

Ivan Morris The Pillow Book, 1967
Table of Contents

1. In spring it is the dawn
2. Especially delightful is the first day
3. On the third day of the third month
4. How delightful everything is!
5. Different ways of speaking
6. That parents should bring up some beloved son
7. When the Empress moved
8. The cat who lived in the palace
9. On the first day of the first month
10. I enjoy watching the officials
11. The sliding screen in the back of the hall
12. When I make myself imagine
13. Depressing things
14. Hateful things
15. The palace of the first ward
16. Things that make one's heartbeat faster
17. Things that arouse a fond memory of the past
18. A palm-leaf carriage should move slowly
19. Oxen should have very small foreheads
20. The driver of an Ox-carriage
21. A preacher ought to be good looking
22. When I visited Bodai Temple
23. Smaller Shirakawa
24. It is so stiflingly hot
25. Flowering trees
26. Festivals
27. Trees
28. Birds
29. Elegant things
30. Insects
31. In the Seventh month
32. Unsuitable things
33. I was standing in the corridor
34. Gentlemen should always have escorts
35. Once I saw Yukinari
36. The roll call of the senior courtiers
37. It is hateful when a well bred young man
38. Small children and babies
39. Nothing can be worse
40. Travelling in my carriage one day
41. Once when I was passing
42. Herbs and shrubs
43. Poetic subjects

44. Things that cannot be compared
45. To meet one's lover
46. A lovers visit
47. Rare things
48. The women's apartments along the gallery
49. It was during one of Her Majesty's periods of residence
50. On the day after the naming of the Buddhas
51. The captain first secretary, Tadanobu
52. On the 25th of the second month
53. When I stayed away from the palace
54. Things that give a pathetic impression
55. Then a few months after our visit
56. Once when Her Majesty was residing
57. Splendid things
58. One day when the Emperor visited Her Majesty's rooms
59. A group of senior courtiers
60. Once in the 5th month
61. One of Her Majesty's wet-nurses
62. Annoying things
63. Embarrassing things
64. Surprising and distressing things
65. It was during the abstinence of the 5th month
66. It was a clear moonlit night
67. One day when there were several people in the Empress's presence
68. His Excellency the Middle Counselor, Takaie
69. Once during a long spell of rainy weather
70. When the lady of the Shigei Shah entered the Crown Prince's palace
71. On the last day of the second month
72. Masahiro really is a laughing-stock
73. On the last day of the 4th month
74. Things that lose by being painted
75. Things that gain by being painted
76. During the long reigns in the 5th month
77. In the first month when I go to a temple
78. Things that give a hot feeling
79. Shameful things
80. Things that have lost their power
81. Awkward things
82. When the emperor returned from his visit to Yawata
83. One day we heard that His Excellency
84. I remember a clear morning
85. On the 6th of the month
86. One day a man from the Office of Grounds
87. One night the Empress's Ladies-in-Waiting
88. On the 10th day of each month
89. One evening Yukinari, the Controller First Secretary

90. On a dark, moonless night in the 5th month
91. A year after Emperor Enyu's death
92. Things without merit
93. Outstandingly splendid things
94. When His Excellency, the Chancellor, had departed
95. On the 10th day of the first month
96. Two handsome men
97. Things that give a clean feeling
98. Things that give an unclean feeling
99. Adorable things
100. Presumptuous things
101. Squalid things
102. People who seem to suffer
103. Envidable people
104. Things that one is in a hurry to see or hear
105. While we were in mourning for the Chancellor
106. One day captain Tadanobu, the Imperial Advisor, came to call
107. It was late at night
108. The name 'Kokiden'
109. Things that are distant though near
110. Things that are near though distant
111. Gentlemen of the 5th rank
112. When a woman lives alone
113. When a Court Lady is on leave
114. It is delightful when there has been a thin fall of snow
115. One evening during the reign of Emperor Murakami
116. When I first went into waiting
117. People who look pleased with themselves
118. Winds
119. On the day after a fierce autumn wind
120. Wind instruments
121. Things worth seeing
122. In the 5th month
123. During the hot months
124. One has carefully scented a robe
125. When crossing a river
126. Things that should be large
127. Things that should be short
128. Nothing annoys me so much
129. There was a man in the corridor
130. When the Empress was staying in the third ward
131. Captain Narinobu has an amazing memory
132. I have never come across anyone with such keen ears
133. I hate seeing a dusty, dirty looking inkstone
134. Letters are commonplace
135. Shrines

136. Things that fall from the sky
137. Clouds
138. People who have changed as much as if they had been reborn
139. One day, when the snow lay thick on the ground
140. Towards the end of the 8th month
141. Shortly after the 20th of the 9th month
142. A family has finally arranged the marriage
143. To feel that one is disliked by others
144. Men really have strange emotions
145. Sympathy is the most splendid of all qualities
146. It is absurd of people to get angry
147. Features that I particularly like
148. Pleasing things
149. One day, when Her Majesty was surrounded by several Ladies
150. On about the 20th of the second month (lengthy entry)
151. At noon when the sun is shining brightly
152. Captain Narinobu is the son of his Reverend Highness
153. On one occasion a man
154. One day the sky, which until then had been quite clear
155. The Thunder guards are awe inspiring
156. One has taken a roundabout way
157. One day, when the snow lay thick on the ground
158. The boys employed by masters of divination
159. Once in the third month
160. Once when I had gone to Kiyomizu Temple
161. On the 24th of the 12th month
162. It is delightful for the master of a household
163. Times when one should be on one's guard
164. A certain Lieutenant
165. Once I wrote down a poem
166. If a servant girl
167. One evening Korechika
168. One day I was in the apartment
169. A young man has lost his mother
170. I cannot stand a woman who wears sleeves of unequal width
171. Illnesses
172. I cannot bear men to eat
173. It is very annoying
174. The way in which carpenters eat
175. One night in the 9th month
176. It often happens that a Court Lady
177. A young bachelor
178. It is noon on a summer day
179. The floorboards in the ante room
180. At first dawn a carriage passes
181. A handsome young gentleman

182. The house had a spacious courtyard
183. Things that are unpleasant to see
184. When the middle captain
185. It is getting so dark

Concerning dates Morris writes:

I shall conclude with a single complete example. The fourth quarter of the watch of the Tiger on the 15th day of the Sprouting (First) Month in the Fourth Year of the Chotoku year-period, in which the Elder Brother of the Earth coincided with the sign of the Dog, corresponded to about 6:00 AM on February 15th AD 998. And it was at this moment in history that a maid announced to Sei Shonagon that her precious snow mountain had disappeared.