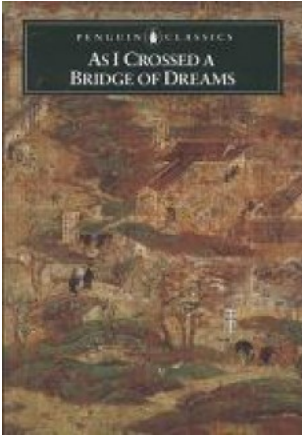


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Título: As I Crossed a Bridge Of Dreams. Recollection Of a Woman In Eleventh Century Jap

Autor: Morris Ivan

Precio: \$196.00

Editorial:

Año: 1989

Tema:

Edición: 1ª

Sinopsis

ISBN: 9780140442823

"As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams" is a unique autobiography in which the anonymous writer known as Lady Sarashina intersperses personal reflections, anecdotes and lyrical poems with accounts of her travels and evocative descriptions of the Japanese countryside. Born in AD 1008, Lady Sarashina felt an acute sense of melancholy that led her to withdraw into the more congenial realm of the imagination - this deeply introspective work presents her vision of the world. While barely alluding to certain aspects of her life such as marriage, she illuminates her pilgrimages to temples and mystical dreams in exquisite prose, describing a profound emotional journey that can be read as a metaphor for life itself.

Lady Sarashina (as she is commonly known), born in 1008, was a lady-in-waiting of Heian-period Japan. Her work stands out for its descriptions of her travels and pilgrimages and is unique in the literature of the period, as well as one of the first in the genre of travel writing.