

Folk Kw

ISSUE 6

民
旬



folk ku

民句

a journal in honour of Master Masaoka Shiki (1867 - 1902)



© 2025 King River Press



King River Press is named after the King River, located on Tasmania's wild West Coast. We acknowledge the palawa/pakana as the original peoples of lutruwita - Tasmania, recognising their losses and suffering and that sovereignty was never ceded. Our print books are deposited at the National Library of Australia in Canberra, State Library of Tasmania and some local libraries.

All Rights Reserved. Copyright belongs to the individual author contributors. Apart from any fair use for private study, research, criticism or review, under the Copyright Act, no part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior permission of the copyright holders.

Design, editing and publishing by King River Press. All internal digital art and covers by Mili Zhao. Image of Shiki - adapted from his self-portrait held at the National Diet Museum of Japan. Shiki's haiku herein were sourced from The Matsuyama Shiki Memorial Museum website: shiki-museum.com with translations from the Japanese by King River Press.

<http://kingriverpress.com>

contact@kingriverpress.com

This copy: PDF e-book - Nov/Dec 2025

Soft cover edition: ISBN 978-0-6483088-9-8

folk ku: a journal in honour of Master Masaoka Shiki - Issue 6: Trees

821 English language poetry

895 Literatures of East and Southeast Asia

895.61 Japanese poetry translation

folk ku

民句



樹

trees

welcome to Issue 6 of 民句 *folk ku* journal

民句 *folk ku* journal is dedicated to the founder of modern haiku, Master Masaoka Shiki. Each issue features a selection of his haiku and translations alongside contemporary works inspired by his first principle – *shasei* 寫生 (sketches from life). The haiku, senryu and tanka within the pages of 民句 *folk ku* journal are informed by real-life experiences.

民句 *folk ku* Issue 6: trees showcases 200+ special folk memories from contributors around the world; this time we added an extra 5 countries to our growing list - Belgium, Czech Republic, Iran, Pakistan and Singapore. Huge thank you and congrats to our talented *folk-kuers* from 25 countries and territories.

The 30+ English translations of Shiki's poems were accessed (in Japanese) from The Matsuyama Shiki Memorial Museum 松山市立子規記念博物館 database; these are woven throughout the text to sit alongside the *folk ku* of our contributors. We are extremely grateful for the use of this extraordinary and free to access public library.

Following on from *Issue 5: water*, trees seemed the perfect prompt for our second themed issue. Since time began trees have fed, sheltered, warmed, and protected life on earth. They are, of course, essential to our survival, vital for fresh air and managing climate change. Their therapeutic colours, movements, sounds and auras calm the mind and body, cleansing away the stresses of everyday life. Like animals and people, trees are forever changing with the seasons; budding and flowering, evolving through shedding and regrowth. Trees, like water, can also wreak havoc when they fall or fire finds them. Their vulnerability, strength and resilience remind us of our own.

Trees share and shape environmental, geographical and folk histories. Precious habitats are not only a home, but mean everything to insects, birds and animals. We humans share deep and lasting bonds with nature as well, shaping how we live, dream and tell stories. Many of the places we abode, work and play are enhanced by nature; be it plants in a home or garden, suburban and city tree-lined streets, parks and forests. For this reason, trees often find themselves the subject of personal, local and international news; sometimes in good news stories, but more often caught up in the politics of protection, required resources and greedy capitalist interest.

I personally spent a lot of my earliest years around farms and out bush, then in my teen years, the small seaside village of Hellyer Beach on Tasmania's northwest coast. Growing up there my childhood was deeply bound to the beach, river and bush. The name of the road we lived on was Boobyalla Drive, after the native Australian salt-tolerant evergreen. The other roads in our village followed the same trend; all named after other native species – Melaleuca Drive, Honey Richea Road, Pine Avenue and Heath Lane. And no matter where I've lived, this desire and need to connect with nature and benefit from its health and healing properties has endured.

Master Shiki certainly loved himself a good tree, especially in persimmon season. Between the years 1885 and 1900, we follow him and his memories of travels where he cools off on a hot day, takes a nap in the summer shade, savours a tea ceremony and sake in pine breeze. Shiki resonates with a lone leaf and hibiscus clinging to the close of autumn. In the cold winter, above forest, he spots a snow-capped Mt Fuji and sighs in relief at bright yellow ginkgo leaves on a pile of mush. When spring comes around, Shiki ventures off bird and cow watching, cherry and pear blossom spotting.

Here, more than a century later, *folk-kuers* the world over walk their own sylvan paths, generously sharing personal encounters with and love of trees. Branches are the holders of childhood magic, escapes, swings, hideaways, games and secrets. Trees are the vessels and protectors of folk stories, superstition and myths, often taking on personalities of their own - lonely, weathered, wise, shy. Individuals, couples and families gather around prayer, memorial and celebratory trees. Romantic love too is made and sometimes fades under their canopies. Trees bear witness to all that is meaningful and joyful but also the grief of losing cherished relationships, relocation, death, war, fire. Their crowns reaching for the heavens, roots planted firmly in the soil, the many chapters of folk memory stored in the earth and their rings.

Thank you for joining us on another *folk ku* journey. We look forward to Issue 7, which will open for submissions 25 March to 15 April 2026, to be published May/June. It is with deep respect and great honour that *King River Press* offers the tree themed verses within 民句 *folk ku* journal as a memorial gift to Master Masaoka Shiki.

Enjoy!

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1892

年木樵重たくとても雪の枝

old woodcutter
very heavy indeed
snow-weighted branches

Daya Bhat - Bangalore India

the wise man
on my window sill
banyan bonsai

Janet Ruth - Corrales New Mexico USA

genealogy
apples still ripen
on the wind-thrown tree

Mariangela Canzi - Italy

pinos chill
to the roots --
war

fino alle radici
gelano i pini --
la Guerra

Nature is looking forward to peace.

Manasa Reddy Chichili - Hyderabad India

autumn falls
everyday a little more
mother's love

John Pappas - Boston MA USA

vacant lot
the pears for
the taking

Ravi Kiran - Hyderabad India

in Braille
a tree's story
on its trunk

Clodagh O Connor - Dublin Ireland

these warming days
one red maple leaf hangs on,
doubting the season

Will kigo disappear as our climate changes?

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1890-92

ならんたる鐘や木魚や秋の風

a row of temple bells
mokugyo, the autumn wind

*mokugyo is a wooden fish gong used in Buddhist temples

Gloria Lukina - Zagreb Croatia

cemetery-
the only thing that can be heard
the canopy prayer

groblje-
jedino se čuje
molitva krošnje

Graham Bates - South Island New Zealand

church courtyard
a congregation drunk
on chestnut blossoms

Pegah Rahmati Nezhad - Tehran Iran

gracing
the smoke tree
pink cotton candies



Nalini Shetty - Mumbai India

beneath the neem
my mother's hand
still sorting lentils

Ria Collins - Ireland

between a heart-beat
leaves swirl then fall
and you are gone

in memory of Patrick my husband

Tejendra Sherchan - Kathmandu Nepal

a village reveres
the benjamin fig
as god
for finding
their lost things

Johnnie Johnson Hafernik - San Francisco CA USA

summer dusk
a young buck disappears
into the pines

Masaoka Shiki - Spring (undated)

たらの芽を煮ても焼てもくふ処

where taranome are eaten
either boiled or grilled

*taranome are wild angelica tree buds

Elliot Diamond - Philadelphia USA

squirrels
stringing acorns
stashing prayers

*I have strong images of the squirrels at the
corner church lawn gathering acorns*

Daya Bhat - Bangalore India

winter drizzle
a shy leaf
gathers snow

Mircea Moldovan - Letca România

dawn's bustle
the whispered ballad
of a woodcutter

Rob McKinnon - Bridgewater Australia

winter search...
robins in the snow
seek trees with fruit

Nicholas Gentile - York South Carolina USA

after forty years—
at her home's tree line
life size tonka toys

my sister-in-law's home in South Carolina

Bisshie - Zürich Switzerland

an easterly
swirls the maple leaves skyward
old pond

Colleen M. Farrelly - Miami FL & Milwaukee WI USA

Newton's apple I toss one back to the tree

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1885

木をつみて夜の明やすき小窓かな

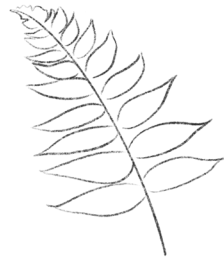
stacking firewood
so gently the dawn
through a small window

Dyana Basist - Santa Cruz CA USA

All Soul's day
brushing pine needles
off her gravestone

Randy Brooks - Taylorville IL USA

pick-up sticks
after the storm
how long will
our grandson
think it's fun?



Marie Derley - Ath Wallonia Belgium

my little family
among the colourful ribbons
prayer tree

ma petite famille
parmi les rubans colorés
arbre à prières

Marilyn Ashbaugh - Edwardsburg MI USA

acorns
the next generation
become neighbors

A large red oak near my home has several more oak-sapling offspring each year.

Vaishnavi Ramaswamy - Chennai India

old banyan -
the roots still dangling
between us

Keiko Izawa - Yokohama Japan

street fair . . .
in the musician's can
a ginkgo nut

Laila Brahmbhatt - Brooklyn New York USA

The backyard tree
still hanging from the bough
her torn sock

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1888

行く秋にしがみついたる木の葉哉

a lone leaf clings to
the passing of autumn

Kimberly A. Horning - St Augustine FL USA

fall
no more blue
on the easel

Gwen Bitti - Sydney Australia

scorched landscape—
the boab tree
content

Jagajit Salam Imphal - Manipur India

tree rings
i count
the forgotten

Graham Bates - South Island New Zealand

who is there left
that really knows me?
though the pines
of my old school are long gone
I continue to call them friends

After Fujiwara No Okikaze

Mary White - Dublin Ireland

before blossom
a necklace of raindrops
on each bough

Eavonka Ettinger - Long Beach CA USA

the moss
between logs in our cabin
dad's tenderness

Paula Sears - Exeter New Hampshire USA

february sun
tapping a spile
into the maple

Barbara Feehrer - Westford MA USA

scattered with his ashes
along the Edge Trail...
chokecherry blossoms

loving memories of Carl

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1891

風蘭や木蔭に風のつかみ

wind orchids
in the tree's shade
a pocket of breeze

**vanda falcata* - an orchid that grows as
an epiphyte on branches and trunks



Blanche Sunrise - London UK

evergreen oaks and pines
butterfly-like crowns
shelter my affection

Marilyn Humbert - Sydney Australia

crows hold court
in the dead eucalypt
their debate
like zealous politicians
during question time

with Allan
Tolderodden campground near Eidsvold QLD

Miriam Sagan - Santa Fe New Mexico USA

Joshua tree
on the edge of the rim
of shadow

Belinda Behne - Clinton Connecticut USA

I press my body
into her rough skin
grandmother cedar

Bonnie J Scherer - Palmer Alaska USA

tart tidbits
to make clafoutis
cherry picking
grandpa calls me
his sweetie pie

Robert Witmer - Tokyo Japan

covered in ash
the last embers glow
beneath an empty picture frame

Ruth Holzer - Potomac Falls VA USA

Monterey coast
all the cypresses
bending one way

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1891

草も木も竹も動くやけさの秋

the grass, trees, bamboo in sway
this autumn morn

Joshua St. Claire - York County PA USA

the white limbs
of a sycamore
autumn deepens

Ben Oliver - Stroud Gloucestershire England

hiss of beech leaves
high above Tintern Abbey
the Devil's Pulpit

*Legend has it that the devil used a limestone outcrop to tempt
the monks of the Abbey far below. We found no devil, but the
wind was certainly whispering...*

Cynthia Bale - Edmonton Canada

underfoot
a colourful crunch --
I sweep up
all the confetti
from the trees' last hurrah

Maeve O'Sullivan - Dublin Ireland

out of reach for us
but not for these chirping robins –
ripe blackberries

Eavonka Ettinger - Long Beach CA USA

a tire swing
roped to the cottonwood
my sanctuary

Zelda Cahill-Patten - London UK

so unlike his sister –
my brother at the tree's top
never earth-bound

for Jago, the tree-climber

Aaron Bowker - New York US

orographic storm
wind whipped trees translate
summer's last breath

Bryan Rickert - Belleville IL USA

felled oak
the emptiness
in each nest

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1892

うぐひすの茶の木くゝるや春の雨

bush warbler -
tying bundled tea branches
under spring rain

Monica Kakkar - India & USA

hues of harmony . . .
I spy with my little eye
grandma's gulmohar

*In memory of my maternal grandparents, Mrs. Santosh Kumari Sarin
and Mr. Kishan Dev Sarin, and their home in New Delhi, India*

Nalini Shetty - Mumbai India

banyan twilight
the roots within roots
of my mother's voice

Fatma Zohra Habis - Algeria



good intentions—
the magpie in the tree
changes branch

Mohua Maulik - New Delhi India

knobbly trunk
of a leafy palm tree skims
the forest floor
her smiling eyes greet me
from the wheelchair

Meeting a dear friend after an accident which left her paralysed.

Xingyu Zhao - Singapore

On Huangshan, pine trees
Grow on a pillow
Of purple cloud

Gwen Bitti - Sydney Australia

billabong
sunshine ripples speckle
melaleuca

Masaoko Shiki - Autumn 1891

馬つなぐ綱にこかるゝ木槿かな

tethered horse
against its coarse rope
a drooping hibiscus

Barbara Feehrer - Westford MA USA

homegrown love ripening pears

Pramod's pear tree

Thomas Landgraf - Melbourne Australia

silky oak...
the raven, then the seagull
take flight

Nalini Shetty - Mumbai India

mango sapling
my son measures himself
against it

Bryan Rickert - Belleville IL USA

maple seeds spinning his war stories

Herb Tate - Jersey UK

rescuing all of them
leaf by leaf
tsundoko

*In loving memory of my grandfather's books,
and all that made them.*

Aaron Bowker - New York USA

helping hand
climbing fall broken by
a tree branch



David J. Kelly - Tewkesbury UK

harvest time
the big oak heavy
with crows

Jiel Narvekar - Mumbai India

axe glints
in the sun
a long embrace

Trees huggers holding on in protest against its felling.

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1897

山寺の花や庭木の間より

mountain temple
between the garden trees
cherry blooms

Nicholas Klacsanzky - Seattle USA

white plum blossoms . . .
the babble of schoolchildren
lulls me to sleep

Krzysztof Kokot - Nowy Targ Poland

old olive tree –
grandma's hands distorted
by hard work

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams - Fairlawn Ohio USA

no blossoms
on the crabapple tree
her passing

I dedicate this haiku to my deceased mother, Ida.

Mark Gilbert - Nottingham UK

a broiling hum
of honeybees
eucalyptus hostel



Debbie Strange - Winnipeg Canada

tuckamores
are moaning outside
the window . . .
I remember it all,
and then some

Herb Tate - Jersey UK

after the storm
in place of my tree
the shape of me

Seeing sky in unfamiliar places
(London, 1987; Jersey 2023)

AJ Johnson - Stephens City VA USA

Methuselah
a wizened bristlecone
shows its age

Masaoka Shiki - New Year 1890

元日や門松に照る朝日影

New Year's day
shadow of the morn's sun
over kadomatsu

*kadomatsu is a decoration of pine and bamboo made for New Year

Lavana Kray - Iasi Romania

leafless trees -
mom's shadow shivers
hanging by the cane

Cynthia Anderson - Yucca Valley California USA

snowy pines
oh thrasher! will you give
my eulogy

*The most outspoken bird around our home, the California thrasher
has given eulogies for other friends—and, I hope, for me.*

Rob McKinnon - Bridgewater Australia

redgum tree...
cloud of bats flying over
cockatoos at rest

Anne Fox - Broomes Island MD USA

wild cherry
dancing unfettered
in the field

Jharna Sanyal - Kolkata India

tree house
on the ladder
a snake and I

Neena Singh - Chandigarh India

mango tree
a *koel's* weight
in its song

Backyard scene of my home in Chandigarh, India

Vishal Prabhu - Greater Himalayas India

mountain ridge
a russet sparrow
tips a cedar

Nancie Zivetz-Gertler - Bend OR USA

even in the fog
the very red of your leaves
japanese maple

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1897

畑の木に鳥籠かけし小春哉

entering winter
on a tree in the field
hangs a birdcage

Albert Schlaht - Missoula Montana USA

starling
returning to its nest--
abandoned house

Every Spring, starlings in and out of the hole in the house.

Paula Sears - Exeter New Hampshire USA

forest floor
morning light
soft on the ferns

Jennifer Gurney - Broomfield Colorado USA

fall leaves
nature's
pixie dust

John Chmura - Manchester New Jersey USA

not one cloud
to hide the supermoon
but plenty of smoke from the pines

Louise Hopewell - Melbourne Australia

grandpa's farm
our tireless search
for the magic faraway tree

*In memory of many happy hours of adventuring in
the Gippsland bush in the 1970s and 80s.*

Mariya Gusev - Sterling Virginia USA

running her fingers
through the manes of the maples
Indian Summer

E.C. Voorhis - Wickford Rhode Island USA

whitebark pines
grasping at clouds
a sneaky kiss

D. V. Rozic - Croatia

tourists gone -
the pine's shadow rocking
a moored rowboat

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1893

蛸や森は夕日の古やしる

cicada
the forest at sunset
an ancient shrine

Mohua Maulik - New Delhi India

chameleon
the many shades
of amaltas

Colleen M. Farrelly - Miami FL/Milwaukee WI USA

Kaddish
the rhythmic rain
against bare trees



Jiel Narvekar - Mumbai India

slingshot –
a fruit falls
into the dust

A childhood memory, the thrill of searching for the best fruit.

Timothy Daly - Senigallia Italy

negative test
we pick out names
for seedlings

Brad Bennett - Arlington MA USA

oak to yew to oak
a squirrel skips
my backyard

Lavana Kray - Iasi Romania

falling walnuts -
the end of summer
in Morse code

Nicholas Gentile - York South Carolina USA

shuttered windows
a fatigued tree shading
the bald tire swing

million dollar homes a half mile away

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1898

川崎を汽車で通るや梨の花

through Kawasaki by steam train
ah! pear blossoms

Pegah Rahmati Nezhad - Tehran Iran

my only cheerleader an orange birch tree

David J. Kelly - Tewkesbury UK

summer shade
the teddy bear softness
of hazel leaves

Belinda Behne - Clinton Connecticut USA

the scent of pine
sap-covered needles
stick to bare feet
beyond a veil of moss
a unicorn sleeps

*a childhood game of finding animals in the forest, my
cousins and I still play as adults*

Dyana Basist - Santa Cruz CA USA

the bare branches
between us
autumn deepens

Tony Williams - Glasgow Scotland UK

more white
in your beard this year...
pussy willow

Robert Witmer - Tokyo Japan

palm trees
dusted with snow
his retirement
a bucket list
taped to the fridge

Florian Munteanu - Bucharest Romania

clock on wall
a woodpecker drums--
last embers

Laila Brahmhatt - Brooklyn New York USA

Koel sings
in Kashmiri
beneath the pine tree

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1894

森の上に富士見つけたる寒さかな

above the forest
a view of Mount Fuji
how cold it is!

Joseph P. Wechselberger - Browns Mills NJ USA

foreclosure
a needleless Christmas tree
still decorated

Jacek Wilkos - Kraków Poland

two little squirrels
playing tag on a tree
I miss the good old days

Govind Joshi - Dehradun India

summer breeze
a coo of a dove
from the gulmohar tree

Randy Brooks - Taylorville IL USA



we roll grandpa's
two-tone Chevy
under a shade tree
the perfect place
to fall in love

Thomas Smith - Austin Texas USA

slowing the river
through willow trees
church bells

Joshua Gage - Cleveland OH USA

Schubert's Wigenlied—
cradling snow and starlight
the sycamore's bare branches

Leon Tefft - Greenville South Carolina USA

blowing leaves
I too drift through this
unsettled night

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1900

常磐木の落葉十句や我勝ちぬ

fallen evergreen leaves: ten haiku
I win!

Joanna Ashwell - UK

becoming the plank
my yoga practice
a winter tree

Gareth Nurden - Newport Wales

apple orchard
all that remains
thinning wind

Jharna Sanyal - Kolkata India

Kashmir days
up for spring cleaning
her walnut trinket box

Ron Scully - Burien WA USA

country walk
couple of seniors arm in arm
trees lean in

Tim Dwyer - Bangor Northern Ireland
& Brooklyn NY USA

happiness...
chattering sparrows
fill bare branches

after Akemi 1812-1868

Lakshmi Iyer - Trivandrum India

tree spider
the hop, step and jump
of our conversations

Carl Walsh - Melbourne Australia

the sun sinks
reflecting on the Yarra
a river redgum

Maeve O'Sullivan - Dublin Ireland

a month on
from my friend's death –
rose garden in bloom

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1895

柿の花土塀の上にこぼれけり

persimmon blossoms spilled over the clay wall

Debbie Strange - Winnipeg Canada

lodgepole pine
the bear's coat sticky
with resin

John Chmura - Manchester New Jersey USA

winter oak
perched on every branch
a singing star

Boryana Boteva - Sofia Bulgaria

the tall walnut tree
sharing its shadow
with old superstitions



*Dedicated to my grandma Yana who used to tell me
not to stay under the walnut shadow.*

високият орех
споделям сянката му
със стари поверия

*Посветено на моята баба Яна, която ми
казваше да не стоя под орехова сянка.*

AJ Johnson - Stephens City VA USA

autumn fades
this year's leaves
bury the last

Vaishnavi Ramaswamy - Chennai India

half-way up
the mango tree
a chipmunk gasps

Joanna Ashwell - UK

rulebreaker
re-filling the trees
with an ochre sweep

MJ Mello - Rhode Island USA

cabin in the pines . . .
each peg
a different baseball cap

for lm

David J. Kelly - Tewkesbury UK

oak beams
the flavour of the barrel
in our red wine

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1900

木櫨の落葉掃きたる茶の湯哉

oak leaves swept aside
for the tea ceremony
ah!

Lorraine Haig - Richmond Tasmania Australia

bruised apples
the Swift Parrots'
tipsy flight

Lev Hart - Calgary Canada

fluttering
through
the
dusk
plum
blossoms

Louis Talbot - Epsom UK

pine wilt—
the day I found his car keys
in the fridge

Bisshie - Zürich Switzerland

honesty
the skeletal limbs
of the sycamore

Wilda Morris - Bolingbrook IL USA

in the redwood forest
feeling so young
and small

Adele Evershed - Wilton CT USA

bare branches—
the crow and I wait
for change

Janet Ruth - Corrales New Mexico USA

grandmother in her yellow dress the cottonwood



Joshua Gage - Cleveland OH USA

dutchman's breeches
trembling in lake wind—
abandoned lighthouse

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1892

袈裟とれば團栗一つこぼれけり

when lifting my robe one acorn spilled out

Alex Drogin - Providence Rhode Island USA

evening orchestra
the cicada section
seated above

Richard L. Matta - San Diego California USA

paper bark tree
the two of us peeling
back midday heat

Ben Oliver - Stroud Gloucestershire England

robin song
allowing it to lead us
up the garden path

Sherri J Moye-Dombrosky - Liberty SC USA

sycamore
favorite hideout
and reading nook

Louise Hopewell - Melbourne Australia

treehouse
pulling up the ladder
to escape my big sister

*With gratitude for a free-range childhood
in Gippsland, Victoria, Australia.*

Robert Witmer - Tokyo Japan

at the tiptopmost
of the tallest tree
a lost kite
waving goodbye
to a summer cloud

Minal Sarosh - Ahmedabad India

blooming gulmohar
the abandoned house now
has a new nameplate

Joshua St. Claire - York County PA USA

pollen storm
this floating down
to the forest floor

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1888

松風に甘酒わかす出茶屋かな

pine breeze
warming sweet sake
at the roadside teahouse

R. Suresh babu - Thiruvalla India

forest walk
the arthritic creak
of an old oak

Marilyn Ashbaugh - Edwardsburg MI USA

lightning-strike
the woodpecker taps
the elm's wound

Richa Sharma - Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh India

shadows of forgotten soldiers olive trees

Richard Tice - Kent Washington USA

decades after the fall
of a nurse log—
young cedars

Joseph P. Wechselberger - Browns Mills NJ USA

early autumn
the quiver of the branch
when the apple falls



Vandana Parashar - Panchkula India

same branch
the weight of a sparrow
the weight of a monkey

C.X. Turner - Birmingham UK

maple leaf –
a child carries home
some gold

Neena Singh - Chandigarh India

pine forest trail—
small footsteps linger
between the cones

For Tripat, my 9 year old grandson

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1894

山茶花の一輪咲て秋暮れぬ

one camellia blooms
the closing of fall

R. Suresh babu - Thiruvalla India

mother banyan
the tribeswoman braids
her hanging roots

James Penha - Bali Indonesia

Bali autumn:
leaves of grass fall like timber—
stalks of bamboo

Jenny Shepherd - London United Kingdom

under the flame trees
the contradiction
of the coolest shade

*I still miss the flame trees of my youth in Taiwan:
their beauty, and the comfort of their deep shade.*

Miluše Míčková - Strakonice Czech Republic

in the orchard
branches of old apple tree
hugging the grapevine

v ovocném sadu
větvě staré jabloně
v objetí s révou

Ria Collins - Ireland

struggling ant
stuck in sticky resin
no elixir

Chen-ou Liu - Ajax Ontario Canada

tree house in twilight
another layer of dust
on *The Little Prince*

Zelda Cahill-Patten - London UK

our goldfish buried
under some tree in the park
I'm not sure which one

Finley the goldfish (2004-2013)

Aakanksha Tanwar - Gurugram India

old banyan...
the crow returns
to silence

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1892

冬枯の草の家つゝく鳥哉

wintered grass hut
a crow pecks at it

Ruth Holzer - Potomac Falls VA USA

as the earth tilts
toward the sun again
I wonder
how many more times
I'll see these budding twigs

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams - Fairlawn Ohio USA

chestnut tree -
heritage rooted
in the old country

I dedicate this haiku to my deceased parents from Arpino, Italy.

RJ Humbl' - Essex England

quarrelling men
sparrows all take flight
trees are still

Vandana Parashar - Panchkula India



laid off
plum blossoms drift
in my backyard

E.C. Voorhis - Wickford Rhode Island USA

sagebrush valley
a wild party
of shadow puppets

Elliot Diamond - Philadelphia USA

embers
hitch the wind
the black blacker

If everyone could be more mindful

Thomas Landgraf - Melbourne Australia

rough-barked eucalypt...
a treecreeper
forages for insects

Richard Tice - Kent Washington USA

among the litter
of fir cones
purple crocus

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1890

春風の手柄見せけり桃柳

the spring breeze's handicraft display
peach and willow

Monica Kakkar - India & USA

singing the blues . . .
an abandoned home
abloom with amaltas

*In memory of my paternal grandparents, Mrs. Lajja Vati Kakkar
and Mr. Ganga Ram Kakkar, and their home in Punjab, India*

Adele Evershed - Wilton CT USA

pepper tree—
an old immigrant still dreams
in Spanish

Manasa Reddy Chichili - Hyderabad India

magpie shadow
with rhythm of the autumn
on my wheel chair

カササギ 影
と リズム の 秋
の上 私の 車椅子

Keiko Izawa - Yokohama Japan

mountain inn
my day ends
in a hinoki tub

Note: *hinoki* (Japanese cypress) is valued in Japan for its soothing fragrance, a blend of wood, citrus, and spice. The scent, often found in baths, evokes both relaxation and spiritual calm.

Brigita Lukina - Zagreb Croatia

broken by the bora wind,
the tree still lives as a resting place
for seagulls

slomljeno burom,
drvo i dalje živi kao odmorište
za galebove



Boryana Boteva - Sofia Bulgaria

a narrow path
through the pine forest
a labyrinth to you

тясна пътека
през боровата гора
лабиринт към теб

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1896

花や旗や森の下闇棺行く

blooms, banners
under canopy darkness
a funeral procession

Tuyet Van Do - Australia

another year
the ornamental pears
in full bloom

Hifsa Ashraf - Rawalpindi Pakistan

forest canopy
letting go of
my identity

Cynthia Bale - Edmonton Canada

maple leaves
released for the season
red falling ...
my body lets go
of what it no longer needs

Marie Derley - Ath Wallonia Belgium

calendar pages
every year the old tree
gives new flowers

pages du calendrier
chaque année, le vieil arbre
donne de nouvelles fleurs

Xingyu Zhao – Singapore

Eating pork ribs stew,
My father fishes out
A banyan leaf

Archie G. Carlos - Minnesota USA

graceful palms
mainland kids struggling
to hula

Leon Tefft - Greenville South Carolina USA

atop the white pine
a clear-eyed hawk
grounded by fog

Stephen C. Curro - Fort Collins CO USA

the wind
aggravating trees
meeting Mom's boyfriend

*Things are much better now, but at the time I could feel
the wind blowing through the family...*

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1896

涼みながら木陰に寝たり日半日

cooling off
dozing under tree shade
half the day gone

Graham Bates - South Island New Zealand

komorebi . . .
the beat of monarch wings
passing behind me

Nicholas Klacsanzky - Seattle USA

broken hyperlink—
a ginkgo leaf rests
on the sill

Fran Sani - Leicester UK

*Is it an oak tree?
I don't know - She says - But still
It's my favourite.*

For a kind-hearted lady on Leicester's New Walk.

Martina Matijević - Vidovci Croatia

chestnut cart
sweet smell of
my childhood



Thomas Smith - Austin Texas USA

Caribbean rhythm
in the swaying palms
the dance inside me

David Oates - Athens Georgia USA

big oak's new leaves
it wears its eighty years
lightly

Suzanne Leaf-Brock - Ames Iowa USA

hand painted no spray sign
on a warped board
nailed to the old apple tree

*My grandpa ran a vegetable stand and had a no spray sign hung out so
the people who maintained the roadway would not spray herbicides.*

Louis Talbot - Epsom UK

I ask how long
she's felt this way
willow leaves

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1892

梟や杉見あぐれば十日月

ah! an owl
gazing up at the cedar
ten-day moon

Johnnie Johnson Hafernik - San Francisco CA USA

snowy afternoon
just beyond the magnolia
a coyote

Stephen C. Curro - Fort Collins CO USA

a shrine hidden
by pines
birdsong

*I saw a video of a small Shinto shrine dedicated to Amateratsu-Omikami
at the end of a trail in the woods. I hope to visit there one day.*

John Hawkhead - Bradford on Avon UK

along the mudflats
stumps of petrified oak
birdless breezes

Timothy Daly - Senigallia Italy

parent's poplar how tough it is to put down roots

Thompson Emate - Lagos Nigeria

lonely tree
last of its kind
felled by the mayhem of age

Louise Hopewell - Melbourne Australia

memorial garden
mum and dad choose the wattle
we'll bury them under

For Mum and Dad, who hopefully still have many years ahead of them

Lorraine Haig - Richmond Tasmania Australia

no longer
a forested ridge
the slow turn of blades

Anne Fox - Broomes Island MD USA

deep winter
the dead pine taller now
than the moon

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1885

柿の實の火ともえいでて寒さ哉

persimmons glowing like embers
it's freezing!

Marilyn Humbert - Sydney Australia

finding a path
among russet leaves
raindrops and me

rainy day stroll with Allan - Delany Avenue, Bright Victoria

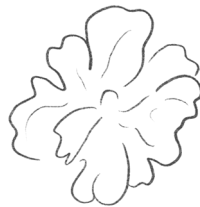
Mary White - Dublin Ireland

pen in hand
through the window
quiver of the Aspen

Richard L. Matta - San Diego California USA

heirloom tree
how quiet
the bare branches

Tuyet Van Do - Australia



changing hues
Japanese maples
decorate the backyard

Cynthia Anderson - Yucca Valley California USA

a pine bough
brushes my head—
pollen shower

Surprised by a rain of yellow!

Mark Miller - Shoalhaven Heads NSW Australia

stump after stump
of the old growth forest—
darkening winter sky

John Pappas - Boston MA USA

aspen leaves
the brushwork on
angel wings

Mark Miller - Shoalhaven Heads NSW Australia

fading taillights
the tawny frogmouth
becomes bark again

Masaoka Shiki - 1890/91

つまをよぶ鶴や千歳の松の友

crane calling its mate
companion of the ancient pine

Patricia Hawkhead - Bradford on Avon UK

windblown branches
he says I should straighten
my unruly hair



M. R. Pelletier - Topeka KS USA

circle of redwoods....
I look up
and feel young

Neena Singh - Chandigarh India

gulmohar blossoms
brighter red than ever—
your first love letter
still scents my diary
after forty-five years

*Dedicated to my husband on our 2 years of courtship
and 43 years of marriage on 30th May 2025*

Minal Sarosh - Ahmedabad India

copse of trees
how every bird knows
its way out

Rowan Beckett Minor - Cleveland Ohio USA

mountain fog
granny's old house
lost to the pines

Jacek Wilkos - Kraków Poland

family tree
so many branches broken
during the war

Marcia Burton - Salt Spring Island Canada

to our fore-fathers
splashing cider on the trees
we raise our glasses

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1896

花葵上野の森は曇りけり

sunflowers
Ueno Park's forest
overcast today

*Ueno Park in Tokyo is Japan's oldest public park

Sherri J Moye-Dombrosky - Liberty SC USA

walnuts fall
beside the stream
we used to jump

Jharna Sanyal - Kolkata India

mango
at the foot of the Akhshay Vata
my offering

for Paroma Sanyal

This relates to the final stage of the Hindu shradh ceremony (rituals for the deceased) performed in Gaya, India. Often ones' most favourite fruit is offered at the feet of the tree, Akshaya Vata, the Immortal Banyan, in the memory of ancestors. It's given up for life.

Joanna Lai - Hong Kong SAR China

Under your wide crown
Children played; old people sat.
You were kind to us

Uprooted, fallen
You lie there in deep slumber
You're broken, not dead



A ficus elastica
You will bounce back with our help!

***Poems inspired by the story of a ficus elastica planted in the middle of a public housing estate in Hong Kong. It grew there for 50 years but it was blown down by Typhoon Ragasa. The tree is now being replanted in its original place.*

Brad Bennett - Arlington MA USA

beech grove
he hugs the one
that's scarred

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1896

初牛は思はぬ森の太鼓かな

season's first cow
an unexpected drum
in the forest

Lakshmi Iyer - Trivandrum India

puppet museum
the smell of attic wood
in the emoticons

Mary Oishi - Albuquerque USA

grandma's cherry tree
cousins eat more than
go in the pails

In memory of Anna E. Landis

C.X. Turner - Birmingham UK

storm-torn valley
in a curled oak leaf
a spider sleeps

Tim Dwyer - Bangor Northern Ireland
& Brooklyn NY USA

the hornbeam tree
full of leaf through the winter—
now cut and stacked

Aakanksha Tanwar - Gurugram India

strings of moonlight
from the forest canopy...
spider webbing

Rowan Beckett Minor - Cleveland Ohio USA

snow on snow
behind the cemetery
a christmas tree farm

Lev Hart - Calgary Canada

down the tree-lined avenue
one
with yellow leaves

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1897

枯葉朽葉中に銀杏の落葉哉

amid the withered, decaying pile
the fallen gingko - ah!

Goran Gatalica - Zagreb Croatia

this silence . . .
a large linden tree
wearing the mist

Tony Williams - Glasgow Scotland UK

falling now—
the rain the willow trees
held back



Folk Kv

Lorraine Haig

bruised apples
the Swift Parrots'
tipsy flight

Richmond Tasmania