

平手 政秀

MIZUTA MASAHIDE

JAPAN (1657–1723)

LANGUAGE: JAPANESE

蔵焼けて

kura yakete

障るものなき

sawaru mono naki

月見哉

tsuki mi kana



Mizuta Masahide was a celebrated poet who also made his living as a samurai, a merchant, and later, as a physician. Due to a lack of consistent information, there is not much known about his early life. However, it is clear that from an early age Masahide was deeply interested in, and practiced, *waka*, a form of classical Japanese poetry. He also studied with the great *haiku* master Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694). To honor their teacher during his stay in the Omi province, Masahide and a group of poets built him a small hut, called the Nameless Hermitage (Mumyooan 無名庵). The poets studied with, and assisted, Bashō in any way the master required. This particular haiku remains Masahide's most famous poem. Coincidentally, or not, it was also Bashō's favorite.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
CHARACTER	RŌMAJI	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
蔵	kura (n.)	building where things are stored	storehouse, storage room, warehouse, barn
なき	naki (prep.)	in the absence of	without, lacking, minus, sans
障るもの	sawaru mono (n.)	something that prevents access or movement	obstruction, barrier, interference, hindrance, impediment, block
月見哉	tsuki mi kana (n.)	the act of observing the only natural satellite of earth	moon viewing, viewing the moon, moon watching, beholding the moon, moon beholding
焼けて	yakete (v.)	to be destroyed by fire	has burned down, burnt, is in flames, caught fire

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

蔵焼けて

kura yakete _____

障るものなき

sawaru mono naki _____

月見哉

tsuki mi kana _____

REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
