

## Select Japanese Poems

### Ota Dokan

Had I not known  
that I was dead already  
I would have mourned  
my loss of life.

### Baiko

Plum petals falling  
I look up...the sky,  
a clear crisp moon.

### Ouchi Yoshitaka

Both the victor  
and the vanquished are  
but drops of dew,  
but bolts of lightning  
thus should we view the world.

### Bukko

In heaven and earth no place to hide;  
Bliss belongs to the one who knows that  
things are empty and that man is also  
nothing.  
Splendid indeed is the Mongol  
longsword  
Slashing the spring wind like a flash of  
lightening!

### Kusunoki Masatsura

I could not return, I presume,  
So I will keep my name  
Among those who are dead with bows.

### Gansan

Blow if you will,  
fall wind...the flowers  
have all faded.

### Dohaku

Cargoless.  
bound heavenward,  
ship of the moon

### Ginka

I leap from depths  
of debt into the skies:  
autumn of the dragon

### Tesshu

Perfect when clear  
Perfect when cloudy  
Mt. Fuji's  
Original Form  
Never changes

### Takamatsu Toshitsugu

Long ago I was an accomplished warrior  
of the Koppojutsu tradition.  
I was courageous, and as intense as a  
flame, even in battle against dangerous  
animals.  
I have a heart that is like the wild flowers  
of the meadow, and yet as straight and  
true as the bamboo.  
Not even ten thousand enemies can  
cause me fear.  
Who is there in the world who can keep  
alive this will of the warrior's heart?  
There you are. This one sent to me by  
the Warrior Gods  
I have been here waiting for you through  
the ages.

### Fudo

Air cut through steel,  
The blade stops; from silent stone.  
Death is preordained

### Toko

Death Poems  
are mere delusion,  
death is death.