

Rachael

We all live our lives,
Some with courage and strength
As you did.
Some with great adversity
Faced with grace
As you did.
We live and love people
Places and things
As you did.
Some fall like the sweet cherry blossoms
That drift from the laden tree
To the quiet earth too soon
Like you did.

As your beloved Japanese Maple tree,
You've stood through many winters
Of pain
Of difficulty
And yet you weathered them with poise.
As they do.
You've taught me to love
With the intensity of a samurai
To understand that strength
Comes not from fighting,
But knowing how to.
As black belts do.

The Japanese say:
花鳥風月 (Kachou Fuugetsu)
Flower, Bird, Wind, Moon
Experience the beauties of nature,
and in doing so learn about yourself.
As I shall.

You have been one of the beauties
I've discovered.
A soul of profound wisdom
Strength and grace.
You are missed more than it can be said,
And I do.
But as the gentle blossom remains
In the memory of the viewer
So shall your life
Be remembered
in those you've brushed
with your talent, joy and teaching.
And we do.

加西天
谊月
家小
行迎

加西天
谊月
家小
行迎
迎行
协

Cherry Blossom

Marsha Steed Keller ~