LUCIEN STRYK

Absence

(I.M. Shinkichi Takahashi)

The poet died. They
heaved a stone in
Shikoku, by the sea.

And a sculptor hewed
his poem: "Just say,
'He's out'—back in

five billion years!"
The stone anchored
in the place where

the poet once had
dreamed, crosslegged,
as the evening sun

fired the scales
in fishers' nets, of
far distant voyaging.

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