Zen Poetry

Haiku
Seasons

Hoarfrost spikes
Have sprung out overnight
Like the hairs on my chin.
(Koji)
Awakening

Awakened at midnight
By the sound of the water jar
Cracking from the ice.

(Bashō)
Awakening

A pattering of rain
On new eaves
Brings me awake.

(Bashō)
The skylark:
Its voice alone fell
Leaving nothing behind.

(Ampu)
Sound of Emptiness

The silence;
The voice of the cicadas
Penetrates the rocks.

(Bashō)
Emptiness

Fields and mountains
All taken by snow;
Nothing remains.

(Joso)
Meditation/Stillness

Deep within the stream
The huge fish lies motionless
Facing the current.

(Hackett)
Meditation/Stillness

On a rock in the rapids
Sits
A fallen camellia.

(Miura Yuzuru)
Meditation Posture

The gull soars on nothing
But slight corrections
To the tilt of its nose.

(Marsh)
Crow-Priests

The crow sits
On a dead branch –
Evening of autumn.

(Bashō)
Crow-Priests

Why flap to town?
A country crow
Going to market.

(Bashō)
Lonely Way

My way –
No one on the road,
And it’s autumn, getting dark.

(Bashō)
Loneliness

The scarecrow in the distance;
It walked with me
As I walked.

(San-in)
Loneliness

The long night –
Made longer
By a dog’s barking.

(Santoka)
Loneliness

An octopus pot –
Inside, a short-lived dream
Under a summer moon.

(Bashō)