ことばの歳時記

日本の 3 月は、出会いと別れの季節といわれています。 卒業、就職、転居などによって、慣れ親しんだ環境に別れたの 3 月は、出会いと別れの季節といわれています。 卒業、就職、転居などによって、慣れ親しんだ環境に別れた。 本書 ない 3 たい 3 た

A Calendar of Words

Sowa Sowa (Restless)

In Japan, March is said to be a time of meetings and separations. Graduating, finding work, moving house...we bid farewell to familiar things, and on one level it is enjoyable because we get to meet new people, but there are also many things about it that make us feel troubled and anxious.

As a *gitaigo* (imitative word), this state of being preoccupied with something and unable to concentrate on what is in front of you, or of having certain thoughts and feelings occur to you for no clear reason and being unable to settle your emotions, is expressed as *sowa sowa* (suru).

A while ago, there was a popular song with the lyric "Haru na no ni o-wakare desu ka" ("Even though it's spring, is this farewell?"). Spring is a season that is profoundly evocative of positive and beautiful things, blooming cherry blossoms and a future in which our dreams come true. But it is also a season in which we often feel the loneliness of setting out on journeys and of the loss of birds leaving the nest. We should move forward looking towards the future, believing that when we get beyond this, we will have grown to become a person different to the one we were before.