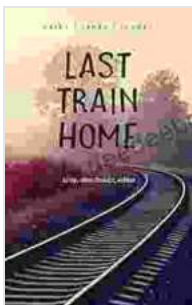


An Anthology of Contemporary Haiku, Tanka, and Renga: A Journey into the Depths of Japanese Poetry

Welcome to the enchanting world of Japanese poetry, where words dance and images ignite the imagination. This anthology is a testament to the enduring power and versatility of haiku, tanka, and renga, three traditional Japanese poetic forms that continue to thrive and evolve in the 21st century.

This collection brings together the voices of renowned contemporary poets from across Japan and beyond, each offering their unique interpretations and explorations of these timeless forms. Through their words, we are invited to experience a wide range of emotions, perspectives, and insights into the human condition.

Haiku, the quintessential Japanese poetic form, is known for its brevity and evocative power. Composed of only 17 syllables arranged in three lines (5-7-5), haiku captures the essence of a moment, often focusing on nature or the fleeting beauty of everyday life.



Last Train Home: an anthology of contemporary haiku, tanka, and renga by Jacqueline Pearce

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4364 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 270 pages

Lending : Enabled



In this anthology, we encounter haiku that celebrate the changing seasons, the tranquility of nature, and the simple joys and sorrows of daily existence. Each haiku is a miniature masterpiece, inviting us to pause and reflect on the world around us with fresh eyes.

Tanka, a slightly longer form than haiku, consists of five lines (5-7-5-7-7) and often explores a more complex or narrative theme. Tanka can delve into personal experiences, emotions, and reflections, offering a deeper exploration of human nature and the world we inhabit.

The tanka in this collection encompass a wide range of subjects, from love and loss to the search for meaning and the challenges of modern life. They are poignant, thought-provoking, and ultimately uplifting, reminding us of the enduring human spirit and our shared experiences.

Renga, a collaborative form of poetry, is a unique and fascinating aspect of Japanese literature. Renga is created by two or more poets, each adding a verse to a growing sequence of linked poems. The resulting work is a collective exploration of a particular theme or topic.

In this anthology, we present a selection of renga that demonstrate the playful and experimental nature of this form. The poets engage in witty exchanges, create intricate patterns, and explore the depths of language and imagination together.

This anthology features a diverse group of contemporary poets who are masters of their craft. Each poet brings their own unique style, voice, and

perspective to the traditional forms of haiku, tanka, and renga.

Among the featured poets are:

- **Masaoka Shiki** (1867-1902): A pioneer of modern haiku, known for his focus on realism and everyday life.
- **Issa Kobayashi** (1763-1828): A master of humorous and poignant haiku, often featuring animals and nature.
- **Buson Yosa** (1716-1784): A versatile poet who excelled in both haiku and tanka, known for his vivid imagery and philosophical insights.
- **Bashō Matsuo** (1644-1694): The most famous haiku poet, known for his profound understanding of nature and the human condition.
- **Chiyo-ni** (1703-1775): A female haiku poet who wrote about the joys and sorrows of everyday life, particularly the experiences of women.

"An Anthology of Contemporary Haiku, Tanka, and Renga" is an essential collection for anyone interested in Japanese poetry or the art of poetry in general. Through the diverse voices of its featured poets, this anthology offers a rich and captivating exploration of the human experience and the enduring power of words.

Whether you are a seasoned connoisseur of Japanese poetry or a newcomer to its enchanting world, this book will inspire, delight, and challenge you at every turn. Prepare to be transported by the beauty, wisdom, and boundless creativity that these poems have to offer.

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