

EMPRESS AKASHI

[Akashi no Chūgū \(明石中宮\)](#)

["First Consort Akashi"](#)

Her name derives from her mother's name which is derived from the location of Genji's discovery of her, that is, she used to live in Akashi, removed from the Capital. She is often referred to as Gentlewoman Akashi (Akashi no himegimi 明石の姫君), then Consort Akashi (Akashi no Nyōgo 明石女御), then First Consort (or Empress) Akashi as her rank increased.

[Brief description](#)

Her mother is Lady Akashi, the woman Genji discovers during exile at Suma. Her father is Genji. She is given to Murasaki to rear, since this will create the best possible future for her. (Lady Akashi is of lower rank.) She becomes First Consort ("Empress" 中宮 chūgū) to Emp. Kinjō (今上). She will give birth to Niou (and a crown prince, and others), who is one of the two primary male characters of the last third of the work.

[Names used in the translations:](#)

Seidensticker seems to mostly use "the little Akashi girl" or "the Akashi girl" than as her status increases "Akashi princess" and Washburn seems to use mostly "the Akashi Princess"

In Chapters 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 32, Tyler uses: the young lady

In Chapter 33, Tyler uses: the Consort (of the Heir Apparent)

In Chapter 34, Tyler uses: the Heir Apparent's Kiritsubo Consort, then Haven

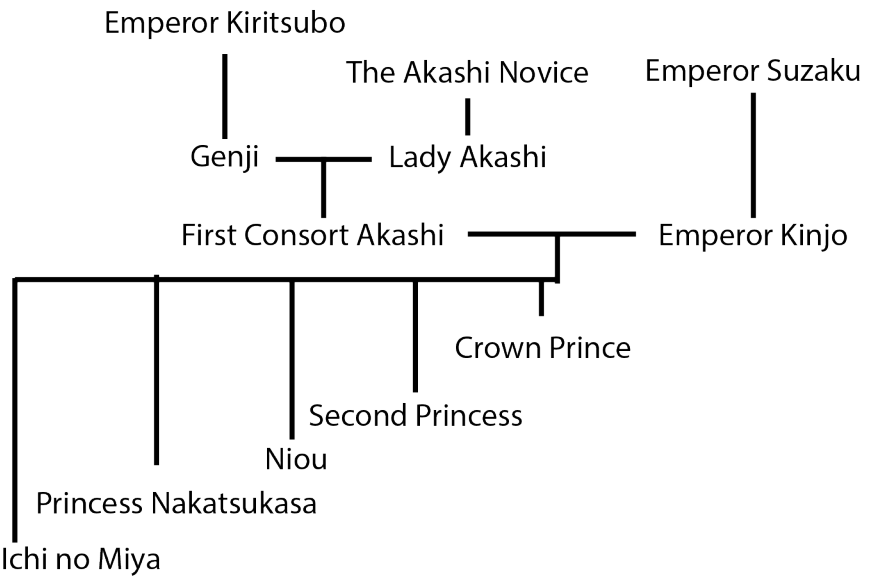
In Chapters 35, Tyler uses: the Kiritsubo Consort, the Consort

In Chapters 36, 37, Tyler uses: the Consort

In Chapters 40, 42, 47, 49, 52, 53, Tyler uses: Her Majesty, the Empress

[Mentions in the work ...](#)

Mentioned in about 46 sections, a generous amount, across about 19 chapters, beginning with Chapter 9 and ending very late in the narrative, in Chapter 45.



KUMOI NO KARI

[Kumoi no Kari \(雲居の雁\) "Geese Among the Clouds"](#)

A poetic name given to her by later readers based on her inner monologue in Chapter 21, when she asks whether the migrating geese feel as sad as herself. The illustration is from Chapter 39, where she is trying to take a letter from her husband Yūgiri. (See the Gotoh Museum website, 12th c. Illustrated Scroll of The Tale of Genji, http://www.gotoh-museum.or.jp/collection/col_01/01003_016.html)



[Brief description](#)

Kumoi no Kari is a daughter of Tō no Chūjō but not from a primary wife. He is interested in giving her to an emperor but she will marry her childhood love, Genji's son Yūgiri, and they will have many children.

[Names used in the translations:](#)

Seidensticker and Washburn use primarily "Kumoinokari"
In Chapters 21, 26, 28, 32, Tyler uses: the young lady
In Chapters 37.39 44, Tyler uses: the Commander's wife

[Mentions in the work ...](#)

Mentioned in about 47 sections across 14 chapters, beginning with Chapter 21, when she is the early love interest of Yūgiri.