

Matsuo Bashō Narrow Road to the Interior

Kamo no Chōmei Hōjōki

Read by **Togo Igawa** and **Takashi Sudo**

The life of the hermit, and the need to retreat from busy, everyday life to be closer to nature, are expressed in these two pillars of Japanese classic literature.

Hōjōki (The Ten-Foot Square Hut) dates from the 13th century and is an intensely moving account of Chōmei's decision to leave a life in the capital of Japan and retire to the mountains to live in monastic seclusion. *Narrow Road to the Interior*, written in the 17th century by Bashō, a haiku master, tells of his journey into the wild and dangerous countryside 'across the Shirakawa Barrier'.

The works, in modern English translations, are read by leading Japanese actors. They have an immediacy which belies their age and explains why they are still regarded as masterworks.

Includes CD-ROM with detailed notes

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