

Shirayuri

Text by Tomiko Yamakawa

Text 1;

髪ながき少女とうまれ 白百合に 額は伏せつつ 君をこそ思へ

Kami(hair) Nagaki(long) shoujo(a girl) to umare (I was born as) shirayuri(white lily) ni hitai (face) wa husetsutsu (covered) kimini (you) koso (only) omoe (falling love with)

(meaning)

I was born and raised as a young girl with rich black hair, and as I put my forehead to a white lily and inhaled its scent, I am deeply in love with you, who is no one else.

Text 2;

おつとせい 氷に眠る さいはひを 我も今知るおもしろきかな

Ottosei(fur seal) kowori (ice) ni (on) nemuru (sleep) saiwai (happy) wo ware (I) mo (also) ima (now) shiru (know) omosiroki kana (feel interesting)

(meaning)

I just realised that the fur seal also has happiness even they sleep on the ice.

This is her swan song. In this period, she was almost to her death. She got tuberculosis of the lungs and to prevent infection, so no one could come to her to see even family and she was alone in the cold bed. She said it is interesting herself about the situation, which is quite terrible, but she is pretending she is strong and also pushed herself away in this poem.

Coda

私は 氷に眠る 白百合

Watashi (I) wa kowori (ice) ni nemuru (sleep on) Shirayuri (white lily)

(meaning)

I am white illy sleep on the ice.