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Abstract

The Concept of Death and Her Spirituality of Misuzu Kaneko

Toshiyuki Kubotera

The talented poet, Misuzu Kaneko is very well known to any person in any religion. Her poem "Yuki" (snow)" is one about the death of a blue bird. She has died in unknown field in the evening of a cold day. In this poem, Kaneko has mentioned about an understanding of a death, a life after death, a life itself, and an God. Kaneko was born and raised in religious family of Jodo-Shinshu or one of the most influential Japanese Buddhism sects. Many scholars have said her mercy and love to the hurt and the weak person influenced by Jodo-Shinshu. As long as the poem "Yuki" concerned, she has not intended to mean a particular one religion. In this poem, she has used "Kami" or a God, instead of Amidabutsu, Buddhism God. She had used "Kami" as an universal God instead of a particular God. She was very religious, but not narrow. She has wanted any religion open not exclusive. She wanted to be kind and friendly to the hurt and the weak person, also to any religion. She has wanted to be spiritual, not exclusive to others.