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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.....OI-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 O-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  $6^\circ$  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  $6^\circ$  below the horizon and ends when the geometric center of the sun is  $12^\circ$  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