"Kojo No Tsuki", 'The Moon over the desolate castle'

This song is composed in 1936 by Rentaro Taki, with the lyrics written by Doi Bansui, a well-known Japanese Poet and an Anglicist (English Literature). This song is a time-tested standard song as it brings us a sense of nostalgia, like, "the time goes by, nothing can remain as it used to be." This song is popular in Japan and abroad,

春高楼(かうろう・こうろう)の花の宴(えん) 巡る盃(さかづき)影さして 千代の松が枝(え)分け出(い) でし 昔の光今いづこ There once was a splendid castle.

In spring, there must have had festive cherry viewing banquets with cheerful voice, clinks of Sake cups and laughter.

You must have also seen beautiful moonlight thorough the old pine trees alongside the castle wall. Where have all those days gone?

秋陣営の霜の色 鳴きゆく雁(かり)の 数見せて 植うる剣(つるぎ)に照り沿ひし 昔の 光今いづこ In Autumn, the encampment was covered with frost. Inside the castle, worriers were in a tense atmosphere waiting for the forthcoming battle. Even on that day, a numerous cackling wild geese were flying in the sky.

The moonlight shone softly on their swords, spears and armors. Where have that old-day's moonlight gone?

「荒城の月」の歌の意味(その1)出典:「教科書に出てくる歌のことば図鑑・5年生の歌」(ポプラ社)より。

- 1.春には、もとここにあった城の中で、にぎやかな花見の宴がはられたにちがいない。 はずむ声。笑い、そして酒をくみかわす盃……。 そして、城壁の大きな松の枝あいからは、月の光がさしこんでいたに違いない……。 そんな、昔の面影はどこへいったのだろうか。
- 2.秋は秋で、戦いにそなえて、陣営の中は、ぴーんと張りつめたふんいきであろう。 その空には、渡る雁の姿も見えていて……。よろいに身をかためた武士たちの、槍や刀 をそっと照らしていた、あの昔の光は、どこにいってしまったのだろうか。