

Dramatization from the Man'yōshū

The Sea, the Clouds, the Moon, and the Stars

海と雲と月と星と

Date: October 30, 2015 3:00PM start

Place: University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Art Auditorium



Narrator: Matsuzaka Keiko



Author: Ueno Makoto

Translator: Robert Huey

Narrators : Takauchi Monet, Takauchi Marisa, and Students

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Ame no umi ni / Kumo no namitachi / Tsuki no fune /

Hoshi no hayashi ni / Kogikakuru miyu

The above poem appears in the poetry collection of Kakinomoto Asomi Hitomaro. MYS VII, #1068

If the heavens are the sea, The clouds are its waves,
The half-moon, a boat, The stars a forest.
That half-moon boat. Is seen, rowing through and disappearing into the forest of stars.

The *Man'yōshū* is a waka collection compiled in the latter half of the eighth century. Waka refers to poetry written in Japanese. It is fair to describe this collection, which consists of 4,516 poems in twenty chapters, as a bouquet of ancient poems.

One of the poets in *Man'yōshū* was a woman who lived in the second half of the seventh century, named Princess Nukata (Nukata no Ōkimi). Her poems, her voice were much beloved by the people of that time.

