

Kokiden, the Emperor's principal consort, despised Kiritsubo. She had served the Emperor longer than anyone else, and had born him a son.

She was afraid that because of the Emperor's great love for Kiritsubo, her own position at court would be threatened.

MURASAKI SHIKIBU
The Illustrated
TALE OF GENJI
A Classic Japanese Romance

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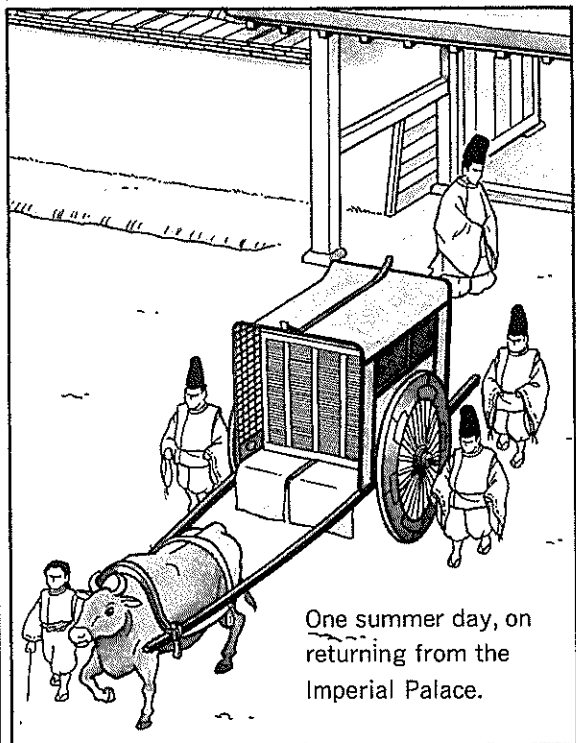
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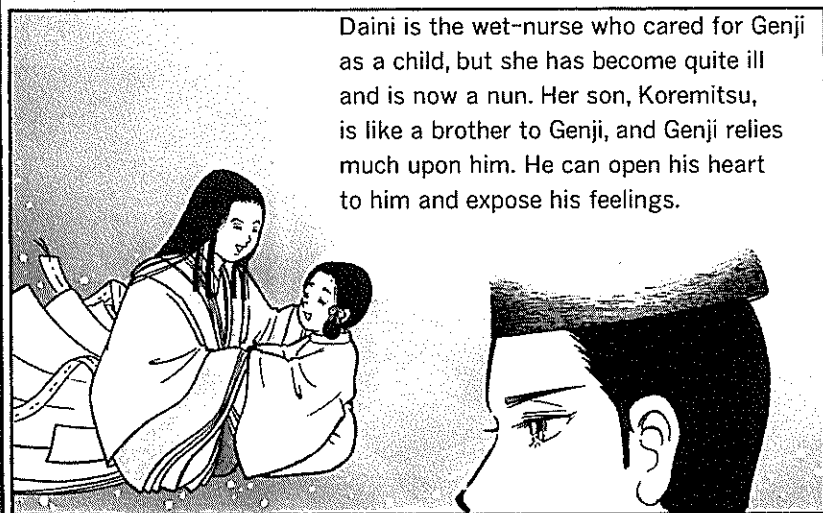
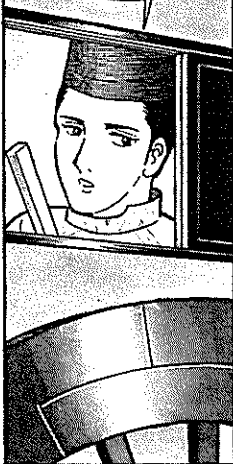
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Yūgao

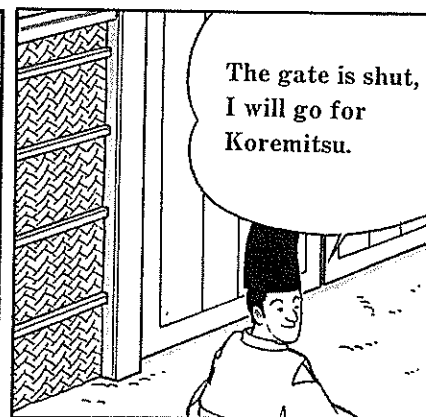
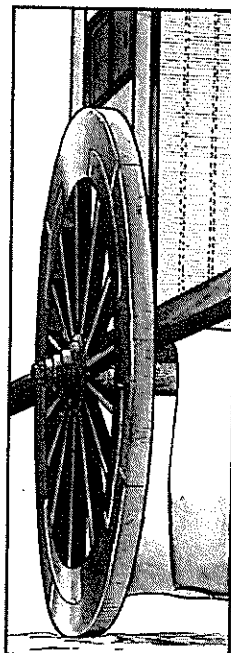


One summer day, on returning from the Imperial Palace.

I think I'll make a sick call on the wet-nurse Daini. Have the cart sent to the fifth district.



Daini is the wet-nurse who cared for Genji as a child, but she has become quite ill and is now a nun. Her son, Koremitsu, is like a brother to Genji, and Genji relies much upon him. He can open his heart to him and expose his feelings.

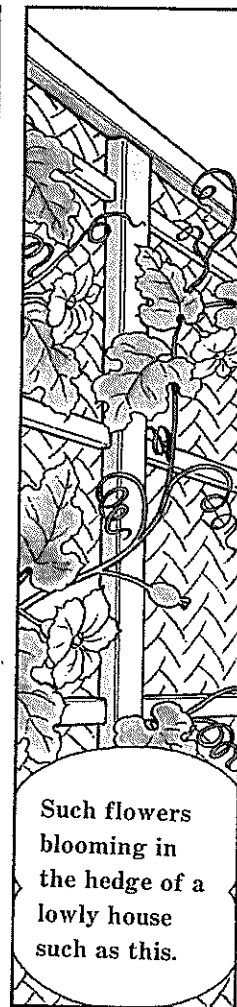


The gate is shut, I will go for Koremitsu.

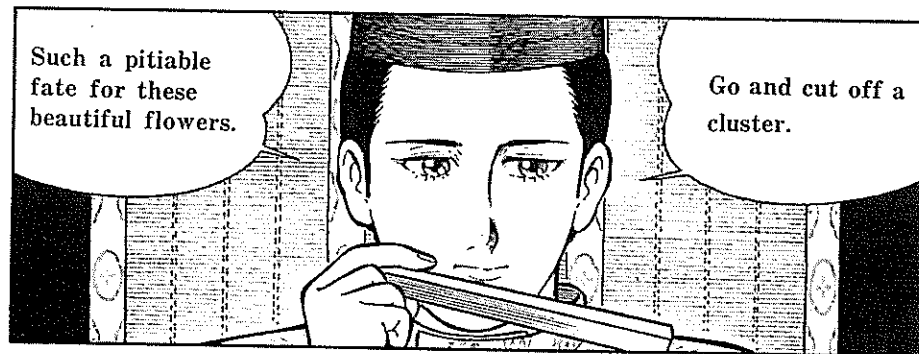


A rare white flower is blooming in the next hedge.

I'm sure it's called Yūgao, Moonflower, or something like that.

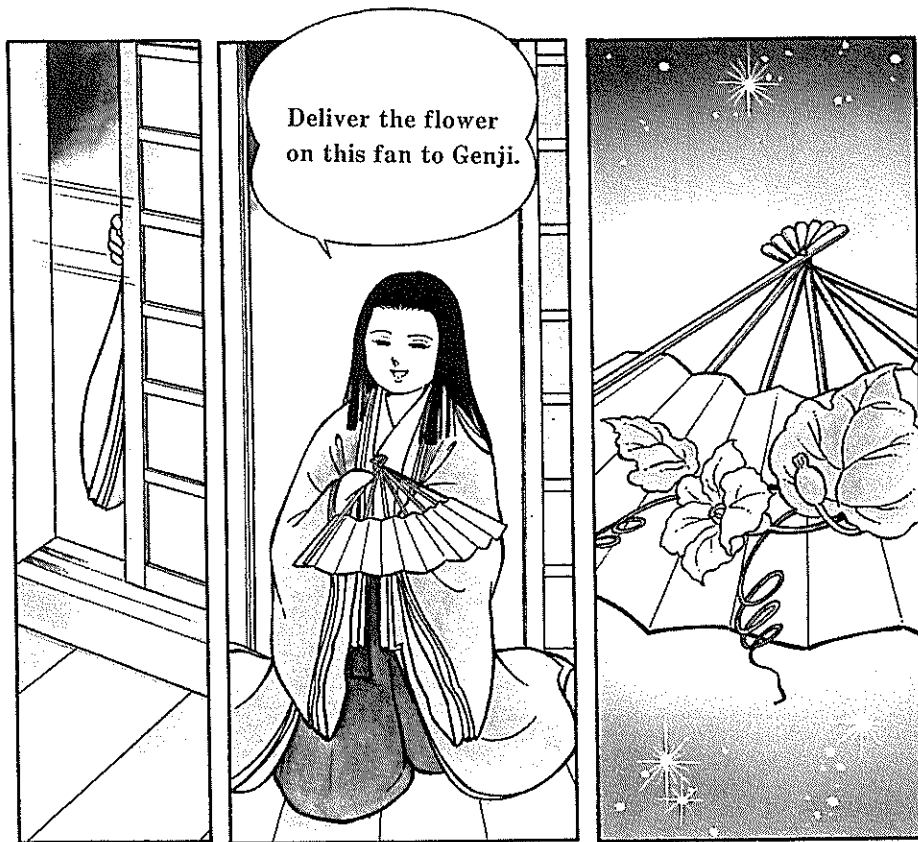


Such flowers blooming in the hedge of a lowly house such as this.



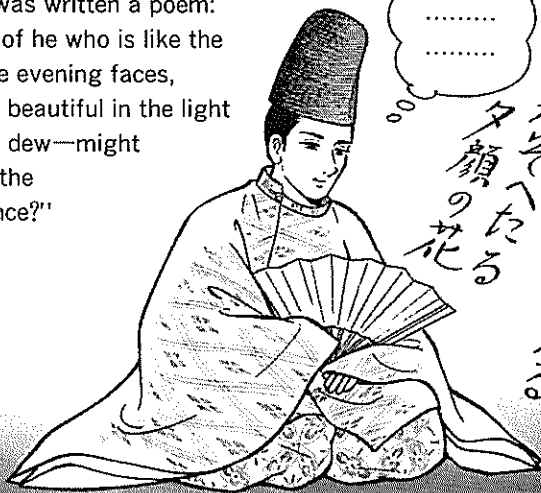
Such a pitiable fate for these beautiful flowers.

Go and cut off a cluster.

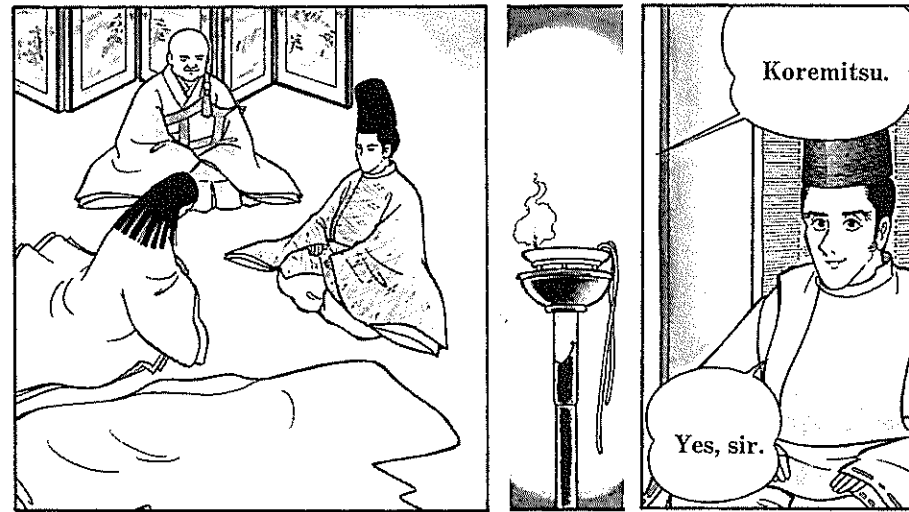


Deliver the flower
on this fan to Genji.

On the fan was written a poem:
"The figure of he who is like the
flower of the evening faces,
all the more beautiful in the light
of the white dew—might
not that be the
Shining Prince?"

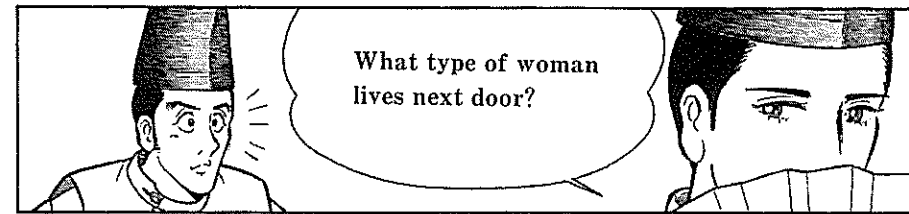


.....
.....
心あて
そあてに
白露かに
光露のとそ思ふ
夕顔の花る



Koremitsu.

Yes, sir.

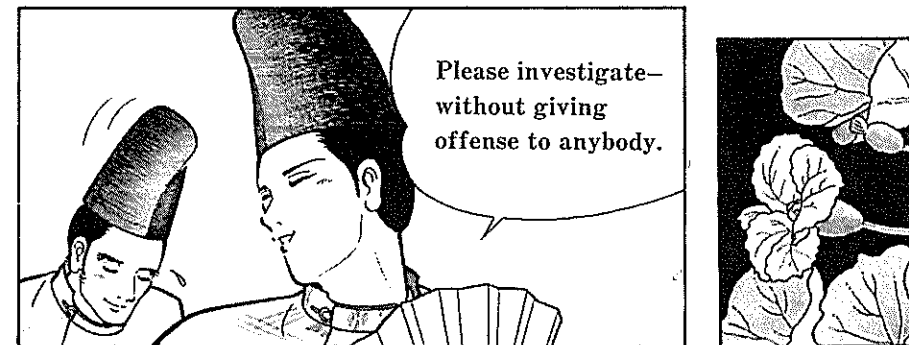


What type of woman
lives next door?

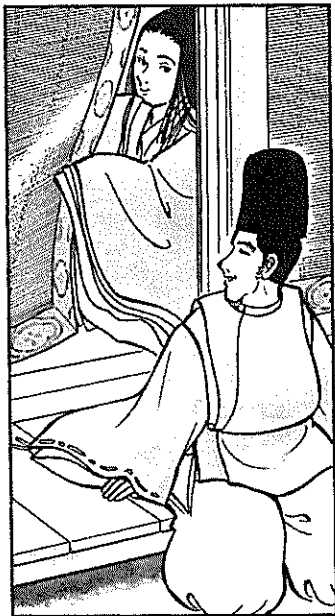


I don't know... I've
been busy taking care
of my mother so I
haven't heard anything
about our neighbor.

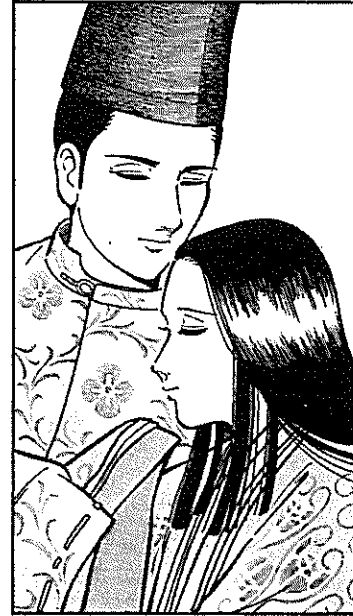
Even during a
sick call you
expose your
passion.



Please investigate—
without giving
offense to anybody.

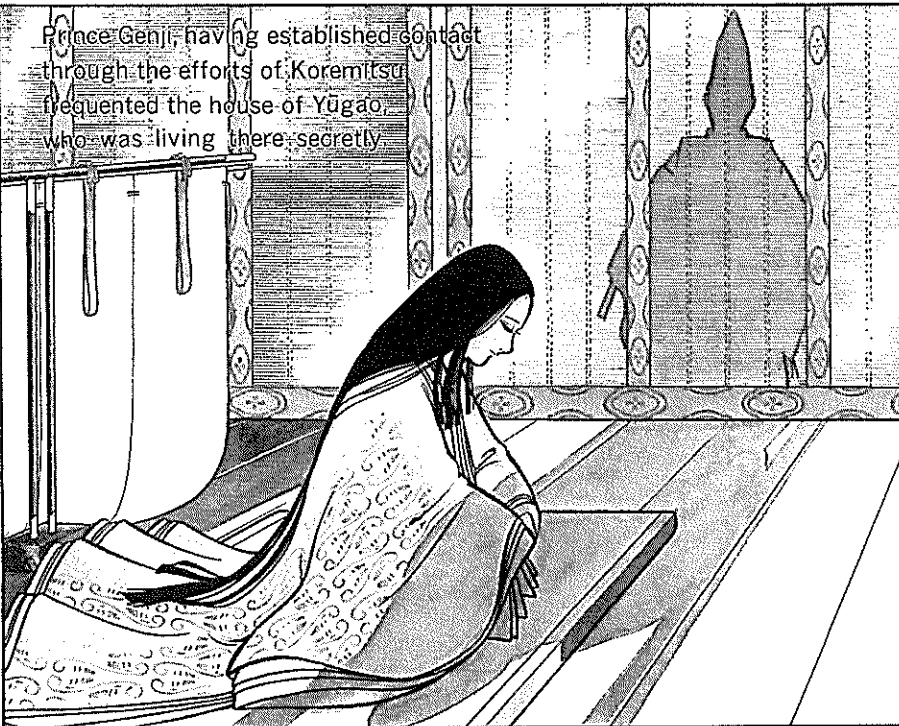
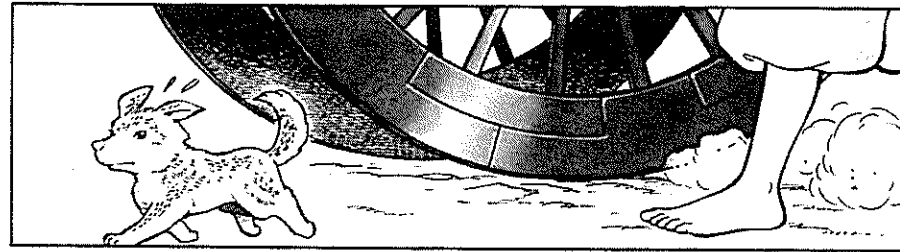


Koremitsu successfully approached a maid and found out about the woman living there.

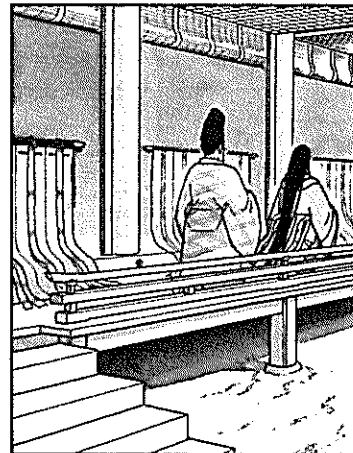


Such a gentle-natured, fragile woman...

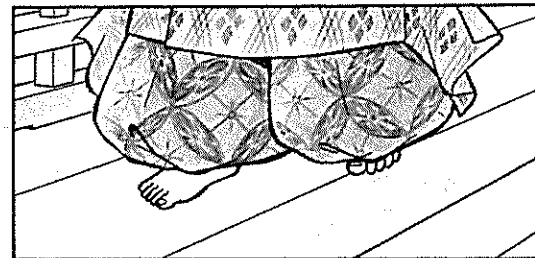
This is the first time I have met a woman who put me so much at ease.



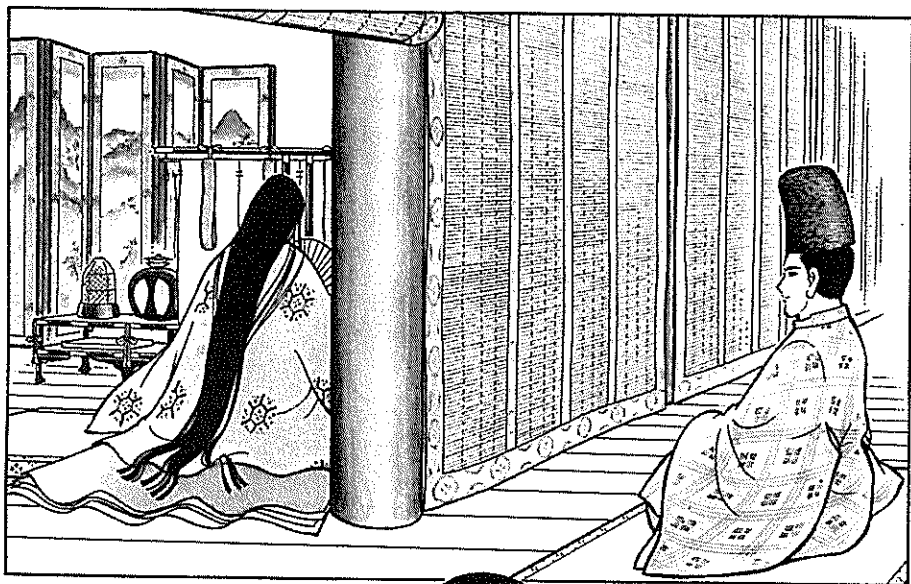
Prince Genji, having established contact through the efforts of Koremitsu, frequented the house of Yūgao, who was living there secretly.



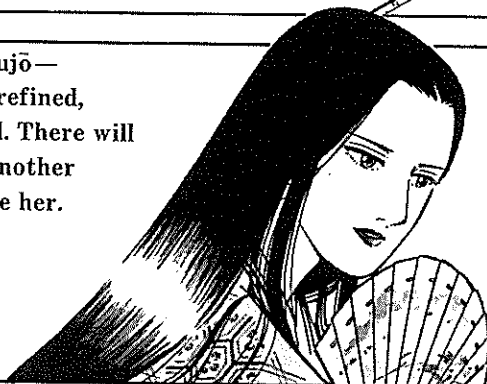
But at about the same time Genji was also visiting the quarters of the Lady Rokujō,* the Consort of the former Crown Prince, who had died years before.



*Her residence was located at Rokujō, the sixth street.



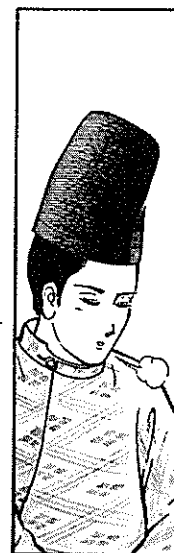
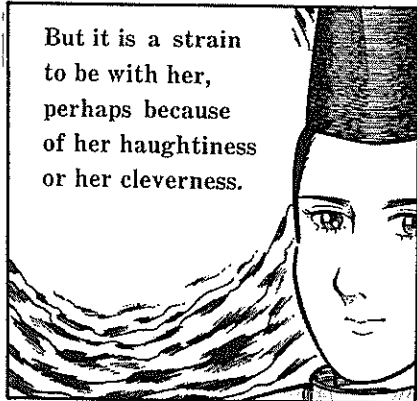
Lady Rokujō—
beautiful, refined,
thoughtful. There will
never be another
woman like her.



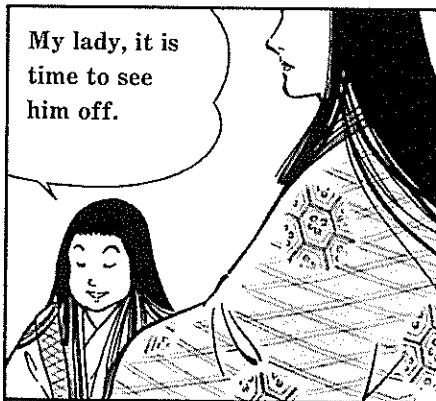
How often have I
visited her without
offering even a word.

Rokujō

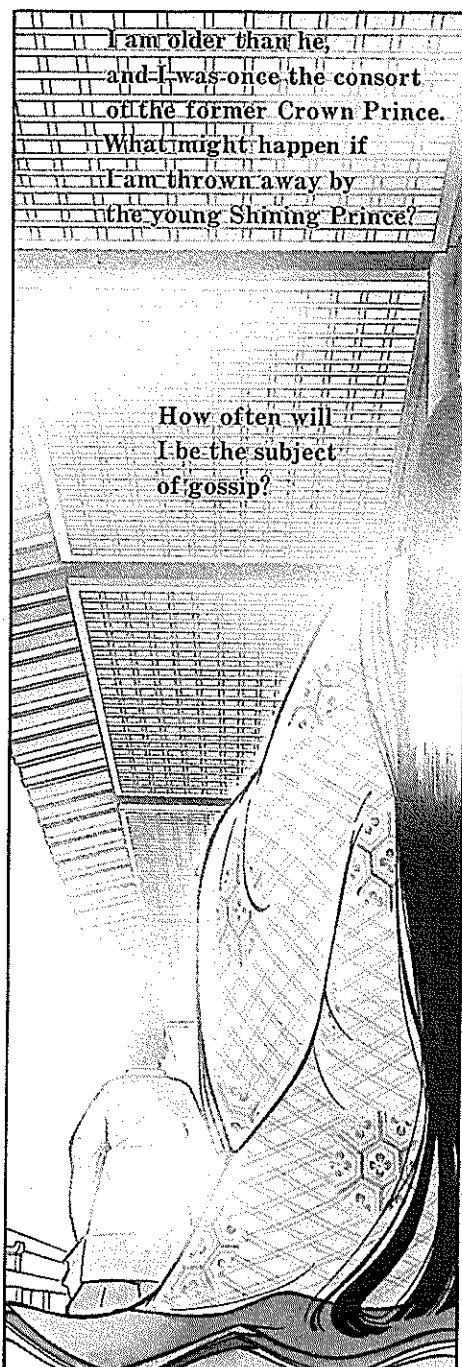
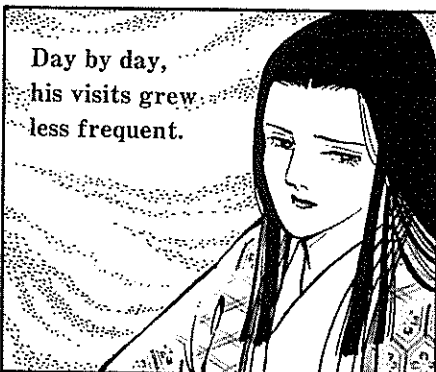
But it is a strain
to be with her,
perhaps because
of her haughtiness
or her cleverness.



My lady, it is
time to see
him off.

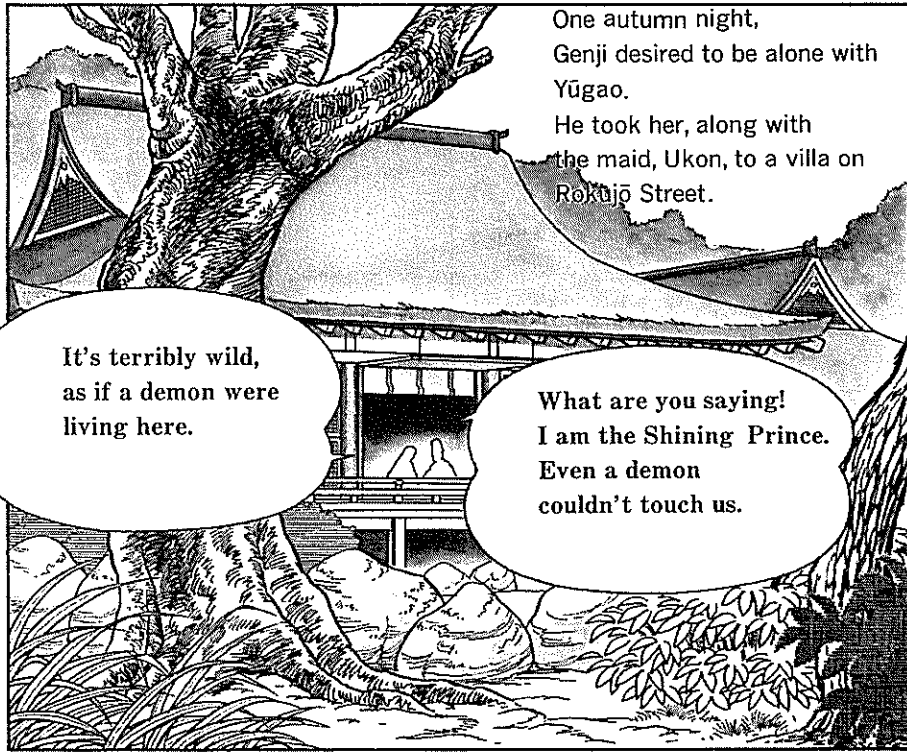


Day by day,
his visits grew
less frequent.



I am older than he,
and I was once the consort
of the former Crown Prince.
What might happen if
I am thrown away by
the young Shining Prince?

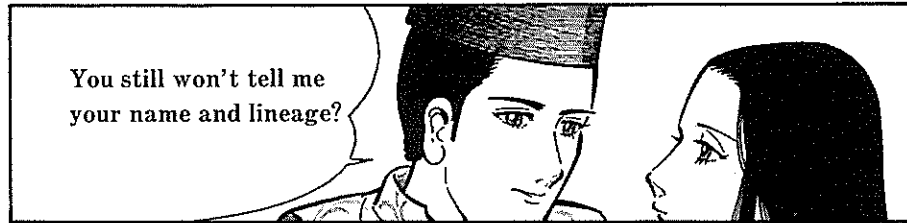
How often will
I be the subject
of gossip?



One autumn night,
Genji desired to be alone with
Yūgao.
He took her, along with
the maid, Ukon, to a villa on
Rokujō Street.

It's terribly wild,
as if a demon were
living here.

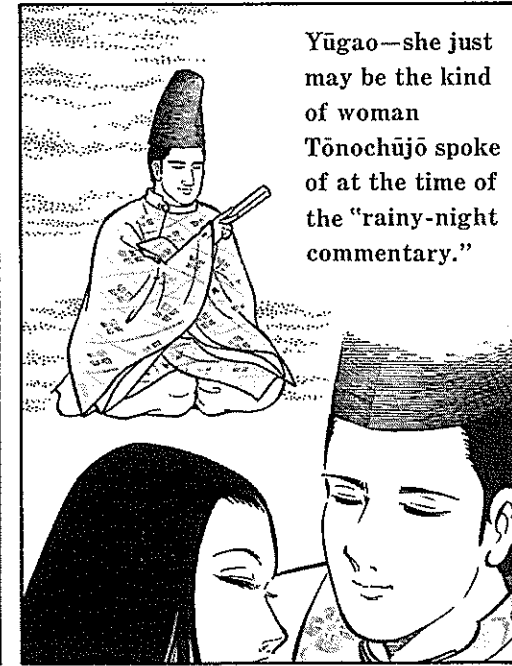
What are you saying!
I am the Shining Prince.
Even a demon
couldn't touch us.



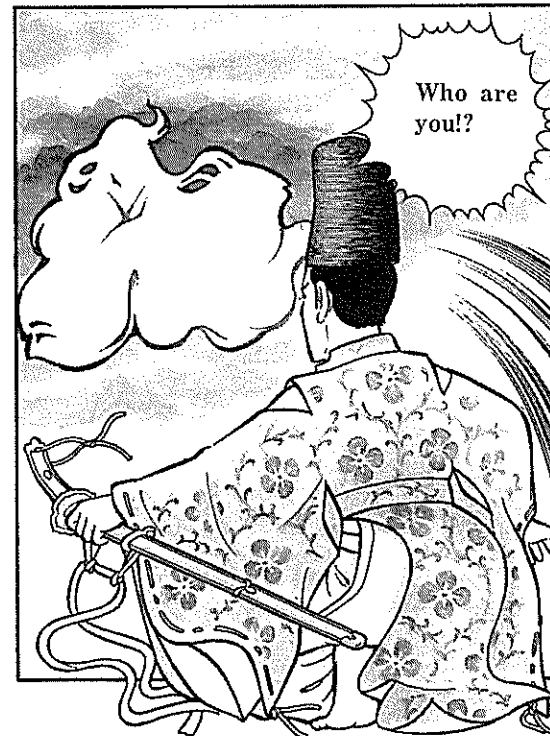
You still won't tell me
your name and lineage?

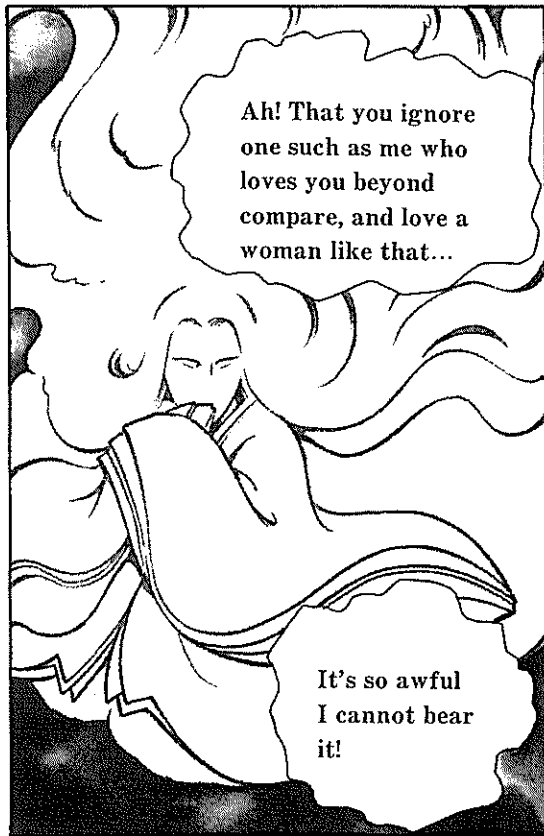


I am too lowly
to have a name.



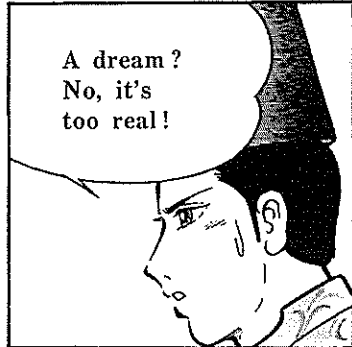
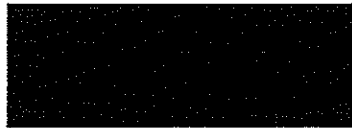
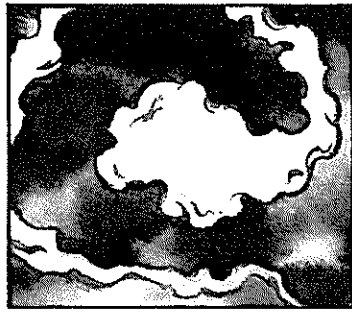
Yūgao—she just
may be the kind
of woman
Tōnochūjō spoke
of at the time of
the "rainy-night
commentary."



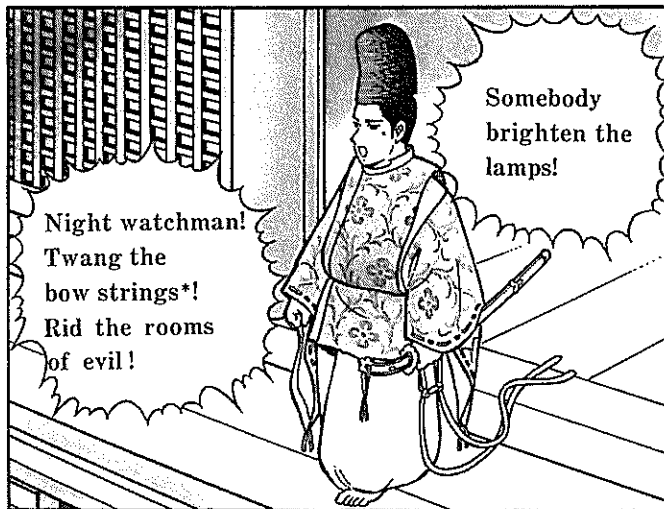


Ah! That you ignore one such as me who loves you beyond compare, and love a woman like that...

It's so awful I cannot bear it!



A dream? No, it's too real!



Night watchman! Twang the bow strings*! Rid the rooms of evil!

Somebody brighten the lamps!



zzz.....

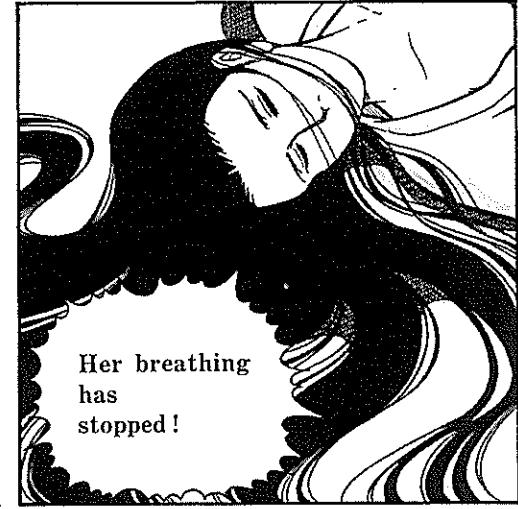
*Twang the bow strings: To avert evil by twanging the bow strings instead of shooting arrows.

*The spirit of a dead or of a living person can haunt one against whom he or she bears ill will, causing sickness or death.



What has happened, Ukon?

Ah! Shining Prince.



Her breathing has stopped!

Yūgao, her life taken by an evil spirit,* no longer can answer Genji's words. According to Ukon, Yūgao was indeed the lover Tōnochūjō had lost.

