

SUTOKU IN

for 2-part voices and piano with optional SoundTrax*

Words by

EMPEROR SUTOKU (1119-1164)

from Ogura Hyakunin Isshu (100 Japanese Poems)

Music by RUTH MORRIS GRAY





* Also available for 3-part mixed (50158). SoundTrax CD available (50160). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

Satoku by is based on a Japanese waka, an ancient poetic form consisting of five lines of 5-7-5-7-7 syllables (31 in total). The author was Emperor Sutoku (1119–1164), who was forced to abdicate in 1142 and was exiled. Many people believed that Sutoku was cursed and that his vengeful spirit caused unlucky events and suffering after he died. In this waka, the water may symbolize the separation of Sutoku and his loved one. Written in exile, it could also represent the split from his home and the life he knew before.

Japanese

Se wo hayami Iwa ni sekaruru Taki-gawa no Warete mo sue ni Awan to zo omou.

Pronunciation

Seh woh hah-yah-mee Ee-wah nee seh-kah-roo-roo Tah-kee-gah-wah noh Wah-reh-teh moh soo-eh nee Ah-wahn toh zoh oh-moh-oo (flip the letter r throughout) Translation (by William N. Porter, 1909) The rock divides the stream in two, And both with might and main Go tumbling down the waterfall; But well I know the twain Will soon unite again.

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