

20 Haiku by Kōji Yasui 安井 浩司

translated by Eric Selland



Kōji Yasui (安井 浩司) was born in Akita, Japan, in 1936. He studied haiku under Kouji Nagata. While still in his teens, he became a member of the haiku magazine *Bokuyoshin*, edited by Shuji Terayama. He is a member of the Riraza Group, Haiku-hyoron, and Unicorn. He is currently a member of the Ki group (information courtesy of World Haiku Association).

The poems presented here have been extracted from an essay entitled *Ban'ya Natsuishi and Kōji Yasui* by Sayumi Kamakura, which was originally published in *Kokubungaku* (Gakutōsha, Dec. 2008 special edition).

Roadrunner X:1

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氷柱苛立ちわたしの内臓透けて見える

The column of ice irritated
You can see right through
To my insides

渚で鳴る巻貝有機質は死して

Sounding on the beach

Trumpet shells

Organic matter in their death

ひるすぎの小屋を壊せばみなすすき

The old shack in the afternoon
After tearing it down
Nothing left but grass and weeds

死鼠をのまひるへ抛りけり

Tossed the dead rat
Into eternal daylight

何を恐れて闇に青梅撒きちらす

What is it that frightens
Scattering unripe plums
In the darkness

汝が犬の入る門へとはいるべし

Thou shalt enter by the gate
Where the dog enters

となるため声を検約する草ら

The grass saves up its voice
For the coming north wind

西の空に龍重体となる美しき

In the western sky
Beauty like a sick dragon

或る青空醜い棒へ車輪嵌める

Under a blue sky
The automobile's tires
Ensnare an ugly stick

藁塚の父をしめらしゆく雁列

A column of geese

On its way to moisten

My father on a mound of straw

椿の花いきなり数を廃棄せり

Camellias—
All of a sudden
Discarding their numbers

をふたたびみれば岬かな

Seeing grandfather again
The promontory

遠い煙が白瓜抱いて昇るらん

Distant smoke
Bears a white gourd
In its ascent

に散りたきさるすべり崖上に

The crape myrtle on the shore
Wants its flowers to fall eternally

夕顔の水をかせて寂しけれ

The moonflower's sadness
At emptying its water

鷲の眼の高さと広さに我はいず

I am not
The height and breadth
Of the eagle's eye

火のほとり水は流れて秋の家

Water flows

By the fire

The house in autumn

牛の背に二人抱き合う春

On the back of a cow
Two children embracing
Spring

&

Two more by Kōji Yasui

translated by Eric Selland

山中孤塔に瞳のような窓入れけり

A window cut
Like an eye
In the lonely mountain tower

膝の辺りに宇宙堇の落下して

Around the knees

A cosmic violet

Falling