

TWO JAPANESE POEMS

Translated by Graeme Wilson

Disobedient Head

Because I hoped so hard
To dream you shared my bed,
All night long I tossed and turned,
Wakefully dead
To that marvellous world I knew still there
In my disobedient head.

Anonymous (9th century)

Winter Sub-Song

In glens below Mimoro Mountain
Spring has begun.

Already under winter snows
Unnoticed waters run
To tap from hidden rocks their tiny
Sub-song to the sun.

Minamoto no Kunizane (1069-1111)