven-stringed koto, long neglected. The monk, who was conducting his practice in the temple and his daughter, Akashi Princess who lived in the hills, were moved by the sound. Casting aside his beads, he came running to the main house. Sending to the house on the hill for a lute and a thirteen-stringed koto, he played with Genji together. Until late at night they played the instruments. The old man told the story of his past and asked Genji to marry his daughter. In the city, on the night of a storm, the emperor Sujaku had a dream. His father stood at the stairs of the east garden of the Seiryō chamber and had a great deal to say about Genji. Perhaps because his eyes had met the angry eyes of his father, he came down with a very painful eye ailment (In the graphic, the old emperor stands in the gallery.) On the very same night, Genji also had a dream about the old emperor at Suma. He encouraged Genji and told him to leave the Suma shore.

Accepting the demand of the old monk, Genji invited his daughter to come to his house. But she refused to be summoned like a servant. Yielding to her resistance, Genji went on horseback to the hill with Koremitsu on the night of the near full moon. The coast lay full in sight below. He would like to show it to Murasaki. The temptation was strong to turn his horse's head and gallop on to the city. On seeing the monk's daughter, Princess Akashi, Genji was strongly impressed with her nobleness.

Late in the Seventh Month, the emperor issued an order to summon Genji who had become twenty-eight years old. The Akashi lady was pregnant. As he could not take her along, he comforted her with promises that he would choose an opportune time to bring her to the city. The lady was sunk in the deepest gloom fearing to be left alone and longing for the love of Genji. The monk became senile, lamenting that his daughter could not go with Genji. On a moonlit night, while conducting his practice, the monk fell into the brook and bruised his hip on one of the garden stones.



Akashi. At the time, like Suma was a small fishing village which gives its title to this chapter. It is about 5 miles from Suma where Genji begins his exile before moving to Akashi. There is a Japanese castle in Akashi which is where Genji would have stayed. Very little of the castle remains today.

CHAPTER 14 *The Pilgrimage to Sumiyoshi*

From about the beginning of the Third Month, Genji thought about the Akashi lady, for her time was approaching. He sent off a messenger who returned with good news that a girl was safely delivered on the sixteenth. He was reminded of what a fortune-teller had once told him. Genji would have three children who would be certain to become emperor, empress and chancellor. Genji badly regretted letting his daughter not be born in Kyoto.

When the long rains of early summer came, he paid a visit to Hanachirusato, the lady of orange blossoms. She was totally dependent on Genji. Through she saw little of him, she never showed her resentment like a modern girl. He knew that she would not make him uncomfortable. He was himself very beautiful in the misty moonlight. She was waiting for him out near the veranda, in contemplation of the night. From nearby there came the metallic cry of a water rail. Her soft and modest character pleased Genji.

In the autumn Genji made a pilgrimage to Sumiyoshi shrine. It was a brilliant progress, thanks to his prayers. A huge number of attendants participated. Men who had in earlier days led bitter lives like Koremitsu and Yoshikiyo were among them. For the Akashi lady it was tormenting to see the entire splendor but not see Genji himself. Even a small child like Yugiri had his own servants. The lady felt the difference between Genji and her own family. It seemed that her daughter was utterly significant. As she thought that the god would scarcely notice her little offering, she directed her boat to Naniwa.

Returning to Kyoto, the Rokujo lady fell ill and died. In his retreat, holding a religious service, Genji sent frequently to inquire after her daughter to console her. It was a day of high wind, driving snow and sleet. He thought how much more miserable the weather must seem to her. Genji sent a poem saying that the spirit of her mother would watch over her. He wrote it with a dazzling brush on a paper of cloudy azure.

*“Remembering those fearful winds and waves,
Am I to forget the god of Sumiyoshi?”*



Sumiyoshi. A Shinto god with a shrine located in Sumiyoshi which is part of modern day Kobe City on the Japan Inland Sea. Genji probably visited the shrine to change his misfortunes, which seem to have worked.

CHAPTER 15 *A Waste of Weeds*

While Genji had descended to Suma, no one took care for Suetsumuhana, the Princess Hitachi.

Her house was deteriorating. The owls hooted in the forest. The strange phantoms called Kodama appeared. The rushes were thick and wormwood touched the eaves; bindweed had firmly barred the gates. The boys deliberately drove their cows and horses around in the spring and summer. A typhoon blew down the galleries of her house. Even robbers passed, finding there nothing to see.

Princess Hitachi had an aunt who had a grudge against her sister, the mother of the princess. Now that her sister's house was in ruins she would have liked to hire her niece as governess. The aunt was proud of her husband who was presently appointed assistant viceroy of Kyushu. Parking her luxurious cart in front of the mansion, she pleaded with her lady to go with her. When the princess refused to go, she got so angry that she took all the reliable women. The princess was in such despair she wept.

Wisteria blossoms, trailing from a giant pine, waved gently. The branches of a willow dropped to the ground in a great disordered forest, which Genji remembered. He had his carriage stopped, and sent Koremitsu to see the interior. He knew Suetsumuhana still lived there. Koremitsu beat at the grass with a horsewhip and led Genji, whose feet and ankles were soaking. The Princess Hitachi, who had not changed, impressed him.

*“My sleeves still wet from tears for him who died
Are wetter yet from rain through ruined eaves.”*



Safflower Princess has fallen on hard times. Since she is dependent upon Genji for financial support and Genji cannot send money during his exile, her life begins crumbling.

CHAPTER 16 *At the Pass*

The vice-governor of Iyo had the year after the death of Genji's father become vice-governor of Hitachi.

The winds blowing down over Tsukuba were not to be trusted, it seemed, and reports from the city were few; and so the months and years went by.

It happened that on the day the Hitachi party came to Osaka barrier, Genji had set off on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to Ishiyama. The former governor of Kii and others had come from the city to meet the Hitachi party. The ladies, sleeves and skirts protruding gaily from the blinds of perhaps ten of the carriages seemed not at all frowsy or countrified.

Kogimi went out to meet Genji on the return from Ishiyama and to apologize for not having stayed with him that earlier day. Fearing at the time of Genji's exile that the association would be damaging, he had gone off to Hitachi with his sister and brother-in-law. Though things could not be quite the same again, of course, Genji still thought the youth rather promising. His younger brother, a guards officer, had been stripped of his commission and had gone into exile with Genji, and now he was being richly rewarded.

You are a woman, and no one will reprove you, I think, if you concede a point and answer him."

She had not been lucky, thought the lady, and if now she were left a widow, what sort of ruin might lie ahead?

Her women were of course upset, and the governor was somewhat disappointed, and discommoded that she should have found him so little to her liking. He wondered how she meant to make her way through the long years ahead.

*“By chance we met, beside the gate of meeting.
A pity its fresh waters should be so sterile.”*



It happened that the party of Utsusemi, the wife of the vice-governor of Hitachi, who was on the way to return to Kyoto, and Genji's party, who was on a journey to Ishiyama shrine came across each other at the Osaka barrier. The vice-governor pulled his ten carriages to a stop under the cedars at the top of the barrier rise. Their coachman knelt respectfully for Genji to pass. Genji gave Uemonsa (formerly Kogimi) a message for his sister. He remembered their old days, which she too was unable to forget.

CHAPTER 17 *The Picture Contest*

Genji and Fujitsubo had made every effort to send Akikonomu, the former high priestess of Ise to the court to strengthen the position of Genji in the government. Therefore, Suzaku, the former emperor, was disappointed as he had been in love with her for long time. They would be a perfect couple as they were the same age. Imagining the feeling of Suzaku, Genji gave careful instructions to the superintendent for her marriage. He did not wish the Suzaku emperor to think that he was managing the girl's affairs.

The present emperor Reizei loved paintings. To amuse him, a contest of paintings was held between two parties in the court. On the left, the Plum Pavilion and Akikonomu faction had seated themselves wearing red robes and put all paintings in red boxes. On the right, the Kokiden faction in blue robes had lined up with their paintings in blue boxes. Genji and Tono-Chujo were present. Prince Hotaru acted as umpire. Although many famous paintings of the four seasons and Tsukinami were brought in, Prince Hotaru had not reached a final decision. Finally, the Suma scroll was offered by Genji, and that brought the victory to the left faction.

*“Shall we forget how deep is the sea of Ise
Because the waves have washed away old tracks?”*



Akikonomu. She is the daughter of Prince Zembo and the Lady of Rokujo. She is entrusted to Genji by her dying mother, and he raises her as his ward, though he is attracted to her himself. She serves as high priestess of the Ise shrine and later as the principal wife and empress of the Reizei emperor.

CHAPTER 18 *Wind in the Pines*

In autumn, the Akashi lady and her mother with a little girl took the boat to go to Kyoto, escorted by Genji's servants. But they were sad thinking of the old man who had to stay alone. He believed in the bond between his daughter and Genji and that the little one would bring pleasure to the people of the country. So he determined to stay alone and continued his prayers for the future. But his face was twisted with sorrow.

Genji prepared a residence for Akashi lady at Oi villa whose scenery had the same taste of the seashore of Akashi. The garden water was pleasant and interesting. But Genji did not visit her soon. With little to occupy her, the lady felt sorrow and missed her home. Taking out the seven-stringed Chinese koto that Genji had left with her, she played a brief strain to the wind in the pine trees. As her mother resting beside her made a poem of Akashi, the lady replied with a poem.

On the third day of his visit to Akashi, Genji moved to Katsura, because many court people had come over to Oi in search of him. An impromptu banquet was held. The voices of fishermen made him think of the sea women in Akashi. The young falconers offered a sampling of their take, tied to autumn reeds. Wine cups were tossed back and forth. People enjoyed poems and music. At the end, even the emperor delivered his personal message.

*“The mistress, long gone, is lost upon her return
To find that the brook has quite usurped her claims.”*



Akashi, Lady. Daughter of a former provincial governor turned priest, she becomes one of Genji's secondary wives. Her daughter is adopted by Murasaki and eventually becomes empress, giving birth to Prince Niou, one of the chief figures in the last ten chapters.

CHAPTER 19 *Wisps of Cloud*

When the snow had melted in the Twelfth Month, Genji paid his next visit to take the little princess to Kyoto. The Akashi lady resumed the struggle to control herself, which was not entirely successful. As the little girl tried to jump innocently into the carriage, the lady approached as far as the veranda to which it had been drawn up. Only the nurse and a young woman called Shosho got into the carriage, taking with them the sword and a sacred guardian doll. Genji could imagine the lady's anguish at sending her child off to a distant foster mother. She wrote a poem asking when she could see her daughter next.

Taking more than usual care, Genji chose robes for the visit to the Akashi lady in Oi. His trousers were beautifully dyed and scented, and over them he had thrown an informal court robe of white lined with red. Looking after him as he came to say goodbye, his radiance competed with the evening sunlight. The little girl clung to his trousers and begged to go with him. Looking fondly down at her, Genji said "I'll be back tomorrow". Murasaki felt vaguely apprehensive.

Fujitsubo had passed away in the Third Month at the age of thirty-six. As she had offered her faith and devotion to everybody, grief descended on the court. Not wanting to be seen weeping, Genji withdrew to the chapel, and spent the day there in tears. Wisps of cloud at the crest of the mountains in the clear evening light were colored in gray, which resembled his mourning weeds.

*“I go but for a while, and shall return
Though she may wish I had not come at all.”*



The Akashi lady resumed the struggle to control herself, which was not entirely successful. Genji could imagine the lady's anguish at sending her child off to a distant foster mother. She wrote a poem asking when she could see her daughter next.

CHAPTER 20 *The Bluebell*

He paid a visit to Princess Asagao, whose name meant “the morning glory.” Her attitude was very stiff and formal. He came back and lay awake with disappointment. He had the shutters raised early and stood looking out at the morning mist. He broke off a morning glory in the garden and sent it to Asagao with a poem saying, “I wonder if the flower has been taken past its bloom”.

In the Eleventh Month, the festival was canceled. Genji set off for Momozono mansion again. The traffic seemed to be going through the north gate. It would have been undignified for Genji to join the stream, and so he sent one of his men in through the great western gate. A chilly-looking porter rushed out to open it. But the gate was rusty, which gave him great trouble. Genji murmured, “When did wormwood overwhelm this gate? The hedge is now under snow, so going to ruin”.

There was a heavy fall of snow. In the evening there were new flurries. The moon turned the deepest recesses of the garden into a gleaming white. The contrast between the snow on the bamboo and the snow on the pines was very beautiful. The flower beds were wasted, the brook seemed to send up a strangled cry, and the lake was frozen and somehow terrible. Genji sent little maidservants into the garden, telling them that they must make snowmen. They seemed to enjoy themselves, which was all very charming. At night, Genji confessed to Murasaki his love affairs with various women.

*“The morning glory, wholly changed by autumn,
Is lost in the tangle of the dew-drenched hedge.”*



Asagao, Princess. Named for a flower ("morning glory" in Seidensticker, "bluebell" in Tyler). Daughter of Prince Momozono, who was a brother of Genji's father. She is thus his first cousin. He pursues her from time to time, but without success.

CHAPTER 21 *The Maidens*

Genji thought that Yugiri should go to the university to become a minister of state. So he put him in the sixth rank of the university, which surprised people who had expected that Yugiri would be promoted rapidly. Genji had a strong intention to promote the solid education of knowledge. Genji conducted mock examinations the day before the exam, inviting tutors to attend. Yugiri studied hard and passed the test for formal commencement of studies within six months. Genji was satisfied with Yugiri's result. Genji was this year to provide a dancer for the Gosechi dances at the harvest festival, in the Eleventh month. The prettiest and talented girls were selected for the Lord's inspection. Genji ordered a final rehearsal for the presentation at court. He had chosen one of Koremitsu's daughters among them. The glimpse of Koremitsu's daughter had excited Yugiri. He delivered her a love letter, which amused Koremitsu.

The new grand Rokujo mansion was finished. Lady Murasaki, Akikonomu, the lady of orange blossoms and Lady Akashi moved in. Genji lived with Murasaki in the southeast quarter, where spring blossoming trees and bushes were planted in large number. The hills were high and the lake was most ingeniously designed. Planted in the forward parts of the garden were cinquefoil pines, maples, cherries, wisteria, yamabuki and rock azalea, most of them spring season trees and shrubs. Touches of autumn too were scattered through the grove.

The southwest quarter was assigned to Akikonomu. For her mother, Lady Rokujo had once lived there. The hills, preserved from the old garden, were chosen for their rich autumn colors. Clear spring water went singing off into the distance, over rocks designed to enhance the music. There was a waterfall, and the whole expanse was a wild profusion of autumn flowers and leaves. The beauty of falling leaves exceeded that of the mountains of Sagano, a reputed place for autumn sight seeing.

The lady of orange blossoms lived in the northeast quarter. A cool natural spring and shadow of trees were designed to give the image of a summer town. In the forward parts of the garden the wind blowing through thickets of Chinese bamboo would be cool in the summer, and the trees were as deep as mountain groves. There was a hedge of mayflower as well as oranges, wild carnations, roses and gentians to remind of days long ago, and a few spring and autumn flowers too. Here, the lady of orange blossom took care of Yugiri and Tamakazura.

A part of the northeast quarter was fenced off for equestrian grounds. Because the Fifth Month would be its liveliest time, there were irises along the lake, from where people could enjoy horse races and equestrian archery. On the far side were stables where the finest horses would be kept. A Lady Akashi lived in the northwest quarter. Beyond artificial hillocks to the north were rows of warehouses, screened off by pines, which would be beautiful in new falls of snow.



Yugiri, Son of Genji and Aoi. He eventually becomes an important minister of state. His principal wife is Lady Kumoinokari, the daughter of To no Chujo, who initially opposes the match. This is a love match, but he eventually becomes obsessed with the Second Princess, the widow of Kashiwagi, and makes her a secondary wife.

CHAPTER 22 *The Tendril Wreath*

The year passed. Genji did not forget Yugao of the evening faces, who had died suddenly a long time ago. Her daughter went down to Dazaifu at the age of four, because the nurse's husband had been appointed deputy viceroy of Kyushu and the family had gone off with him to his post. Not knowing of her death, they prayed for information of any sort about the mother. They could not find any way to seek her father, To-no-Chujo. The nurse finally decided that she would keep the child to remember the mother by. When they set off, the child asked "Are we going to mother's?" The nurse and her daughter wept.

Years passed. The girl was even prettier than her mother. The young gallant of the region called Taifunogen heard about her and sent letters. Then Taifunogen decided the date of marriage one-sidedly. The nurse and her family set for Kyoto to escape from him. Although they had provided themselves with a fast boat and the winds did good service, and their speed was almost frightening, a pilot found them and almost reached them at Echo Bay. But the pursuit of the gallant was more threatening than that of the pilot. Fortunately, they had escaped from the pilot and Taifunogen and were relieved when they reached the Yodo River.

Returning to Kyoto more than fifteen or sixteen years later, the family of the nurse found difficulties in living. They prayed for god to save them. In autumn, they made pilgrimages to Hatsuse on foot. The walk was exhausting for the girl. When they lodged at the Tsubaki Market, Ukon happened to be staying in the same place. Looking through an opening in the curtains, she was surprised to find the old familiar faces. Ukon paid visit to the temple every year to pray for the gods to find the girl of the evening faces.

The nurse and Ukon were in tears. The nurse's party and Ukon arrived in time for the evening services. The temple swarmed with pilgrims. As the seat of the party was far from the front in the temple, Ukon invited them to her place almost under the Buddha. She could make this kind of arrangement owing to the special privilege of her master Genji, the chancellor. They stayed there for three days. Ukon prayed for good luck for Tamakazura.

Ukon told Genji what had happened. He decided to adopt Tamakazura as his daughter and assigned the lady of the orange blossoms to take care of her. On the night when Tamakazura moved into the west wing of the summer quarter, Genji saw her for the first time. When he pushed away the curtain of the porch, she was confused and looked away. But he had seen her enough to be very pleased. He was moved, and brushed away a tear telling that there had been no time through all years when she was out of his mind.



Tamakazura. The daughter of To no Chujo and a mistress, the lady of the evening faces. Genji keeps her existence secret from her father and brings her to his own home, but she rebuffs him. He finally marries her to Prince Hige-kuro. Her unsuccessful suitors include To no Chujo's son, Kashiwagi and Genji's younger brother, Prince Hotaru.

CHAPTER 23 *The Warbler's First Song*

When the busy day of the New Year ceremonies finished, Genji went calling on Suetsumuhana, the safflower princess. Her hair had been her only charm when she was young, but now the flow was a white trickle. Her nose was red on her white face as before. He arranged the curtain not to see her profile. As she looked cold, he sent to the Nijo warehouses for figured silks. Yet the plantings were fine. He spoke very softly that it seemed a pity that there was no one to appreciate the rose plum, just coming into bloom.

*“Upon the cloudless mirror of this lake,
Clear is the image, for ten thousand years.”*



Genji calls on the Safflower Princess in order to see how she is doing, but Genji is shocked to see how she has aged. Though Genji still holds a certain attachment to her, she has lost the few charms that she had now that she has gotten older. In fact, her hair, the one attractive part about her, is now gray, thin, and dried to a stringy mess. Unfortunately, though her hair has grown light, she has not lost her most obvious feature, her bright red nose.

CHAPTER 24 *Butterflies*

To reply to the Empress Akikonomu, who had sent an ornamental box of arranged autumn leaves and flowers in the last autumn, Murasaki would have liked to answer properly by showing off her spring garden. Genji agreed, but casual visits were out of question for one in her position. Numbers of her young women were rowed out over the south lake, which ran from her southwest quarter to Murasaki's southeast, with a hillock separating the two. Genji's entourage was deliciously exotic. The dragon and phoenix boats were brilliantly decorated in the Chinese fashion. The professional flutists struck up a melody. The little pages and helmsmen, their hair still bound up, wore Chinese dress. A willow trailed its branches in the deepening green, the cherry blossoms were at their best, the wisteria was rich, and yellow yamabuki reflected on the lakes as if about to join its own image. Waterfowls swam holding twigs in their bills. Genji and some young women watched from the angling pavilion.

There was to be a reading of the Prajnaparamita Sutra commissioned by Empress Akikonomu. Murasaki had prepared the floral offerings. She chose eight of her prettiest girls to deliver them, dressing four as birds and four as butterflies. The birds brought cherry blossoms in silver vases, the butterflies brought yamabuki, the yellow flowers, in gold vases. After they handed over the flowers to the monks, the girls started dancing. The music for the dance of the birds rang forth to the singing of warblers, to which the waterfowls on the lake added their clucks and chirps. The butterflies seemed to fly higher than the birds as they disappeared behind a low fence of yamabuki. It was with great regret that the audience saw the dances come to an end.

*“Our boats row out into the bright spring sun,
And water drops from the oars like scattering petals.”*



The dragon and phoenix boats were brilliantly decorated in the Chinese fashion. The little pages and helmsmen, their hair still bound up in the page-boy manner, wore lively Chinese dress, and everything about the arrangements was deliciously exotic, to add to the novelty, for the empress's women, of this southeast quarter. The boats pulled up below a cliff at an island cove, where the smallest of the hanging rocks was like a detail of a painting.

CHAPTER 25 *The Fireflies*

Unaware that Genji had arranged it, Prince Hotaru was delighted to receive a positive invitation from Tamakazura. The seat for the prince was prepared in front of her, just separated by curtains. Genji had earlier put a large number of fireflies in a cloth bag. Now he released them. Prince Hotaru was certain to look in Tamakazura's direction. Genji wanted him to suspect her. The prince was excited to feel that she sat so close to him.

On the fifth day of the Fifth Month, Yugiri brought some friends to Rokujo after a ceremony of equestrian archery at court. They enjoyed some more equestrianism, which was again more varied than that at the palace. The lady of orange blossoms, Tamakazura, and her servants watched from the galleries of the northeast quarter. The women on the southeast quarter were watching from the distance. Genji went out to look at the equestrian ground. Genji often held similar events at his residence, as a demonstration of his power.

*"You put out this silent fire to no avail.
Can you extinguish the fire in the human heart?"*



Hotaru, Prince. A younger brother of Genji. His first principal wife is a sister of his stepmother Kokiden. He later marries the daughter of Prince Hige-kuro. In this chapter, he is a suitor for Genji's ward Tamakazura. Genji gives him a glimpse of Tamakazura's beauty by releasing fireflies in her room at night, and this gives him the name used for him in the novel, which means "firefly."

CHAPTER 26 *The Pink*

It was a very hot day. Genji was cooling himself with his son Yugiri in the angling pavilion of the southeast quarter. Several of To-no-Chujo's sons came over. "You came at a very good time", said Genji. "I was feeling bored and sleepy". Fresh fishes from the West River and Kamo River were brought in and cooked in front of Genji. He was amused with the gossip of their father who recently had found his stray daughter, called Omi-no-kimi. As the sons thought that it did not bring honor to their father or to the family, they seemed uncomfortable. Genji was angry that To-no-Chujo had prevented the love of his son Yugiri for his daughter Kumoinokari. Offering wine, ice water and rice, he made fun of Chujo.

To-no-Chujo went to Kumoinokari's room unannounced. She was napping, very small and pretty, and managing to look cool in her single gossamer robe. Her head was cradled on one arm. The hair that flowed behind her in natural tresses was neither too long nor too thick, but was neatly cut. She looked up at him as he tapped with his fan, her eyes round, and the flush that came over her face delighted him. He lectured her to be vigilant even in her room and forbade her to see Yugiri.

Later he passed the room of Omi-no-kimi who was at a backgammon contest. Rubbing her hands, she was tattling off her prayer at a most wondrous speed. Omi was pretty and had beautiful hair. But a narrow forehead and a torrential way of speaking canceled out her good points. Tono- Chujo reprimanded her to slow down her speech. Replying that the speed was in her nature, she showed no sign of shame. It made Chujo uncomfortable to realize that he might have been looking at his own mirror image.

*"Who would come to seek the wild carnation
That grew at such a rough and rustic hedge?"*



To no Chujo went unannounced to Kumoinokari's (his daughter) rooms. She was napping, very small and pretty, and managing to look cool in spite of the heat. Her skin was a soft glow through a gossamer singlet. One hand still held a fan most prettily, and her head was cradled on an arm. The hair that flowed behind her in natural tresses was neither too long nor troublesomely thick, and beautifully combed. Her women too were asleep, behind blinds and screens. They were not easily awakened. She looked innocently up at him as he tapped with his fan, her eyes round and startled, and the flush that came over her face delighted him.

CHAPTER 27 *The Cressets*

In the Seventh Month, Genji stayed very late in the Tamakazura's room. Leaving his heart behind, he was about to leave, when he noticed that the lamps in the garden were low. Saying that an unlighted garden on a moonless summer night could almost be frightening, he sent a guard officer to stir and refuel them under a spindle tree far enough from the house so that the interior remained cool. In the soft light of the moderate flare, the lady was more beautiful than ever. The koto, Japanese zither, is seen against the spot where they had pillowed side by side a moment ago. Genji regards Tamakazura reluctantly.



The new moon was quick to set. The sky had clouded delicately over and the murmur of the rushes was sadder. They lay down side by side with their heads pillowed against the koto. He stayed very late, sighing and asking whether anywhere else in the world there were attachments quite like this one. Reluctantly, fearful of gossip, he was about to leave. Noticing that the flares in the garden were low, he sent a guards officer to stir and refuel them.

CHAPTER 28 *The Typhoon*

In Empress Akikonomu's autumn garden, the plantings were more beautiful than usual. All the autumn colors were gathered together, and emphasized by low fences of black and red. Though the flowers were familiar, they looked different in shape. The morning and evening dews were like gemstudded carpets. She returned to her residence in Rokujo. They forgot the spring's garden, which had been so pleasing a few months before. As the Empress Akikonomu was ill, Genji sent Yugiri to the palace with a message. He could see from the south veranda of the east wing in the southwest quarter that two shutters and several blinds had been raised at the main hall. Women were visible in the dim light. Some young women had come forward and were leaning against the balustrades. Little girls were pouring water into the insect cages and picking wild carnations. When Yugiri stepped forward, the women withdrew calmly. He felt the elegance maintained by Akikonomu.

*“Even on a night of raging tempests
I did not forget the one whom I do not forget.”*



Upon his return, Yugiri is walking through the garden and happens to hear Genji and Murasaki's pillow talk. Yugiri is surprised at this and is not sure what to make of it. However, as Yugiri is becoming a handsome young man in his own right, it is very educational for him.

CHAPTER 29 *The Imperial Progress*

In the Twelfth Month there was a royal outing to Oharano. All the ministers and councilors and whole court had turned out for the occasion. The princes and high officials were beautifully fitted out. Their guards and grooms, very good-looking, had put on special dresses. The princes and high courtiers in charge of falcons were in fine hunting dress. The falconers from the royal guards were even more interesting, all in printed robes of most fanciful design. Even the skies seemed intent on favoring the occasion, for there were flurries of snow. The procession left the palace at six in the morning and proceeded south along Suzaku Avenue and west on Gojo. Carriages of viewers lined the streets all the way to the river Katsura. The princes of Rokujo and Tamakazura were among the spectators. Tamakazura paid special attention to the Emperor Reizei, her own father, To-no-Chujo, Prince Hotaru and General Higeuro. The emperor in his red robe, who resembled Genji, attracted Tamakazura. It was her opinion that no one compared with him.

At the beginning of the Second Month, Genji set out for Sanjo to inquire about Princess Omiya, who had been ill. At that moment, he told her everything: that the father of his adopted daughter Tamakazura was To-no-Chujo, the Minister of the Interior at present.. Surprised with this news, she called the minister who came over with his many children to see Genji. Genji told him about Tamakazura's past and asked him to do the honor of tying the ceremonial apron for her. They laughed and wept and the earlier stiffness disappeared. It was very late when they went their separate ways

*“The crimson glow is there in a cloudless sky.
Have you let yourself be blinded by the snow?”*



Genji wants to put Tamakazura's affairs in order so that he can tell To no Chujo about his daughter and Genji can finally give her to his friend. However, Genji is torn because he also wants to keep Tamakazura in his house where he may be able to get her into bed. Murasaki's fears about Genji and Tamakazura seem to be well founded and Genji will, once again, become a subject of rumors.

CHAPTER 30 *Thoroughwort Flowers*

Genji sent Yugiri to Tamakazura with a message from the emperor to summon her to the court. She had been friendly enough in the days when he had thought her his sister, and it did not seem right to be suddenly cool and distant. She received him at her curtains as before. He had not forgotten the glimpse he had of her the morning after the typhoon. Now the situation had changed, and he had come provided with a fine bouquet of purple pantaloons to attract her attention. But her answer was careful. The ribbons of his cap were tied up in a sign of mourning for his grandmother. The Ninth Month came. The time approached for Tamakazura to start her service at court. Her women brought messages to her from various suitors. She had them read to her. General Higeuro wrote that he would do everything to get her during the Ninth Month. Prince Hotaru wrote her not to forget him even in the court. The royal guard Sahyoenokami wrote that it was difficult to forget her. Although Higeuro showed his strong intention to marry her, Tamakazura only replied to Prince Hotaru.

*“Not the sunflower, choosing to follow the sun,
Forgets so soon the morning frost beneath.”*



To no Chujo is experienced enough to know that Genji is not a man to be trusted with a young girl, but he wants to defer to his friend's wishes, since both of them want to relieve the tension in their friendship.

CHAPTER 31 *The Handsome Pillar*

Unexpectedly, Tamakazura married the black bearded General Higeuro whose wife was a daughter of Shikibukyo, a royal prince. Higeuro had no experience with other women for a long time. Now he had to visit Tamakazura at Rokujo, which made him uncomfortable. Therefore, he decided to redecorate the east wing of his house. The house was ruined for he did not maintain it well .

The wife of Higeuro had been beautiful when she was young. But a malign power had made her behavior eccentric and violent for many years. There was no affection between them. One evening, it was snowing outside. Higeuro tried to persuade his wife to accept his new marriage with Tamakazura. As she seemed to be calmed down, he began to prepare for an outing. Suddenly she stood up, swept the cover from a large censer, stepped behind her husband and poured the ashes over his head. A malign spirit had captured her.

The Prince Shikibukyo got angry because his stepson stayed with Tamakazura. So he made his daughter and his granddaughter return to his residence. Divorce in those days was no different from today. She came back her to her home with furniture that she brought in when she married. Women who lost their jobs went away separately. Higeuro's favorite daughter Makibashira was reluctant to go with her mother. She set down a poem on a sheet of paper and thrust it into a crack in the cypress pillar, writing not to forget her.

Tamakazura was assigned apartments on the east side of the palace. Higeuro continued to stay in the guard's quarter. He wanted her to withdraw from the court immediately. When she was wondering how to reply to a poem from Prince Hotaru, the emperor came calling. He was unbelievably handsome and the very image of Genji. He reproved her for having gone against his wishes. She did not wish to seem coy. Higeuro was restless knowing that the emperor had called on Tamakazura.

*“I made no move myself to try the river,
But I did not think to see you cross with another.”*



Makibashira. The daughter of Prince Higekuro and his principal wife. She is married to Prince Hotaru, by whom she had a daughter. When widowed, she married Kobai, a son of To no Chujo. She and Kobai have a son.

CHAPTER 32 *The Plum Tree Branch*

Prince Hotaru came calling on the tenth of the Second Month. A gentle rain was falling and the rose plum near the veranda was in full and fragrant bloom. The brothers were admiring the blossoms when a note came attached to a plum branch. It was from Princess Asagao. She had also sent a box containing large balls of perfume. In the letter, she said she would like him to deliver this present to the princess of Akashi. Prince Hotaru admired the beauty of the decoration and Genji wrote a poem of appreciation.

It was now decided that Genji's daughter would go to court. Genji collected books and scrolls for her library. He invited the finest calligraphers to create masterpieces. Selecting poems from these admired anthologies, Genji tried several styles with fine results, formal and cursive Chinese and the more radically cursive Japanese "ladies hand". He secluded himself as before in the main hall for concentration. He had with him only two or three women whom he could count on for comments. He seems to be enjoying his job, taking a brush between his teeth.

*“The perfume must be hidden lest people talk,
But I cannot take my eye from so lovely a blossom.”*



The emperor sends word that Genji's daughter will go to court, so Genji begins to prepare for her initiation. Genji collects various works of literature for her and he invites the finest calligraphers of the realm to create masterpieces of handwriting. Toward this end, Genji selects poems from admired anthologies himself, and even tries several styles with fine results.

CHAPTER 33 *New Wisteria Leaves*

Early in the Fourth Month, the Minister of the Interior (To-no-Chujo) arranged a banquet of wisteria, which was full in bloom. He invited Yugiri. The Minister had begun to grow restless when finally Yugiri arrived. When the moon came out, the wine was served. Pretending to be very drunk, the Minister admired Yugiri who had waited long and well to obtain permission to marry his daughter, Kumoinokari. The long-standing ill feeling between them disappeared. Kashiwagi broke off an unusually long and rich spray of wisteria and presented it to Yugiri with a cup of wine. That was a romantic happy ending for Yugiri and Kumoinokari who had been separated for six years.

Yugiri was promoted to middle counselor. He moved into his grandmother's Sanjo house, which was filled with many good memories. One beautiful evening sitting near the veranda, Yugiri and Kumoinokari exchanged poems recalling the grandmother who had always protected them. Having heard that the garden was in its autumn glory, To-no-Chujo stopped by on his way from court. As the house was where he had lived in his young days, the Minister of the Interior was moved finding that the couple now lived there happily.

The present emperor Reizei and former emperor Suzaku paid a state visit to Rokujo, which was an extraordinary event. Genji's preparations were brilliant. The royal party went first to the equestrian ring where the ritual of review was performed in finery. Then the party moved to the southeast quarter for the banquet. The lieutenants of the inner guards of east and west advanced and knelt before the royal seats, one presenting the take from the pond and the other a brace of fowl caught by the royal falcons in the northern hills. The emperor ordered Genji to move up to sit at the same level, which showed Genji off in utmost glory.

The Suzaku emperor had been ill since his visit to Rokujo. It had been his wish to take holy orders and retire from the world. But he worried about whom his daughter, the Third Princess could look to for support when he finally withdrew from the world. Her mother, a sister of Fujitsubo, had died in disappointment. Yugiri came to see him. Intending to marry Kumoinokari soon, he was in the full bloom of youth. The emperor looked at him wondering whether he might not offer a solution to the problem of the Third Princess. The emperor asked Yugiri to take his message that he would like to see his father Genji ardently.

*“Come join me in regrets for the passing of spring
And wisteria now aglow in the evening light.”*



Fujitsubo. A secondary but favorite wife of Genji's father, though she is only five years older than Genji himself. She is the brother of Prince Hyobu, and thus the aunt of Murasaki. She is the mother of the Reizei emperor, who is actually Genji's child rather than his father's.

CHAPTER 34 *Spring Shoots 1*

The ceremony of the initiation of the Third Princess took place at the end of the year. A large array of splendid gifts came from the Suzaku emperor and others. From Akikonomu came some combs, which had been sent by the Suzaku emperor when she married.

Towards the middle of the Second Month, the Third Princess came to Rokujo to marry Genji. Genji could not refuse the request of Suzaku who had been looking for someone to support for his daughter.

There was also another reason that Genji was induced to marry her. For the Third Princess was a niece of Fujitsubo. It was an unsettling time for Murasaki, but she did not show her feelings and indeed helped with all the arrangements in Rokujo. But her pray worked out and made Genji return to her place early in the morning. While the Murasaki let him wait for a while outside, he viewed the patches of snow in the garden. The nape of the kimono of Murasaki, lying there alone, was completely wet.

The Suzaku emperor moved into his temple in the West Mountain after the marriage of his daughter with Genji. Genji had wanted to see Oborozukiyo again for long time. Though quite aware of the impropriety, he went to see her secretly. Remembering a wisteria party long ago, she could not totally refuse him. On the following morning, Genji gave her a spray of wisteria saying “I have not forgotten the depths into which I plunged”.

In the Tenth Month, Murasaki made offerings in Genji's honor. Choosing a temple in Saga, she commissioned a reading of the sutras for the protection of the realm. Ending the fast, a banquet was arranged at the Nijo residence and attended by many people in festive dress. The musicians took their places. Yugiri and Kashiwagi went out and danced under a tree of plum rouge. For the old members of the audience it evoked the image of young Genji and To-no-Chujo's dance long before, “Waves of the blue Ocean”. Genji was in tears as memories flooded back.

Kashiwagi was very disappointed that the Third Princess who had gone to Genji, and he was still longing after her. In the late spring, there was a football game in the northeast corner of the Rokujo garden. When a cat came running, the curtain was pulled back to reveal the woman behind in informal dress. Her profile framed by beautiful black hair was elegant. It was the first time for Kashiwagi to see the princess.

*“I fear these little combs are scarred and worn,
I have used them to summon back an ancient day”.*



Kashiwagi was very disappointed that the Third Princess who had gone to Genji, and he was still longing after her. In the late spring, there was a football game in the northeast corner of the Rokujo garden. When a cat came running, the curtain was pulled back to reveal the woman behind in informal dress. Her profile framed by beautiful black hair was elegant. It was the first time for Kashiwagi to see the princess. He pretended that nothing had happened, but Yugiri knew that Kashiwagi had seen the princess. As she was the wife of Genji, it was forbidden love. Kashiwagi called the cat and took it up in his arms. Mewing prettily, it brought the image of the Third Princess back to him.

CHAPTER 35 *Spring Shoots 2*

Then four years went by uneventfully. The reign was now in its eighteenth year. On the occasion of his illness, the emperor withdrew to his crown prince. The son of the Akashi princess became the crown prince. The dream of the Akashi people had nearly been accomplished. Genji went on pilgrimage to thank the god of Sumiyoshi with the Akashi people and Murasaki. It was late in the Tenth Month. The refrain of the Kagura music “Thousand years” continued in front of the shrine covered by a flowered tapestry, which was spread against the evergreen pines for the whole night to summon limitless prosperity for Genji.

Genji had given lessons of koto to the Third Princess so as to be appearing grown up at the celebration of the jubilee of the Suzaku emperor. On the 19th of the New Year, he had a female concert for the rehearsal. The lady Akashi played the lute, the lady Murasaki the thirteen-stringed koto, the Akashi princess the sho piper and the Third Princess the seven-stringed koto. It looked like the magnificent concert symbolized the glory of the Rokujo. But, on the following morning -- maybe she was relieved to see the orders in Rokujo -- Murasaki had a high fever and a dark change began.

The disease of Murasaki was heavy. Genji was at her side all the day. On the other hand, Kashiwagi was still thinking of the Third Princess. Guessing that the Rokujo mansion would be deserted, his yearning had grown stronger. It was the eve of the Kamo festival when he succeeded in entering her bedroom. But his feeling was far from simple happiness. Out of passion, it was a terrible thing to betray Genji whom he respected. A feeling of guilt overwhelmed him.

The Third Princess was not well because of her sin. Hearing the report of her illness, Genji came to see her in Rokujo. Then a messenger came from Nijo residence that the lady had expired. He rushed off. At Nijo, the priest was leaving. Genji prayed to let her stay just a little longer and asked the priest to pray again. As though his intense prayer might have reached to the Buddha, the evil power of the late Rokujo lady disappeared. Murasaki narrowly escaped death.

When the flower of lotus was full in bloom, though Murasaki was ill in bed, she could have her hair washed. It was only a rare occasion that she could raise her head a little bit. It pleased Genji very much. There were tears in his eyes. “I as almost afraid at times that I too might be dying.” Though he felt no great eagerness to see the Third Princess, it was not allowed him to neglect her because of the present emperor and Suzaku Emperor.

At last, the ceremony of the visit of the Suzaku emperor was decided in the middle of the Twelfth Month. Preliminary rehearsals were conducted. As Genji knew of the relation between the Third Princess and Kashiwagi, Kashiwagi was reluctant to visit Rokujo. Persuaded by his father, the Minister (To-no-Chujo), and strongly invited by Genji, he set out. In front of visitors, Genji talked to him amiably, which made him uncomfortable.



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CHAPTER 36 *The Oak Tree*

That evening, the Third Princess was taken with severe pains and at sunrise was delivered of a boy who was named Kaoru. The ceremonies were of the utmost dignity. But the coldness of Genji hurt her deeply. When her father, the Suzaku emperor, came to see her, she asked him to administer vows. The news that the Third Princess had become a nun pushed Kashiwagi nearer death. He passed away asking Yugiri to take care of his wife, the Second Princess.

In the Third Month, the ceremony of the fiftieth day was taking place. The child was elegant and charmingly different from other children. Looking at the face of child, Genji shed tears for Kashiwagi, who had not lived to see his own son. He wept for the boy who had to bear the burden of such a secret in his future. Genji felt sorry for himself too who held in his hands a son not his own, at his old age.

Yugiri frequently visited the widow of Kashiwagi, the Second Princess, to keep his word to his closest friend. Gradually he became impressed by her calmness. In the Fourth Month, reproaching her cold attitude, Yugiri gave her the intertwined branches of an oak (a symbol of Kashiwagi) and a maple with a poem:

*“By grace of the tree god let the branch so close to the branch
that withered be close to the branch that lives”.*

But she kept on seeing him formally from behind a curtain. His affectionate approach was an annoyance to her.



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CHAPTER 37 *The Flute*

The anniversary came of the death of Kashiwagi. As the Suzaku emperor worried about the Third Princess who had withdrawn from the world as he himself had, he sent her bamboo shoots and taro root of the mountain harvests. Genji came upon her in tears. Looking at the girlish beauty of her profile, Genji told her of his regret to let her retreat from the world. Able to walk a few steps, the little boy Kaoru tottered up to a bowl of bamboo shoots and bit at one. Watching him still young and tiny, he realized his old age and wondered how long he could continue to live.

On an autumn evening, Yugiri visited the Second Princess, Kashiwagi's wife. The mother of the Second Princess, Lady Ichijo, gave him a flute, which Kashiwagi had left. At night, Kashiwagi appeared in a dream of Yugiri's and told him, "I did not mean it for you." Yugiri described his dream to Genji who took the flute, saying that he should be responsible for keeping it. Yugiri also described the moment of death of Kashiwagi, who had wanted Genji to apologize. It had not been a very satisfying answer for this apology from Genji.

*"We cannot forget unpleasant associations.
We do not discard the young bamboo even so."*



At night, Kashiwagi appeared in a dream of Yugiri's and told him , "I did not mean it for you." Yugiri described his dream to Genji who took the flute, saying that he should be responsible for keeping it.

CHAPTER 38 *The Bell Cricket*

In the summer, when the lotuses were at their best, the Third Princess dedicated to the chapel a holy image of Buddha made of sandalwood. The sight of the chapel moved Genji to tears. “And so here we sit side by side at a ceremony like this. Who would have expected it?”

He wrote a poem that

*“the separate drops of dew on the leaf of the lotus
would share a lodging in the next world”*

She answered coldly:

*“Together, you say, in the lotus dwelling to come.
But may you not have certain reservations?”*

Genji tried to comfort the Third Princess, who was leading the lonely life of a nun. But in his depths, he could not give her up. Autumn insects were released to convey the atmosphere of an autumn field. On the night of the fifteenth of Eight Month, Genji called for a koto and treated her to a rare concert. Prince Hotaru, Yugiri and other courtiers came seeking the enjoyment of a moon-viewing fete.



Genji continues to visit the Third Princess, but he knows that he cannot have her now that she has become a nun. Instead of being dissuaded by the fact that she is completely inaccessible, Genji wants to be with her all the more. Unfortunately, there is nothing he can do to have her and he cannot bring himself to give her up, so he simply comforts her so that she might be able to accept her lonely life away from the world.

CHAPTER 39 *Evening Mist*

Yugiri was an honest man who had never had a love affair before. But now, he was deeply in love with the Second Princess. As the Ichijo Lady had suffered from evil spirits, she came to the Ono Villa to take treatment. The Princess did not stay behind in the city but came with her mother. Yugiri took every preparation for that. Using the good excuse of seeing the Ichijo Lady, he himself visited them. On the night of the twentieth of the Eight Month, he sent back all his men and left alone to pursue the Princess.

The Princess tried to escape into a back room. Holding the bottom of her kimono, Yugiri stopped her and tried to win her: "You cannot pretend not to know about these things." She was wretched with such treatment. He tried to force her to the moonlight and continued to try to seduce her. Keeping her heart closed, she held stubbornly back. Without any further result, the dawn approached.

Although the Princess resisted Yugiri, a miserable fate result awaited her. The healer, who was there to comfort her mother, saw Yugiri leaving the room of the princess in the morning. She was now considered a loose woman. As there was no solution but marriage to protect the princess from the gossip, the mother wrote Yugiri a letter requesting him to come. Just a short note arrived, but Yugiri himself did not come. The honor of the former royal princess thus stained, the old lady suddenly died in despair.

Actually, the letter of the old lady had not reached Yugiri. His wife Kumoinokari had taken it away out of jealousy. Astonished by what had happened, Yugiri helped with the funeral, and the princess kept her distance. She thought that her mother had died because of the cruel attitude of Yugiri. On the thirteenth of the Nine Month, as he could not bear the situation, he set off for Ono. The mountains nearly in the deep autumn, looked full of melancholy, sealing the sorrow of the people. He stood at the door and raised a fan to his eyes, with an elegance which even women could not have imitated. Talking with Koshosho, the servant of the princess, Yugiri asked her to convey his feelings. But the princess did not relent.

By the time the memorial services of the forty ninth day of the Ichijo lady came around, rumor about the two of them had spread. Being restless, Yugiri started the necessary preparations to accept her into the Ichijo mansion, as if the dead lady intended it. On the appointed day, he came to Ono cordially to escort her. In tears, she was finally shown into a carriage. She had brought the sword and the seal of the royal impress, a sutra box and a memento of her mother.

The Ichijo house was now filled with life. Yugiri had taken the main room as the master of the house. To flee from the pursuit of Yugiri, the princess locked herself in a closet, a measure that could not continue forever. With the help of Koshosho, he persuaded her to accept him. Yugiri's affairs had caused various regrettable effects. For one thing, his wife Kumoinokari had returned to her house.



The Princess tried to escape into a back room. Holding the bottom of her kimono, Yûgiri stopped her and tried to win her: “You cannot pretend not to know about these things.” She was wretched with such treatment. He tried to force her to the moonlight and continued to try to seduce her. Keeping her heart closed, she held stubbornly back. Without any further result, the dawn approached.

CHAPTER 40 *The Law*

Murasaki had been in bad health for almost four years. She wanted to be a nun to prepare herself for the next world. Although Genji himself wanted to be a priest, he refused to listen to her wish, fearing separation from her. It was the tenth day of the Third Month, when the cherries were in bloom. On her request, services for the lotus sutra were performed. Looking out upon this magnificent scene longingly, Murasaki thought of how little time she had left.

On one cool autumn evening, Murasaki enjoyed a private talk with Genji and the Empress Akashi. The following morning, she faded away. Distraught at her death, Genji requested Yugiri to call someone to administer vows. Yugiri replied: "It is too late to do so. Changing her figure would make the sorrow deeper." But he summoned several of the priests and asked them to do whatever could still be done.

*"I have no regrets as I bid farewell to this life.
Yet the dying away of the fire is always sad."*



After four years of illness, Murasaki continues to wish to become a nun. Unfortunately, Genji does not want to give her up, so he refuses to allow her to leave him. When Murasaki dies, Genji is distraught because of his own unwillingness to let her go. Realizing his mistake, Genji wants Yugiri to administer the vows of a nun on Murasaki, but it is too late. Yugiri calls for priests and he asks them to administer the rites so that he can try to set things right between Genji and Murasaki.

CHAPTER 41 *The Seer*

Genji spent life comforting his easily disturbed feelings. Only memories of Murasaki came to him. The spring, Murasaki's favorite season, came around again. "My cherry", Niou said proudly, who was also her favorite boy. Looking at his pretty face, Genji could not stop smiling. Niou was his one companion.

Genji sometimes visited the Third Princess, the Akashi lady, and the lady of orange blossom, which gave him a vicarious hint of Murasaki. There still seemed to be one lady to whom he was not indifferent. That was Chujo, who had worked for Murasaki. It was about the time of the Kamo festival; when he came in she was having a nap. Genji said, picking up a sprig of hollyhock, "It is so long since I have had anything to do with it", to the lady, who made haste to put herself in order.

The Tenth Month was always a time of gloomy winter showers. Genji felt more lonesome than ever. Looking up into the evening sky helplessly alone, he envied the wild geese overhead, which were returning home. "O wizard flying off through boundless heaven, find her whom I see not even in my dreams." The inconsolable days went by, and his longing for Murasaki increased.

*"The snow will soon have left this gloomy world.
My days must yet go on, an aimless drifting."*



Genji knows that he is growing old and, after the death of Murasaki, he spends his autumn years attempting to comfort himself and his shattered emotions. Sadly, memories of Murasaki come to him constantly and everything reminds him of his lost wife. In his grief, Genji has a companion in the 4-year-old Niou, the third son of the current emperor. Aside from his young friend, Genji mostly secludes himself from the world.

CHAPTER 42 *The Perfumed Prince*

The shining Genji was dead, and there was no one quite like him. Niou, the third son of the present emperor, and Kaoru, the young son of Genji's Third Princess, were both thought by the world to be uncommonly handsome. Kaoru was a constant companion of both the reigning emperor and the retired Reizei emperor. He had a mysterious fragrance around him. As he had been in doubt about his birth since childhood, he wanted to retreat from the world. Niou was his rival in everything and especially in the competition to be pleasantly scented. He looked for blossoming flowers to blend with perfumes to wear. Their characters were different. Niou was frivolous and Kaoru prudent. Everyone called them "fragrant captain" and "his perfumed highness."

*"Whom might I ask? Why must it be
That I do not know the beginning or the end?"*



"The shining Genji was dead, and there was no one quite like him." (788) Now that this glowing man of many accomplishments is gone, the world mourns his passing. Though there are several other men in the realm who are worthy, none of them match up to the many perfections of Genji.

CHAPTER 43 *Red Plum Blossoms*

The oldest surviving son of the late To-no-Chujo was now the Lord Inspector. He wanted Niou to marry with his second daughter. Fortunately, Niou favored his son who was born of the Lord Inspector and his second wife Makibashira. He had never forgotten the pleasure, which the late Genji had given him, when he was a pageboy. He broke off a rose plum branch and handed it to his boy with a poem, "A purposeful breeze wafts forth the scent of our plum. Will not the warbler be first to heed the summons?" But, the prince Niou was interested in the stepdaughter of Makibashira rather than in the second daughter.

Kaoru called on Tamakazura with a New Year's greeting. She was in her chapel and invited him to join her. The plum on the eaves was sending forth its first buds and the warbler was still not quite able to sing. Something about his manner made the women want to joke with him, but his replies were brusque. Tamakazura reproved them for their bad manners saying, "Do not make fun of the prudent young man." Kaoru was not proud of his title, "Lord Proper." Kaoru was fond of the older daughter of Tamakazura who also wanted him for her husband.

*"If I were one who followed inviting scents
Perhaps I might be summoned by the wind."*



Meanwhile, Kaoru calls on Tamakazura with a New Year's greeting and he finds her in the chapel, where she invites him to join her. Of course, he is not there simply to offer a greeting; he is actually there to get into Tamakazura's good graces. As Kaoru and Tamakazura's older daughter are fond of each other, Kaoru wishes to ensure that he may have Tamakazura's blessing on the match.

CHAPTER 44 *Bamboo River*

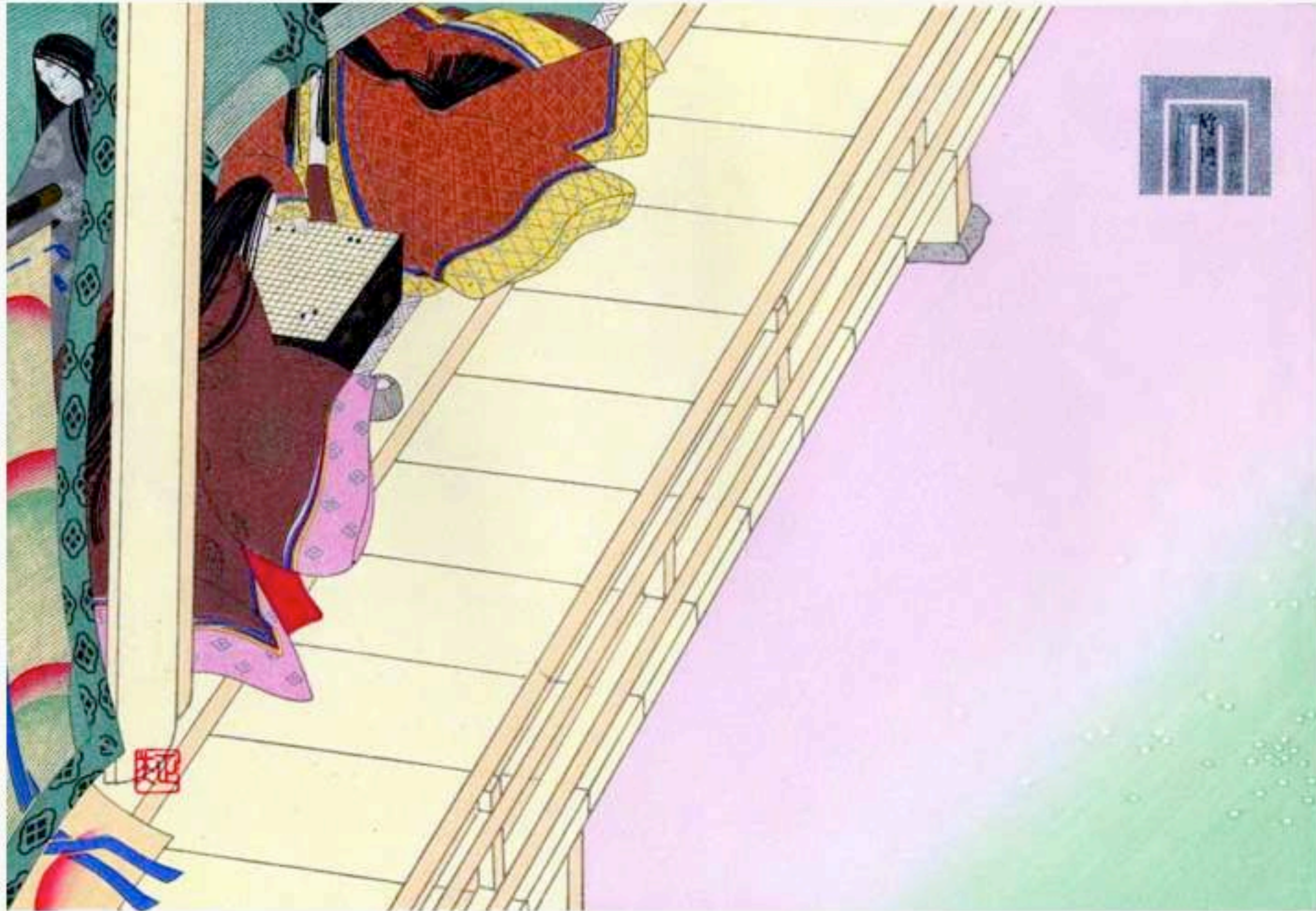
Kaoru did not like being Lord Proper. Late in the month the plum blossoms were at their best. Thinking it a good time to show them the other side of his character, he went off to the mansion of Tamakazura. He saw that another young gentleman had preceded him. It was Yugiri's son, the lieutenant. He was also in love with the oldest daughter of Tamakazura. Some women had started playing kotos and flutes, and asked the guests to join them. Tamakazura was in tears because Kaoru resembled her late brother Kashiwagi. Cups were changed on and on, the party became its best when people sang "Bamboo River" together.

It was now the Third Month. The cherries were full in bloom. Princesses were seated at a Go board making the disputed cherry tree their stakes. They had quarreled since their childhood over whom the tree belonged to. They came out to the veranda as evening approached. The blinds were raised. Some ladies also joined them. Yugiri's son, the lieutenant, came again to visit the son of the house. Finding an open gallery door, he peered inside. The divine beauty of his princess dazzled him.

The older girl was presented at the Reizei Palace, which disappointed the lieutenant. Kaoru, on the other hand, had not been in love with her strongly. Being at the palace from morning till night, Kaoru realized the loss of the girl and felt like being left alone. One evening, when he was strolling with her brother the chamberlain, they came to a five leafs pine tree before what he judged to be the curtains of the new lady. Hanging from it was a very fine wisteria. Kaoru recited regretfully, "These blossoms, were they more within our reach."

The New Year came and there was caroling. Kaoru was named master of one of the two choruses and Yugiri's son lieutenant was among the musicians. There was a cloudless moon when they were at the Reizei palace. The carolers felt the keen eyes of the audience peering from inside. On the following day, Kaoru was engaged in conversation with the new lady at a gallery door. "Bamboo River is not my favorite song, But somewhat striking, its effect last night." Responding to her, he was in tears, which brought him back to his lost love.

*"These flowers must fall. It is the way of the world.
But do not demean the tree that came to me."*



It was now the Third Month. The cherries were full in bloom. Princesses were seated at a Go board making the disputed cherry tree their stakes. They had quarreled since their childhood over whom the tree belonged to. They came out to the veranda as evening approached. The blinds were raised. Some ladies also joined them. Yugiri's son, the lieutenant, came again to visit the son of the house. Finding an open gallery door, he peered inside. The divine beauty of his princess dazzled him.

CHAPTER 45 *The Maiden of the Bridge*

At Uji, some miles to the southeast of Kyoto, the Eighth Prince lived quietly with two daughters. One warm spring day, looking out over the garden, they made poems on the mallards, which were swimming about the pond. In earlier years, he had considered these small creatures as uncertain existence, which only lived in vain on the surface of water. Now, after his wife had died, he felt something like jealousy towards them chattering happily to each other wing to wing. He had renounced the world and taken charge of bringing up his daughters. He thought that life was uncertain, which had affected the way of thinking of his daughters since their childhood.

While the Eighth prince was away seeing the priest in the deep mountain, Kaoru came to visit him. He chanced upon his two princesses. He could see them under the autumn moon, which burst forth in all its brilliance. Then, the mist deepened until he could barely make out the figures of the princesses. Again when the moon became bright, the younger princess gaily said, "This plectrum does quite as well as a fan for bringing out the moon." The other, who had a koto before her, looked contemplative and prudent. According to the story, the Eighth Princes taught the lute to the older girl and the thirteen-stringed koto to the younger. In this graphic, the combination is opposite. For three years, Kaoru constantly visited Uji. But it was the first time that he could see them. (Anyway, this is an unforgettable scene for Kaoru. Their beauty has imprinted clearly on his mind.)

The old woman Benn, who was the first cousin of Kojiju and of the Eighth Prince's deceased wife, received Kaoru. Her mother had worked for the late Kashiwagi. Talking with her, he vaguely understood the secret of his birth. Towards the dawn, the mist lay over the mountains. As he stood up to leave, the bell of the monastery sounded in the distance. The sadness of his own life and of the princesses' poured over him. He and the older princess, Oigimi, exchanged poems.

The time approached to return to Kyoto. Kaoru regarded the Uji River with his men. He saw some that were fishing for Hiuo, the renowned fish, using nets, and others who made their way up and down the river on unsteady small boats piled with brushwood. "Each boatman is pursuing his own sad small livelihood at the uncertain mercy of the waters. It is the same with all of us," thought Kaoru to himself.

Kaoru again summoned the old woman Benn. She gave him a testament that proved that Kaoru was a son of Kashiwagi. Benn was a daughter of his nurse. When Kashiwagi died, he asked her to keep a role of paper relating the affair with the Third Princess. After twenty years, the musty documents were finally handed down to Kaoru, the illegitimate child of the Third Princess. It would have been a disaster if someone had founded out the truth. Trembling inside, he received them with outward calm.



One day, as he and his daughters write poems about some mallards swimming on the pond, the Eight Prince begins thinking about these birds and their lives. Though he once thought little of their frivolous lives, the death of his wife has changed things. In fact, he is jealous of their ability to simply swim about, unconcerned about either the future or the past, and are content to simply be what they are.

CHAPTER 46 *Beneath the Oak*

When Niou made a pilgrimage to Hatsuse, Kaoru accompanied him. Leaving Yugiri's second house at Uji, Kaoru and Niou boarded a boat with some princes who were fond of music. They made a visit to the Eight Prince's villa, which was across the river. A landing had been built from the river to the villa, and was furnished with steps. These were in good taste and suitable for a mountain dwelling. The river music called "Kansuiraku" was played as they were rowed across. The music became clearer when they approached the villa.

The Eighth Prince, who had been serving at the monastery of the abbot, died on the twentieth of the Eighth Month. The shutters facing the mountain were raised and the princess, lost in their own sad thoughts, was looking up at the moon in the early morning sky. Then a messenger arrived and reported to them that the Prince had passed away in the night. The sound of the monastery bell came across the surface of the clear water. The princesses were struck by a strong sense of loss.

Prince Niou, who had already exchanged poems several times, sent a letter of condolence. The messenger of Niou, receiving a reply from the Princesses, made his way through the wilds of Kohata Mountains. He spurred his horse on, not allowing it to pause even for their dense bamboo thickets, and reached Niou's mansion in remarkably quick time. The round trip between Uji and Kyoto by this brave messenger was proof of Niou's passionate character.

The snow brought the end of the saddest year. From the monastery, priests and acolytes delivered the charcoal as usual. The princesses gave them cotton garments to protect them against the winter cold. They went to the veranda and watched in tears as priests and acolytes now appeared among the drifts and now disappeared again towards the mountains. Facing the mountain where their father had died, they were in deep sorrow.

Kaoru paid his visit late in the year. The snow was deep. Kaoru asked to open the chapel where the Eighth Prince practiced and, clearing the dust away carefully prayed to Buddha. "Beneath the oak I meant to search for shade. Now it has gone and all is vanity." Numerous eyes were upon him as he stood leaning meditatively against a pillar. The young maidservants were moved by his handsome face.

*"Parting the mist, a sound comes in on the wind,
But waves of white, far out on the stream, roll between us."*



Niou and Kaoru make a pilgrimage to Hatsuse by boat and stop along the way at Uji to visit the Eighth Prince at his villa by the river. Upon arriving, the party learns that the Eighth Prince died recently and the entire house is in mourning. The Niou and Kaoru pass on to Hatsuse and, after returning home, Niou, sends a letter of condolence to the Eighth Prince's daughters.

CHAPTER 47 *Trefoil Knots*

In the autumn, the Uji princesses prepared for the anniversary of their father's death. Kaoru took care of them as far as he could. Kaoru came himself and wrote out a petition for memorial services. The princesses were spinning thread for decking out the sacred incense. While he had a brush in hand he jotted down a verse:

*“As braided threads, may our fates be joined,
may we be together always.”*

Kaoru rested at Uji. In the middle of night, he was able to approach Oigimi and talked to her closely. Her solemn attitude stopped him from going far. The dawn came on, bringing an end to nothing. The sky was a whirring of wings close by as of flocks of birds. From deep in the mountain, the main bell came faintly. Sent out from her room in vain, Kaoru was filled with an empty sorrow.

One day, Kaoru succeeded in entering the room of the princess. But Oigimi, who wished Kaoru to marry Nakanokimi, her younger sister, sneaked out of the room to ask her to take care of him alone. Surprised by the stubborn attitude of Oigimi, Kaoru passed the night with Nakanokimi, much as he had an earlier time with her elder sister. Oigimi received a poem from Kaoru who had returned in vain. He insisted on writing that he longed for Oigimi. Oigimi, still wanting her sister to take her place, asked Nakanokimi to reply. But Nakanokimi left it to Oigimi.



One night while Kaoru is at Uji, he finds Oigimi and spends part of the night speaking with her but is unsuccessful at seducing her, as her very proper demeanor keeps him at bay. His attempts at seduction fail completely and Kaoru is deeply hurt by his inability to woo this beautiful woman.

CHAPTER 48 *Bracken Shoots*

Oigimi had gone and the New Year came. But the spring sunlight brought her only grief. The spring products like the earliest fern shoots and acolytes were delivered from the abbot. The attached letter wished her happiness and long life. He wrote it with Kana phonetic script in a bad hand. Nakanokimi was much moved, for she knew he was not accustomed to write in Kana.

The prince Niou decided to accept her into his mansion in Kyoto. One day before the move, Kaoru appeared at Uji. He spent the day with Nakanokimi, recalling the dead lady. The scent and color of the rose plum below the veranda brought poignant memories. Remembering the night they passed talking together, he was left berating himself for having so generously handed her over to Niou.

In the evening on the seventh day of the Second Month, the procession of Nakanokimi set out for Niou's Nijo mansion in Kyoto. A number of medium-ranking courtiers arrived drawing the carriages. Niou had wanted to come for her himself. Though he usually avoided any unnecessary display, his carriages were gorgeously decorated to show off his power. Kaoru too had prepared the small and intimate details. A mist softened the bright half-moon. The road was long and it led through precipitous mountains. Now she began to see why his visit had been infrequent.

Looking vaguely at the mysteriously beautiful mountains, she was thinking of her uncertain future. She longed for the days when she had lived with her sister.

*“We do not forget to look back at one now gone;
But this day, of all, our hearts must look ahead.”*



Looking vaguely at the mysteriously beautiful mountains, she was thinking of her uncertain future. She longed for the days when she had lived with her sister.

CHAPTER 49 *The Ivy*

Kaoru came to the palace as ordered. The emperor pulled up a Go board. “There is something I might wager,” said the emperor, “but I am not quite sure that I have the courage.” The emperor secretly wanted Kaoru to take the Second Prince as a wife. The emperor lost the game and told Kaoru, “I will let you break off a blossom.” Immediately guessing what he meant, Kaoru went down into garden and broke one of the chrysanthemums. Returning, he offered a cautious verse, saying that if he had found an uncommon flower, he would pluck it in a suitable way.

The marriage was arranged between Niou and Rokunokimi, the sixth daughter of Yugiri. Nakanokimi was filled with sorrow. Kaoru came to comfort her. Astonished by the resemblance between the two sisters, his regret increased to have refused Nakanokimi in spite of Oigimi's wish. She had wanted Kaoru to marry her sister. He bought a morning glory that still preserved the dew and thrust it under the blind. He recited a poem of regret, comparing their relationship to that of dew and flower. Nakanokimi felt herself like the dew left behind after the death of a flower.

On the night of her marriage with Rokunokimi, Niou left Nakanokimi with words of comfort. Her anguish increased while she was looking up at the rising clear moon, which was the same moon of the “Mount Women Forsaken.” This refers to the mountains where old women were abandoned. The sound of a pine breeze penetrated her mind violently. Although life in the Uji village was severe, she thought that she had never before experienced such a strong autumn wind as this. She longed for the life she had led at Uji.

*“Memories of nights beneath the ivy
Bring comfort to the traveler's lonely sleep.”*



Troubled once more by insomnia, Kaoru went to the room of a certain Azechi and there passed the night. He had many servants who consoled him. He left her room at midnight to hide from the eyes of others. Azechi was evidently annoyed. Trying to cheat her, he wrote a poem of farewell and made an excuse to leave, saying that he could not miss the chance to see a beautiful moon like this. Spreading confusion behind him, he made his departure.

CHAPTER 50 *The Eastern Cottage*

Aware of the difference in status, Chujounokimi, the mother of Ukifune, arranged her marriage with a lieutenant. For she thought that Kaoru was belonging to the higher status. On the other hand, the husband, the governor of Hitachi, loved his real daughter rather than his stepdaughter Ukifune. As he was a wealthy man, he collected some pieces of lacquer and inlay for his daughter. A teacher of lute and koto was summoned to give her lessons, which was unusual. Each time the daughter mastered one piece, he buried the teacher in gifts of gratitude. On a pleasant evening, when the teacher and daughter played in a concert, he rejoiced in tears at hearing them.

Finding Ukifune to be the stepdaughter of the governor, the lieutenant changed his mind and would have liked to marry off his real daughter. For he needed substantial support from the governor. Delighted with his change of mind, the governor and a nurse adored his real daughter. The room that had been appointed for Ukifune was provided as a guestroom. While the governor entertained the lieutenant, Ukifune had to withdraw to an inner room.

The mother of poor Ukifune asked Nakanokimi to take care of her. She saw prince Niou by chance through a crack between two doors. He was radiantly beautiful. He was about to leave for the palace to visit the sick empress. As the little child came out from behind the curtain, he turned and took him in his arms. This glorious happy scene caught her eye.

Leaving Ukifune to the place of Nakanokimi, the mother, Chujounokimi, went back to the house of the governor. Then Niou accidentally passed the room and found her there. She was very pretty indeed. He caught her hands, which were holding a fan. He approached her asking, "What is your name?" Ukifune was horrified and wondered whether this man might be Kaoru who was looking for her. Nothing further happened, but it was an unforgettable encounter for Niou.

*"They still flow on, these waters clear and clean.
Can they not reflect the image of those now gone?"*



Niou, Prince. Son of the novel's last emperor and his empress, Genji's daughter by the Lady Akashi, he is the likely heir to his father. His rivalry with his cousin Kaoru recalls that of Genji with To No Chujo, but the tone is darker, and their mutual love of Ukifune ends up badly for all concerned.

CHAPTER 51 *The Drifting Boat*

One day early in the New Year, when Niou was at Nakanokimi, a mallet and an artificial seeding pine were delivered there from Ukifune as a New Year's gift. A little girl came in and handed the princess a letter. "Would the letter be from Kaoru?" "It is a private letter between women," she replied and let him read it. While reading, Niou intuitively understood that the girl, who had become unforgettable since he saw her at Nijo, had written the letter. He left the place recommending that Nakanokimi should reply. He made up his mind to look for Ukifune at Uji.

Niou went secretly to Uji with his secretary. In the middle of the night, he entered the house and had a look at the interior through a crack in the shutter. As he suspected, there was Ukifune. She lay vaguely gazing into the light, her head pillowed on one arm. There was an unmistakable resemblance between the girl and his lady Nakanokimi. According to the talk of some women who were sewing, it seemed that the mother would come the next morning to take her sightseeing. One of them, called Ukon, said, "I'm sleepy. Leave the rest for tomorrow," gathering up the half-sewn garments and hanging them over the curtain rack.

Niou and Ukifune passed the night. On the following morning, he sent for an inkstand and drew some interesting pictures to amuse Ukifune. He sketched a most handsome couple lying together. "You must look at this and think of me when I am not able to visit you. If only we could be together always." And he shed a tear. Then they exchanged poems. He thought obedient and naïve Ukifune adorable.

Niou came back to see Ukifune again. This time he stayed three nights. On the last night, reluctantly he set out for Kyoto. "My soul," he whispered as he made ready to go, "does it linger on in your sleeve?" There was a message from Her Majesty that she was very angry, and so were the ministers at Kyoto, for his absence. He mounted his horse to try to return to her. His men hurried on their way. The two courtiers of the Fifth Rank who had come with him led his horse through the mountains.

After some interval, Kaoru came over to Uji. The hills were veiled in a mist and far down the river, faggot-laden boats were weaving in and out. Ukifune reminded him of Oigimi. He was lost in thoughts of the past. Ukifune was also lost in thoughts of her growing trouble with Niou. Her silence gave him an impression that she had matured over the months. Kaoru was very happy about that.



Niou appeared again at Uji. He took Ukifune by boat to a small hidden cottage. She clung to Niou, frightened by the distant shore. He was delighted. The moon in the early morning sky shone cloudless upon the waters. They were at the Islet of Orange, said the boatman, pulling up to a large rock over which trailed long branches of evergreen. They exchanged poems of everlasting love that compared their love to the pine trees.

CHAPTER 52 *The Mayfly*

Sensing something out of the ordinary in the last note from Ukifune, Niou immediately dispatched Tokikata to Uji. When he arrived there, he found that Ukifune had died suddenly. As the answer about the cause of her death was very hesitant, he intuitively understood that Ukifune had died extraordinarily. And he confirmed that Kaoru was not connected with this. He thought it would not be proper to press the inquiry, and went back to Niou.

The summer of the Fourth Month came. Kaoru was deep in sorrow when the day came that was appointed for Ukifune to move to the city. The scent of the orange blossoms near the veranda brought back memories. A cuckoo called and reminded him of the past. He sent a poem to Niou to hint to him what had happened, “You may weep also remembering Ukifune.” Niou was with Nakanokimi and wrote him back a poem, but which was not a direct answer.

Kaoru paid a visit to Uji. He talked with Ukon, the maidservant of Ukifune, and heard from her about what exactly had happened. Ukifune had been caught in an impossible dilemma about what to do and she had thrown herself into the river. Her heart was so fragile. “If I had not left her in this wilderness,” Kaoru regretted. He also felt very sorry for Ukifune's mother. He went to sit in the garden, with deep moss for his cushion, and looked at the steep mountains around. He thought of the common pun on the sounds of Uji and “ushi”, which meant “gloomy.” The life of Uji was gloomy. In the middle of summer, Kaoru had a chance to see the First Princess through some curtains. He had been interested in her for some time.

*“I see the drake fly, take it up in my hand.
Ah, here it is, I say -- and it is gone.”*



There was a lady called Miyanokimi whose father was the empress's brother. As he had died she had entered the palace. One day, Kaoru talked with her about the uncertainty of the life of women. He thought about the two princesses of the Eighth Prince and his destiny that he could not marry either of them. Fragile and insubstantial dragon flies were flitting back and forth in the evening light. He wrote a poem "I see the dragon fly, take it up in my hand and then it is gone."

CHAPTER 53

Writing Practice

As the mother of the bishop of Yokawa was taken ill, he descended the mountain to see her. His disciples found an expanse of white behind the Uji temple. They brought their torches and approached the figure. It was a girl with long and lustrous hair leaning against the root of a tree. They tried to take her clothes off to find out whether she was human or a fox, which had taken a human shape. Then she wept bitterly. It was not a fox but Ukifune. The bishop took her to his sister who lived as a nun in the Ono village.

Autumn came in the village of Ono. The maidservants raised their voices happily with local songs while cutting rice at the gate. The clacking of the scarecrows brought Ukifune, who had recovered, memories of her girlhood in the remote East Country. At night, the nuns started playing kotos and invited her to join in. She was not good at tasteful pleasures. She only took up a brush and set down a poem about her miserable destiny. She was left alone with her thoughts.

The old nun had a son-in-law who was a guard captain. Since he had seen Ukifune briefly, he had been unable to forget her back in the city. But it was too early to write a letter. Toward the middle of the Eighth Month, on a falconing expedition, he again visited Ono. He met the nun and told her that he was fond of a girl like Ukifune who was not talkative. She said “Ukifune wants to say goodbye to the world. But I think it would be difficult for a girl to abandon her long future.”

The nun had lost her child a long time ago. So she thought of Ukifune as her own girl. She made a pilgrimage to Hatsuse to show her gratitude. During her absence, just as the moon came flooding over the hills, the captain appeared. The girl fled aghast to the rear of the house. The younger nun Shosho urged Ukifune to greet him, saying “You are not sympathetic. At least hear what he has to say.” Knowing that the nun was away, he grumbled persistently over her stubbornness. She recited a poem, but at the end fled to the old nun’s room.

On the following day, the bishop arrived. Ukifune asked him to administer her vows and become a nun. By the time the younger nun came back, the hair over her forehead was cut off. He admonished her, saying “You should not regret what you have done in spite of your youth and beauty.” She was delighted that she could make a decision by herself against the protestation of others.

*“Now comes dawn to the gate among the pines,
And lingers yet the moon in the sky above.”*



The girl I told you about, the one who I thought had died such a terrible death -- I have heard that she is still alive. She has come on unhappy circumstances, I am told. It all seems very unlikely -- but then the way she disappeared was unlikely too. I find it hard to believe that she hated the world enough to think of such desperate measures. And so the rumors I have picked up may not be so unlikely after all.

CHAPTER 54 *The Floating Bridge of Dreams*

The spring came back to the village in the mountains. Ukifune exchanged poems with the nun to wish her a long life, sending the first spring shoots. A rose plum was blooming near the eaves of her room. Its color and its perfume were the same as they had always been. It reawakened her memories of Niou in the past. She had a girl of lower rank break of a sprig and set down a poem. The writing of poems about her memories became a practice to ease her mind in those days.

The Yokawa bishop told the empress a story of a girl, which Kaoru heard via Kosaisho. On the way home from Mt. Hiei, he visited the bishop. He was confident that the girl was Ukifune. The young brother of Ukifune accompanied him. He introduced this handsome boy to the bishop as a messenger and asked him to write a letter to be delivered to Ukifune.

In the Ono villa, Ukifune was gazing at the fireflies along the garden brook and recalling her memories of the past. Over the valley, one could see a large number of people with their torches. The nun and others came out to the veranda to see them. According to the letter from the bishop, people said it might be Kaoru's procession. Ukifune tried to put herself into meditation upon the name of Buddha to forget the past.

The boy delivered Ukifune the letter from the bishop and Kaoru. The nun pushed the letter towards her. But she showed no interest. It was written in an excellent hand and sent forth an extraordinary fragrance. She did not want him to see her, having become a nun. She collapsed in tears. To the request to reply, she said "There may have been a mistake." Without reading the letter, she pushed it back towards the nun.

*"I lost my way in the hills, having taken a road
That would lead, I hope, to a teacher of the Law."*



Nothing more was to be done, clearly, and the boy feared that he was beginning to look ridiculous. Saddened and chagrined at his failure to exchange even a word with his so grievously lamented sister, he started for the city.