



A HAIKU JOURNEY

Bashō's
*Narrow Road
to a Far
Province*

Translated by Dorothy Britton
Illustrations by Shiro Tsujimura

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In the seventeenth century, the pilgrim-poet Bashō undertook on foot a difficult and perilous journey to the remote northeastern provinces of Honshu, Japan's main island. Throughout the five-month journey, the master of haiku kept a record of his impressions in a prose-poetry diary later called *The Narrow Road to a Far Province*. His diary was to become one of the classics of Japanese literature.

Noted professor of Japanese literature J. Thomas Rimer wrote of this classic: "In his diary, which Bashō kept reworking and revising until his death, he mixed fact, fiction, poetry, and prose to create the record of a journey that moves both geographically and spiritually, one strand mixing with the other on virtually every page. Read and reread with care, *The Narrow Road to a Far Province* can reveal more qualities still basic to Japanese cultural attitudes than perhaps any other work in the whole canon of classical literature. For once, the highest of reputations is truly deserved."

This new edition is illustrated with *sumi-e* ink sketches by Japanese artist Shiro Tsujimura.



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