

# Basho



# Famous *haiku*

The old pond;  
a frog jumps in —  
water's sound

*Translated by R.H. Blyth*

# Basho sets off

Departing springtime  
Birds lament and fishes too  
have tears in their eyes

# Urami-no-taki

In brief seclusion

At a waterfall - the start  
of a summer retreat

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Woodcut illustration of Urami-no-taki.

# Unganji

Even woodpeckers  
Seem to spare the hermitage  
in the summer grove

# At Takadachi

A dream of warriors  
And after dreaming is done,  
the summer grasses

# Hikaridô

Do the Fifth-Month rains  
stay away when they fall,  
sparing that Hall of Gold?

# Obanazawa

Come on, show yourself!  
Under the silkworm nursery,  
the croak of a toad.

# Ryushakuji

Ah, tranquility!

Penetrating the very rock,  
a cicada's voice.

# Sanemori's helmet

A heartrending sound!  
Underneath the helmet,  
the cricket.

# Last poem

Off to Futami

loath to part as clam from shell  
in waning autumn