

Goblins and Ghosts Handscroll, Japan, (Japan) 448#

LIZ GOETZ

It is nice to see everyday objects in Hell.
There is a banner, a pot, scrolls, a duster for swishing at flies...
And some of the denizens wear clothes.



Lute has lost strings, his sound holes have become sad eyes,
his bridge is his unhappy mouth. Poor Lute, he pulls his sin behind him.

Yet it is nice to know some things will be familiar in Hell.

There must be some sky, for creatures to fly in,
because some of them have wings, and there is space
for the banners to wave, and a breeze to make them flutter.



No beings look happy in Hell, and I don't want to go
but this fresh hell at least is interesting
so I wouldn't be bored to death for eternity.



Illustrations by B.G. Callahan

