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A Cycle of Poems by Toyo Suyemoto, from Trek

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A Cycle of Poems by Toyo Suyemoto, from *Trek*

GAIN  
I sought to seed the barren earth  
And make wild beauty take  
Firm root, but how could I have known  
The waiting long would shake  
  
Me inwardly, until I dared  
Not say what would be gain  
From such untimely planting, or  
What flower worth the pain?  
  
--Toyo Suyemoto

*Trek* December 1942, p. 6.

IN TOPAZ  
  
Can this hard earth break wide  
The stiff stillness of snow  
And yield me promise that  
This is not always so?  
  
Surely, the warmth of sun  
Can pierce the earth ice-bound,  
Until grass comes to life  
Outwitting barren ground!  
  
--Toyo Suyemoto

*Trek* February 1943, p. 20.

TRANSPLANTING  
  
No anchorage in shallow dust,  
No searching hold has found  
More than shadows to grasp  
Where hope withers in the ground.  
  
Oh, guard the exposed roots against  
Untimely sun and wind;  
Some other soil may prove  
More flower-wide and kind.  
  
So let a richer earth restore  
What once had died in need;  
Strong roots will then respond  
And bear tomorrow's seed.  
  
--Toyo Suyemoto

*Trek* June 1943, p. 8.

PROMISE  
  
Here is the seed nurtured  
Through a long winter spell,  
Now new-sprung to the warmth  
Of sun from its dark shell.  
  
A promise yet, will mine  
Flower fulfill its leaf  
And bud, and thus annul  
Remembered frost and grief?  
  
--Toyo Suyemoto

*Trek* June 1943, p. 13.

RETROSPECT  
  
No other shall have heard  
When these suns set  
The gentle guarded word  
You may forget.  
  
No other shall have known  
How spring decays  
Where hostile winds have blown,  
And doubt stays.  
  
But I remember yet  
Once heart was stirred  
To song--until I let  
The sounds grow blurred.  
  
And time--still fleet--delays  
While pulse and bone  
Take count before the days  
Lock me in stone.  
  
--Toyo Suyemoto

*Trek* June 1943, p. 37.