



志ら驚ハ有りやなしやと見へ分かぬ
 雪にからすの色は津流かな 匡

104. Ravens

A white heron on snow is hard to distinguish;
 But the ravens,
 How they stand out.

An old couplet reads:

The heron standing on the snow,
 they are not the same;
 The bright moon on the flowering reeds,
 they do not look alike.

These lines are quoted generally by Buddhists to symbolize the doctrine of identity and difference. Some of us have the fondness of reducing everything to the category of identity, oneness, or sameness. But Sengai tries strongly to bring out the aspect of the difference in contrast to the sameness, the truth often forgotten even by some Zennists.