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Seasonal Expressions

The year is generally divided into four seasonal parts. When the nuances of the climate and weather changes become additional considerations, however, these seasons can be divided into more subtle and delicate moments

The four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter are divided among the 12 months. In Japan, there are also 24 intervals (sekki).

These 24 intervals are divided by 3 into 72 ephemeral seasonal moments (ko).

IKKOAN

Inspired by the philosophy
of Chef Chikara Mizukami
and moments of seasons,
Ikkoan uses the brilliance
of time and earth's position
— the unnoticeable daily bits
into metaphor of seasonal
intervals. Guests are invited
to experience moments of
tranquility and harmony from
wagashi and nature.

PROLOGUE

day

SPRING.....01-18

sunset

SUMMER..... 19-36

civil dusk

AUTUMN.....37 -54

nautical dusk

WINTER.....55 - 72

astronomical dusk

EPILOGUE

night

Prologue : Day

way of tea

Matcha

-koicha- thin tea

-usuicha- thick tea

Spring : Sunset

ephemeral seasonal moment 0-18

Sunset

Sunset or sundown is the daily disappearance of the Sun below the horizon as a result of Earth's rotation.

The Sun will set exactly due west at the equator on the spring and fall equinoxes, each of which occurs only once a year.

Beginning of Spring

- 1- spring winds; melting ice
- 2- gentle call of the Japanese bush warbler
- 3- the fish yields to the ice

Rain Water

- 4- water awakens the earth's pulse
- 5- spring haze began to hang in the air
- 6- plants began to sprout

Insects Awaken

- 7- hibernating insects begin to emerge
- 8- the peach begins to bloom
- 9- the caterpillar becomes a butterfly

Spring Equinox

- 10- nesting sparrows
- 11- first cherry blossoms of spring
- 12- resounding clap of thunder

Pure and Clear

- 13- swallows arrive
- 14- geese return
- 15- a rainbow appears

Grain Rains

- 16- young reeds
- 17- frost ends, shoots emerge
- 18- peony flower

Summer : Civil Dusk

ephemeral seasonal moment 19-36

Civil Dusk

Civil dusk begins at sunset and ends when the geometric center of the sun reaches 6° below the horizon.

At civil dawn and at civil dusk sunlight clearly defines the horizon while the brightest stars and planets can appear. As observed from the Earth (see apparent magnitude), sky-gazers know Venus, the brightest planet, as the “morning star” or “evening star” because they can see it during civil twilight.

Beginning of summer

- 19- first croak of the frog
- 20- the earthworm emerges
- 21- new young bamboo shoots

Lesser Ripening

- 22- the silkworm begins to eat the mulberry leaf
- 23- flourishing safflower
- 24- wheat's autumn season

Grain beards and seeds

- 25- a praying mantis is born
- 26- mouldering grasses become fireflies
- 27- yellow tinged plum

Summer solstice

- 28- in the dead heat of summer, dried grasses
- 29- iris blossom
- 30- final day for seed sowing

Lesser heat

- 31- a warm wind
- 32- the lotus begins to blossom
- 33- the hawk studies his techniques

Greater heat

- 34- a tangle of paulownia
- 35- even the earth is sultry hot
- 36- heavy rains arrive

Autumn : Nautical Dusk

ephemeral seasonal moment 37-54

Nautical dusk

Nautical dusk begins when the geometric center of the sun is 6° below the horizon and ends when the geometric center of the sun is 12° below the horizon in the evening.

At nautical dawn and nautical dusk, the human eye finds it difficult, if not impossible, to discern traces of illumination near the sunset or sunrise point of the horizon (“first light” after nautical dawn but before civil dawn and “nightfall” after civil dusk but before nautical dusk).

Beginning of autumn

- 37- a cool breeze
- 38- cry of the evening cicada
- 39- a heavy fog descends

Manageable heat

- 40- the cottonseed
- 41- the earth begins to cool
- 42- ripening grains

White dew

- 43- white dew on grass
- 44- cry of the wagtail
- 45- the swallow departs

Autumn equinox

- 46- the god of thunder becomes quiet
- 47- hibernating insects shut the door
- 48- water begins to dry up

Cold dew

- 49- wild geese arrive
- 50- the chrysanthemum opens
- 51- a cricket at the door

Frost falls

- 52- first frost forms
- 53- from time to time, drizzling rain
- 54- maple and ivy tinged with yellow

Winter : Astronomical Dusk

wagashi from
ephemeral seasonal moment 55-72

Astronomical dusk

Astronomical dusk is the moment when the geometric center of the Sun is 18 degrees below the horizon in the evening.

After astronomical dusk and before astronomical dawn, the sky is not illuminated by the sun.

Beginning of winter

- 55- the camellia begins to open
- 56- the ground begins to freeze
- 57- the golden cup's fragrance

Lesser snow

- 58- the rainbow hides
- 59- the north wind picks up leaves
- 60- the tachibana begins to turn yellow

Greater snow

- 61- cold winter sky
- 62- the bear hibernates in its den
- 63- teeming with salmon

Winter solstice

- 64- new life among the dried summer grasses
- 65- finding reindeer horns
- 66- beneath the snow, wheat grows

Lesser cold

- 67- dropwort flourishes
- 68- warmth within the clear, fresh water
- 69- first cries of the pheasant

Greater cold

- 70- the butterbur blooms
- 71- even the valley water freezes solid
- 72- the barnyard chicken begins to roost

Epilogue : Night

Japanese Sake

Little Lilly

- nigori

Willow Tree

- junmai ginjo

Snow Shadow

- tokubetsu junmai

Heavenly Grace

- junmai daiginjo

Green River

- honjozo