



MATSUKAZE

On a beach, a monk on a pilgrimage discovers a single pine tree on which two names have been carved: Matsukaze (Wind in the Pine Trees) and Murasame (Autumn Rain), the names of two sisters who are buried nearby. He falls asleep next to a shed for storing salt. Matsukaze and Murasame fill their buckets with seaweed and leave the beach. Their arrival awakens the monk; they offer him shelter. A gust of wind reminds them of a poem by Yukihiro, whose name throws them into confusion. They tell the monk that this man, whom they loved, left them centuries before, leaving them this poem. The monk says that they are sinners. This feverish evocation leads to them confusing the lost lover with the pine tree on the beach. In their delirium, they dance around the solitary tree. The monk is woken by a wild sea. The beach is deserted; there is no shed. He resumes his journey. The green pine tree remains behind, alone and exposed to the wind's blasts.

