**Contrasting qualities in imagery**

Basho savoured many different qualities in poetic imagery. He loved delicate things (*Like stroking a boil/ the touch of the tip/ of a willow branch*), *sabi* and *wabi* and *karumi* and *fukyo* and *muga* things, and ‘homely’ things: “If you describe a green willow in the spring rain it will be excellent, but haiku needs more homely images, such as a crow picking snails in a rice paddy.” He also said that we should, “learn about a pine tree from a pine tree and about a bamboo stalk from a bamboo stalk,” and should aim for the clarity of a shallow mountain stream flowing over pebbles. As for the yin and yang of imagery, he claimed that he, “always travelled with a copy of *Chuang Tsu.*” And he loved surprising innovative combinations.

Cuckoo – / moonlight binds / the thick bamboo (Basho, Stryk)

Sound of rapids – / silent yellow petals / of the mountain rose (Basho, Stryk)

Drenched bush-clover / passers-by – / both beautiful (Basho, Stryk)

One must bend / in the floating world / snow on the bamboo (Lady Chiyo-ni)

My old body / a drop of dew grown / heavy at the leaf tip (Kiba’s death poem)

How gracefully / cows trample / field of violets (Fujio)

Family separation / and yet still the indifference / of winter rain (Someone at Hourne Farm retreat)

Contending / temple bell / winter wind (Kiso?)

Before school / ten minutes in heaven / drawing devils (GM)

We don’t speak / of the deeper issue / skimming stones (dl mattila)

I go / thou stayest: / two autumns (Buson, Blyth)

Cutting through it all / there’s no me and no person – / just this itchy nose (Bill Wyatt)

The full moon aswell! / So my farewell to the world / is “Yours sincerely...” (Lady Chiyo-ni)

I have brought / a luminous piece of cloud / for your table of objects (GM)

Dragonfly, trying to – / oops, hang onto the upside / of a blade of grass (Basho, GM)

Bush warbler – / a dropping on the rice cake / at the veranda’s edge! (Basho, Ueda)

Bone scan / the length / of a Brandenberg Concerto (Ken Jones)

Behind the virgins’ / quarters, / one blossoming plum (Basho, Stryk)

Embers die / The chair where the friend sat / Fills with moonlight (Cicely Hill)

Charging the ramblers / A playful cow, her forehead / Stuck with burrs (Cicely Hill)

Stairs creak / Down in the darkened room a disc / Plays itself out (Cicely Hill)

Travel-weary / I seek lodging – / ah, wisteria (Basho, Stryk)