

Kan Mikami, Lesson 5 Japanese Horse Chestnut

When the blossom is on the avenue of marronier
I'll come to visit you
In the courtyard of that high-ceilinged building like a church
Aged wine slumbers
We'll take it in our hands
And then you'll notice
Placed to one side
Made from chestnuts
Japanese sweets, simple, the colour of tea

Around the stove
Drying clothes dirty from the long journey
That hardhearted, kindly woman
Washed them for me

No moon to be seen
No moon to be seen
But already we ourselves
Are become a great shining mass