

From the readings: why do so many people leave the world to become recluses?

- wanting to lead a more Zen/Buddhist life away from worldly concerns
- wanting to escape dishonor and sufferings of the world/city.

Are these natural disasters or omens that happen normally, or special in some way?

- They might be seen as karmic justice on people in the city.

Aesthetic sense, “mono no aware,” of beauty captured in a medium.

So what do the recluses do?

- meditate
- pray
- write poetry
- take walks and think about the evils of the world

Their dwellings reflect the simplicity and earthiness of their existence.

Note: a lot of religion at this time was an eclectic collection of different styles/branches of Buddhism and Shinto.

Yugen: an aesthetic term meaning “imperfection.”

Discussion of Essays in Idleness numbers 82, 137, 189, 166:

These essays often deal with finding beauty in imperfection; in sadness over impermanence, and express disdain for people who strive for success or are very ambitious.

Haiku

Basho: famous haiku poet

Haikus: 5-7-5 syllables in 3 lines. The theme of these poems is often something in nature. A lot of haiku tries to capture conflicting emotions in bare syllables and simplicity.

Note on one of the haikus: a waterfall is associated with Shinto rituals – monks will go behind it and chant, called “misogi,” which is very refreshing, since the water is very cold.

[Finished film *Onibaba*.]