

*of time and eternity*



*Seen by the eye of faith  
the cherry blossoms  
are always about to fall.*



*It is a rare privilege to be born  
as a human being,  
as we happen to be.  
If we do not achieve  
enlightenment in this life,  
when do we expect to achieve it?  
—Echu*

*Some acts have been considered bad for generations,  
and now we do not see anything wrong  
with them. It may take centuries to clarify  
rules of behavior. Therefore it is foolish  
to expect immediate approval.  
—Zengetsu*

*There is that which precedes heaven and earth.  
It is formless, nameless.  
The eye cannot perceive it.  
To speak of it as mind or Buddha is inexact,  
then it becomes again something in our imagination.  
The Tao cannot be expressed in words.  
—Dai-o-Kokushi*



*There is no here, no there. Infinity lies before our eyes.  
—Sengtsan*

*A man who has seen into his Self-Nature,  
sees it whenever questioned about it.  
—Hui Neng*

Do not compute eternity  
as light-year after year.  
One step across  
that line called Time:  
Eternity is here.

The rose that  
with my mortal eye I see  
flowers in God  
through all eternity.

How fleeting is this world . . .  
yet it survives.  
It is ourselves that fade from it  
and our ephemeral lives.

Were I to lose myself in Him  
I'd find again the Ground  
that held and nurtured me  
before this earthly round.

Eternity is time,  
Time, eternity.  
To see the two as opposites  
is mind's perversity.



Man has two eyes.  
One only sees what moves in fleeting time,  
the other  
what is eternal and divine.

I have known wealth and fame  
poverty and utter shame.  
Yet all was transitory.  
Beyond time I found bliss and glory.



The man in harmony with God  
is with himself at ease.  
He is content to be here, now  
in perfect peace.

Timelessness  
Is so much part of you, of me—  
We cannot hope to find  
the Self  
until aware of our eternity.

Time is of your own making,  
its clock ticks in your head.  
The moment you stop thought  
time too stops dead.

Just one step out of time  
I enter God's eternity,  
and I am wholly freed  
from human transiency.

Until you lose your Me  
you cannot see God's face—  
The moment you recover it  
you fall from grace.

How short our span!  
If you once realized how brief,  
you would refrain  
from causing any beast or man  
the smallest grief, the slightest pain.

I am God's alter ego.  
He is my counterpart.  
In timelessness we merge—  
in time we seem apart.

Most sacred:  
The Void's immobility  
that makes all move,  
retaining its tranquility.

At the end of that  
which we call history  
God is who IS:  
for Him there is no past  
nor future yet to be.