

Katauta

What does spring look like?
Can you tell when it has come?
I am waiting—long.

color fades in fog
rain stipples leaves with clear daubs
dew dapples diamonds.

What are your best dreams
for loved ones discovering paths
despite risks, support?

Please do choose freely,
fulfilling your highest goals
meeting your life safely.

Katauta: Japanese. Basic unit of Japanese poetry that developed the Haiku. It is in the form of a question and answer. There is an utterance: a spontaneous, emotive word or phrase. It is a question or its answer. “Am I in love?” There is a spontaneous and intuitive answer called a Mondo. Katautas are unrhymed.

Three-lined poem with syllable count: 5-7-5.

A pair of Katautas has the questions and answer.