

JANUARY

Uproar and noise

9 Mark not the mind's immeasurable depth.  
See'st thou yon spot where idle waves do chatter?  
The stream is shallowest there.

*Soseihoshi.*

10 Now the great Cold begins: the god of Frost  
Reigns everywhere supreme; but they, whose veins  
Still pulse with Youth's hot blood, derisively  
Snap thumb and finger at him. Only we,  
Whose blood is thin—elderly people—dread  
Bone-piercing Winter's rule tyrannical.

*Saisho.*

11 The true heroic spirit—when a man,  
Wounded, and lying on a bed of pain,  
Feels the desire for fight arise anew,  
And cannot rest: but, ere his wounds are healed,  
Longs to go forth to war,—'tis surely this.

*Takakura Hisako.*  
(A lady of the court).

12 Deep water and thin ice!"—the man that sees  
This notice by the frozen lake, and still  
Ventures upon the ice, call him a fool.

*Kusunoki Masashige.*



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