

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/3

Martin Willitts Jr.

Mishima

Based on the series by Ando Hiroshige, *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, picture # 12

Entrance to Hakone pass.

Note: A kago is a basket about three feet long, attached to bamboo uprights which were suspended by a large overhead single crossbeam. A roof covered the top and screens covered the sides from sun or rain.

1.

Travelers in mist
before morning
going slowly.

2.

A horse feels rider
and sun,
one heavier than the other.

3.

Entering into Hakone
with no money
but plenty of rain.

4.

Four men struggle.
Kago looks heavy.
Nothing inside.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/3

5.

No canvas stops rain
no horse can out run rain
rain cannot outrun rain.

6.

Four men are water walking,
even the sun is drenched.
It hisses like snake.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/3

Namazu

Based on the series by Ando Hiroshige, *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, picture # 13

Note: Tengu “heavenly dog”) are a legendary creature in Japanese folk religion and are considered a type of Shinto god (kami) or yōkai (supernatural beings). Their name comes from a dog-like Chinese demon (Tianguou), originally birds of prey.

1.

Trees move towards village.
Full moon in dark blue sky
wears a Tengu mask.

2.

A river of trees
migrate, barking
like war clouds.

3.

I hear the shrine
of Kompira bells
are not ringing.

4.

Pilgrims of dark forests
follow the shore
to Skikoku Island.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/3

5.

Tengu mask on his back
to see where he has been
better than where he is going.

6.

Village ahead
you can smell laziness
like rice cakes.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/3

Hara

Based on the series by Ando Hiroshige, *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido*, picture # 14

Best view of Fuji, but road considered dangerous for women traveling alone

1.

Two women,
alone and not alone,
Cranes searching for nests.

2.

Men carry boxes
of the unknown.
Fuji is curious.

3.

Rice fields reminds me
I have not eaten
rice white as Fuji snow.

4.

Fuji wears a hat of snow
even in summer,
smiles as Buddha.

Wilderness House Literary Review 8/3

5.

Road danger —
bandits numerous as thistle,
hearts of snow.

6.

Women know danger —
married to impossible men
like impassable roads.