

6. Kataonami Park, Man'yo-no-Komichi Promenade (Vol. 12-3168)

Monument Text

koromodeno mawakanourano managotsuchi manakutokinashi agakourakuwa

Explanation

This poem is found in volume 12 of the classical Japanese poetry collection *Man'yōshū* (poem number 3168), and was composed after the author saw the beautiful sandy beaches stretching across Wakanoura during their visit. They were taken by the beaches when they saw in the never-ending, gapless grains of sand a reflection of their own never-ending feelings of love.

The author writes, “My feelings of love for you, just like the beautiful sands that stretch across Wakanoura, are unending. I will continue to think of you forever.”

The term *koromodeno* is a rhetorical device called a “pillow word,” or a decorative word used as a prefix. They are particularly seen in Japanese *waka* poetry and attach to other set words, and in this case it precedes the word *ma*. *Koromodeno* literally refers to the sleeve of a kimono.

The inscription on the monument is the work of Mori Kanshō.