

There is no Night

There is no night
when the lightning does not flash,
but where now is the mirage
which I saw so faintly?

—*Lady Sagami (translated from the Japanese by Kenneth Rexroth and Atsumi Ikuko). Lady Sagami was Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Yushi in the eleventh century and married Oe no Kinsuke, Lord of Sagami, who divorced her when she became the lover of Fujiwara no Sadayori.*