Mono no Aware: Discussion Questions

- What is Jiyen the Monk trying to express in the following poem?

  *Let us not blame the wind, indiscriminately,
   That scatters the flowers so ruthlessly;
   I think it is their own desire to pass away before their time has come.*

  Jiyen the Monk (1155-1225)

- Besides cherry blossoms, what other examples are there of aesthetic objects whose impermanence is an integral part of their beauty?
- What is the relationship between time and beauty in Western art?

How does the Western dramatic or literary genre of “tragedy” resemble or differ from the Japanese focus on *mono no aware*