

Haiku

Matsuo Bashō ¹
(1644-1694)

three translations

On dead branches crows remain perched
at autumn's end.

—Hiroaki Sato

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on a barren branch
a raven perched—
autumn dusk

—William J. Higginson

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On a leafless bough
A crow is sitting: —autumn,
Darkening now—

—Harold Gould Henderson

¹ Bowers, Faubion, ed. *The Classic Tradition of Haiku: An Anthology*. Mineola: Dover Thrift Editions, 1996. Print.

² Wright, Richard. *Haiku: This Other World*. New York: Anchor Books, 1998. Print.

Richard Wright ²
(Sept. 4, 1908 – Nov. 28, 1960)

52

Gazing at her face
Reflected in the spring pond,
The girl grimaces.

200

A silent spring wood:
A crow opens its sharp beak
And creates a sky.

337

Blue-black beak open,
The crow hurls a caw straight at
A sinking red sun.

367

An old blindman
Playing a black violin
Amid fallen leaves.

408

A dead mouse floating
Atop a bucket of cream
In the dawn spring light.

474

A white butterfly
Sits with slowly moving wings
On a dead black snake.

561

An old lonely man
Had a long conversation
Late one winter night.