

9. Kataonami Park, Man'yo-no-Komichi Promenade (Vol. 12-3175)

Monument Text

wakanourani sodesaenurete wasuregai hiriedoimowa wasuraenakuni

Explanation

This poem is found in volume 12 of the classical Japanese poetry collection *Man'yōshū* (poem number 3175), and describes when the author visited Wakanoura with a broken heart after his feelings for his lover were not reciprocated. The author goes as far as getting his sleeves wet to collect seashells called *wasuregai* in order to forget his painful emotions, but it does not help him in the end.

In *Man'yōshū*, *waka* in Wakanoura is not written with the modern usage of the *waka* referring to classical Japanese poetry, but is instead written with the character meaning young. *Wasuregai* is thought to be a shell that can help one forget their painful feelings (the *wasure* in *wasuregai* holds the meaning of forgetting something). The term *imo* refers to either a lover or a wife.

The inscription on the monument is the work of Kinoshita Miyoko.