

## Takeo Arishima

(Excerpts from his 1920 collection of essays "Love Takes Without Asking".

Written three years before Arishima's double suicide, that he committed with his lover) :

Whether there was the word or the deed in the beginning,

I do not know

I only know that I was born into a weird world

A terrifying eternity stretches around me

Some days it oppresses me like frost and ice,

then again it shines so heavy that it makes me dizzy

I am a dot placed somewhere on the edge or in the middle of eternity.

Love takes, without question, whatever it wants,

Without inhibitions, without scruples

And being weak really means being ugly

I know what I am talking about

Born into this world as a dot

I'll disappear in just a moment

But I do not fear my disappearance

I only fear the appearance as a dot.

Love takes what it wants without restraint

Open your eyes, watch her do it

And being weak really means being ugly

I know too well what I'm talking about

Whether it thunders, flashes or rains,

Whether the storm drives me away or a dog chases me,

At the end of my escape I dig nothing but a puny hole in the undergrowth

Love takes what it wants without restraint

Open your eyes, watch her do it

For all who are good at heart

May happiness abound