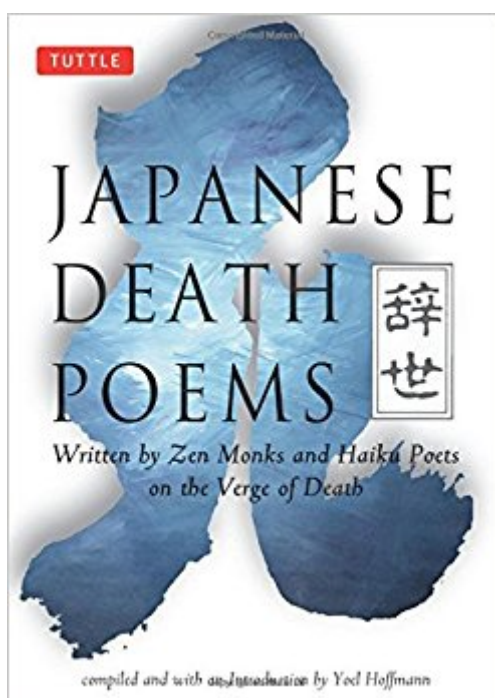


The book was found

# Japanese Death Poems: Written By Zen Monks And Haiku Poets On The Verge Of Death



## Synopsis

"A wonderful introduction to the Japanese tradition of jisei, this volume is crammed with exquisite, spontaneous verse and pity, often hilarious, descriptions of the eccentric and committed monks who wrote the poems." —Tricycle: The Buddhist Review

Although the consciousness of death is, in most cultures, very much a part of life, this is perhaps nowhere more true than in Japan, where the approach of death has given rise to a centuries-old tradition of writing jisei, or the "death poem." Such a poem is often written in the very last moments of the poet's life. Hundreds of Japanese death poems, many with a commentary describing the circumstances of the poet's death, have been translated into English here, the great majority of them for the first time. Yoel Hoffmann explores the attitudes and customs surrounding death in historical and present-day Japan, and gives examples of how these have been reflected in the nation's literature in general. The development of writing jisei is then examined — from the poems of longing of the early nobility and the more "masculine" verses of the samurai to the satirical death poems of later centuries. Zen Buddhist ideas about death are also described as a preface to the collection of Chinese death poems by Zen monks that are also included. Finally, the last section contains three hundred twenty haiku, some of which have never been assembled before, in English translation and romanized in Japanese.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Original ed. edition (April 15, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804831793

ISBN-13: 978-0804831796

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #111,342 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Japanese & Haiku #29 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Asian #40 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Death, Grief & Loss

## Customer Reviews

The Fourth Day by Aki-no-bo No Sign by Aki-no-bo Lightning Flickers by Amano Hachiro Running Shallow by Arimaru Flowers Of The Grass: by Asei Earth And Metal... by Atsujin People, When You

See The Smoke, by Baika Plum Petals Falling by Baiko Now Spring Has Come by Bainen O  
Hydrangea- by Bairyu Island Of Eternity: by Baisei The Journey West, by Baiseki Looking Back At  
The Valley: by Bako Looking Back At The Valley: by Bako The Longest Winter Night: by Bankoku  
Farewell- by Banzan Look Straight Ahead. What's There? by Bassui Tokousho Child Of The Way,  
by Benseki Cuckoo, I Too by Bokukei A Parting Word? by Bokusui A Swollen Bottle Gourd by  
Botange Shohaku Yesterday, It Was Hibiscus by Botange Shohaku Oh, I Don't Care by Bufu I  
Crossed From Last by Bunzan The Running Stream by Chiboku Butterflies In Flight: by Chikuro It  
Lights Up by Chine Feast Of The Dead- by Chiri First Crops: by Chiri In Earth And Sky by Chirin A  
Fawn Frolics by Chiyo Ni I Saw The Moon As Well by Chiyoni I Long For People- by Chogo A  
Raging Sea by Choha This Final Scene I'll Not See by Choko Paradise, by Chora Leaves Never Fall  
by Chori On The Way West by Choshi I Wait, White Clouds by Chosui This Is One Poem by Chowa  
My Seventy Years-a Withered by Daibai You Cannot Tell by Daibai A Tune Of Non-being by Daido  
Ichi'i Needles Pierce My Ailing Body, And Pain Grows by Daigu Sochiku My Whole Life Long I've  
Sharpened My Sword by Dairin Soto Cargoless, by Dohaku Here In The Shadow Of Death It Is  
Hard by Dokyo Etan Lotus Seed In Ten by Donsui In All My Six And Fifty Years by Doyu All My Life  
I Taught Zen To The People- by Enni Ben'en Autumn Waters by Enryo A Parting Gift To My Body:  
by Ensei Autumn Gust: by Ensetsu Many Things Befell Me A S I Followed Buddha by Ensetsu All  
Moving Things by Enshi My Companion In The Skies by Fufu Rise, Let Us Go- by Fujo Empty  
Cicada Shell: by Fukaku A Bright And Pleasant by Fukyu Today, Then, Is The Day by Fusen Upon  
The Lotus Flower by Fuso The Earth Is Fragrant by Fuwa One Spot, Alone by Gaki Blow If You Will,  
by Gansan I Lean Against by Gazen Morning Glory by Gengen'ichi A Graveyard: by Gensho Inhale,  
Exhale by Gesshu Soko Stumble, by Getsurei Illness Lingers On And On by Gimei I Leap From  
Depths by Ginka See- by Ginko Clear Sky- by Gitoku All Doctrines Split Asunder by Giun I Was  
Born Into This World by Gizan Zenrai This Is What I Think: by Gochu Chrysanthemums Were  
Yellow by Godo I Have Not Yet Grown Weary by Gofu A Lone Paulownia Leaf by Gohei The  
Second Month: by Gohei Fields Dying Off: by Gokei The Truth Embodied In The Buddhas by Goku  
Kyonen Spring Will Meet This Year by Gosen Returning Thanks by Goshi Disgusted With by Goshu  
A Cuckoo Cries by Goshuku Blossoms Scent The Air by Gozan The Snow Of Yesterday by Gozan I  
Wonder Where by Hakuen What Is It But A Dream? by Hakuen My Heart Serene, by Hakujubo  
Pampas Grass, All Dry by Hakukin To A Melody Of Prayer by Hakuni Well, Then, Let's Follow by  
Hakurin An Ailing Mallard by Hakuro Farewell-and Though There Be by Hakusai Oh, Morning Glory,  
by Hakusen At Peace, by Hakusetsu Deutzia Blossoms: by Hakuto Man's End, by Hamei In  
Stillness, I, by Hamon The Year Is Ending: by Hankai My Life: by Hanri Quick Sounds by Hogyoku

Now As A Spirit by Hokusai Gone Up In Flames- by Hokushi I Write, Erase, Rewrite, by Hokushi O  
Sacred Spirit by Hokusai Mountain Temple: by Horoku Coming, All Is Clear, No Doubt About It. by  
Hosshin Encased By Winter: by Hou Praise To The Skies: by Hoyu Late-blooming Cherry: by  
Hyakka Winter Ice by Hyakka When I Die by Hyakuri A Broken Dream- by Ichimu What Do You  
Understand? by Ichishi In All The Kingdom Southward by Ikkyu Sojun Three And Seventy Years by  
Ingo I Give My Name Back by Inseki Falling In The Wind by Ippu Though I Tarry On The Road by  
Isaibo The Autumn Hues by Isan For Not Honoring My Parents by Isan From Deep In My Heart by  
Issho Cut Your Price! by Issso Cuckoo, by Jakua This Year I Want by Jakura Family Whispers by  
Jikko Leaves Of Words: by Jomei This Must Be by Joseki Second Month: by Jowa A Back-yard  
Chrysanthemum by Kaen If I Must Die by Kafu Nights Grow Short: by Kafu Barren Branches: by  
Kagai Strange-like Messengers by Kaiga Round A Flame by Kaikai Evening Cherry-blossoms: by  
Kaisho A Chill: by Kanga It Is Indeed Like That- by Kangyu Autumn Breeze: by Kanna Although The  
Autumn Moon by Kanshu Why Should I Hesitate? by Karai How Sad: Cherry Blossoms by Kari The  
Ash I Leave Behind by Kasei Depths Of Cold by Kasenjo Cicada Of The Light by Kasenni A Drop Of  
Water Freezes Instantly- by Kaso Sodon Summer by Kassan The Moon Departs: by Kato Bound  
Homeward Under by Keido The Cuckoo's Voice by Keido Border Of The Realm, by Keizan The  
Melting Snows: by Kenju My Old Body: by Kiba My One Wish by Kibai Cutting A Swath by Kifu  
Seventy-one! by Kigen That Which Blossoms by Kiko Today Is The Day by Kimpo One Gulp, by  
Kimpu The Autumn Flowers by Kin'ei How Leisurely The Cherry by Kin'u Within The Vast And  
Empty by Kinko Ninth-month Moon: by Kisei Since I Was Born by Kisei Evening: by Kiyu Clouds  
Drifting Off: by Kizan When I Am Gone by Kizan (1787-1851) From One Basin by Kobayashi Issa  
What Matter If I Live On- by Kobayashi Issa My Final Words Are These: by Kogaku Soko Katsu! by  
Kogetsu Sogan I Cast The Brush Aside- by Koha To Depart While Seated Or Standing Is All One.  
by Koho Kennichi And If I Do by Koju For Over Sixty Years by Kokei Sochin Farewell, Sire- by  
Konishi Raizan Raizan Had Died by Konishi Raizan This Stone Made Ready For My Tomb by  
Konkan When I Leave The World by Konkan The Joy Of Dewdrops by Koraku Autumn Ends: by  
Kosai Poor Kosai- by Kosai Three Years: by Kosai Swear To Me, Pine, by Koseki I Die by Koson If I  
Must Die by Koyo How Sublime- by Kozan Empty-handed I Entered The World by Kozan Ichikyo My  
Morning Porridge, by Kusamaru A Last Fart: by Kyo'on I Am Not Worthy by Kyohaku When You  
Contemplate The Waters by Kyokusai A Journey Of No Return: by Kyoshu In Heavy Snow by  
Kyutaro Tender Winds Above The Snow by Kyutaro Moon In A Barrel: by Mabutsu The Snowman's  
Eyes by Mabutsu Now That My Storehouse by Masahide While I Walk On by Masahide I Draw The  
Willow by Masumi Kato The Path To Paradise by Masumi Kato The Surface by Masumi Kato An

Ailing Mallard by Matsuo Munefusa Airing Out The Robe by Matsuo Munefusa On A Journey, III: by Matsuo Munefusa My Only Hope Against by Meisetsu Today I Put On Summer by Michikaze Fall, Plum Petals, by Minteisengan The Foam On The Last Water by Mitoku I Constantly Aspire by Mokudo Clouds Breaking Up, by Momen Today by Moritake The Drone Of The Mosquitoes by Motojo Sadly I See by Mukai Kyorai Life Is An Ever-rolling Wheel by Mumon Gensen When It Comes-just So! by Musho Josho Thus Have I Rolled My Life Throughout by Muso Soseki At The Crossroad by Nakamichi Ice In A Hot World: by Nakamichi In Fall by Namagusa Tazukuri To Hell With The Wind by Nampo Jomyo Since Time Began by Nandai Over The Fields Of by Okano Kin'emon Kanehide This Phantasm by Okyo What A Lark! by Osen At Night My Sleep by Oto O White Chrysanthemum- by Otsuchi Hidden Among The Roots by Otsuin Still Tied To The World, by Ozui My Body In Its Autumn: by Ra-in I Take Leave by Rairai You've Done Your Duty by Raishi For A Moment There by Rando I Wish To Die by Rangai Thirty Years And More by Rankei Doryu Each Day The Absent Grow by Ranseki This Last Night Of Nights by Ranseki One Leaf Lets Go, And by Ransetsu Let Them Bloom Or by Rekisen I Cleansed The Mirror by Renseki The Night I Understood by Retsuzan All Freezes Again- by Riei I'm Happy Through And Through by Rifu A Water Bird, Asleep, by Robun Is It Only Me? by Rochu On The Ground by Rogan The Times Are Torn Asunder- by Rogen Evening Shadows Steal by Roka I Wake Up by Rokushi Sweep Away by Rosen Time To Go... by Roshu Now It Reveals Its Hidden Side by Ryokan Is Man A by Ryosa I Understand: by Ryoto Till Now by Ryoto A Plover Rises by Ryou The New Year by Ryu'u Now I Understand How by Ryuho Brittle Pampas Grass- by Ryusai Man Is Buddha- by Ryushi I Shift My Pillow by Saiba I Borrow Moonlight by Saikaku In This Delusive World by Saikaku I'll Cross The Ridge by Saimaro Dawn Breaks by Saimu How Sad... by Sakyoku Cherry Blossoms Fall by Saruo Joy Of Living, by Seigan Soi Not Even For A Moment by Seiju Water Veins by Seiju Boarding The Boat by Seira My Body, Useless by Seisa My Hour Draws Near And I Am Still Alive, by Seisetsu Shucho Rain Clouds Clear Away: by Seishu Deep In The Underbrush by Sempo I Cup My Ears by Senchojo He Who Comes Knows Only His Coming by Sengai Gibbon Somehow Or Other by Senkei Bitter Winds Of Winter- by Senryu Like Dewdrops by Senryu A Willow Tree In Fall: by Senryu At Long Last I Am Leaving: by Senseki Like Ice In Storage by Sentoku Now Then, by Setsudo Reality Is Flowerlike: by Shagai I Have Gone Through by Sharyu Hold On!- by Shayo Returning As It Came, by Shidoken Of Such A Time As This by Shiei Farewell To Blessed Be by Shigan A Willow Branch by Shigenobu To Grass It Comes by Shikaku A Barreful Of Phlegm- by Shiki The Loofah Blooms And by Shiki Loofah Water by Shiki A Cricket, Crying, by Shiko I Vanish- by Shiko Feast Of The Dead: by Shinga Fickle Winter Shower: by Shinseki And Won't There Be by Shiyo Snow On The Pines by Shiyo Surely

There's A Teahouse by Shiyo Willingly by Shizan One Moon- by Shofu Autumn Ends: by Shogetsu  
Today The Sky Above Mount Hiei, Too, by Shogo O Morning Glory- by Shohi My Shame In This  
World by Shokei Chilling Cold: by Shoku'u Pampas Grass, Now Dry, by Shoro Flowers Bloomed  
Yesterday, by Shoshun The Fall Of Leaves by Shozan Cicada Shell: by Shuho Is It Me The Raven  
Calls by Shukabo Above The Fence by Shukyo The Winter Fowl by Shumpan My Sword Leans  
Against The Sky. by Shumpo Soki No Single Bone In My Body Is Holy- by Shumpo Soki Adrift  
Between The Earth And Sky by Shun'oku Soen I Wake And Find by Shushiki Frost On S Summer  
Day: by Shutei Walking Westward, by So'oku Whether Or Not A Paradise by Soa Full Autumn  
Moon: by Sodo Festival Of Souls: by Sofu Empty Are by Sohoku This Winter by Sohoku The Road I  
Take by Sokin Like Full, Plump by Soko Shadows From A Lingerin Sun by Soko A Green Gourd  
by Somaru Skies At Dawn- by Sonome Autumn Winds: by Soryu Lotus Seeds by Sosen The Years  
Have Piled Up by Sugetsu By The Fifth Month by Suikoku Spitting Blood by Sunao This Frosty  
Month by Tadatomo I Raise The Mirror Of My Life by Taigen Sofu The Deutzia Has Bloomed- by  
Taikyo Flowers Bloom A Score Of Days- by Tairyu Brittle Autumn Leaves by Takao When  
Summoned, by Takuchi Soon I Shall Hear by Takuro Cool- by Tamanari A Lone Monk by  
Tamashichi Such Is The World's Way: by Tanehiko The First Snow by Tanko For Eight And Fifty  
Years by Tanko Life-cutting Axe: by Tanko The Moon Leaks Out by Tanko Today Too, by Tanko  
With My Cane by Tantan Open The Shutters by Teikitsu A Plover Wades Through by Teisa A  
Morning Glory- by Teishi New Year- by Teishitsu I Wish This Body by Tembo Among The Barley  
Stalks by Tesshi When I Leave by Tesshu Full Of Great Changes by Tetsugen Doko I Look Now At  
The Very Moment by Tetto Giko The Truth Is Never Taken by Tetto Giko When Autumn Winds Blow  
by Togyu Food Is Steaming by Toho Within Your Life And Mine by Toho I Go Back by Tojaku Even  
Dew Distilled by Tojun Death Poems by Toko My Life Was by Tokugen Sound Of A Melody: by  
Tomoemon Seventy Years And More by Tosui Unkei Though My Dwelling Be Small by Tosui Unkei  
Today Is The End Of Religion's Work- by Tosui Unkei All Four Pillars Of Enlightenment by Toyo  
Eicho Is It Like by Toyokuni From The Day Of My Coming Hither by Tsugen Jakurei Give My Dream  
Back, by Uejima Onitsura Cuckoo, by Uko The Voice Of The Nightingale by Uko I Came Into The  
World After Buddha. by Ungo Kiyo The Second Of The Second Month: by Unrei Six And Sixty- by  
Usei The Owners Of The Cherry Blossoms by Utsu New Year's Dawn: by Wagin In The End by  
Wakyu My Four And Forty Years by Wakyu A Voice Calls Me- by Yaba I Pass Beneath by Yaitsu  
Paradise- by Yaitsu My Six And Seventy Years Are Through. by Yakuo Tokuken Clouds Of Flowers  
by Yaohiko My Sickness Lingers; I Part From This World. by Yayu A Short Night by Yayu  
Yesterday? Today? by Yayu Of Late The Nights by Yosa Buson Katsu! by Yoso Soi Frost On

Grass: by Zaishiki You Must Play by Zosan Junku I Pondered Buddha's Teaching by Zoso Royo --  
Table of Poems from Poem Finder® --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Text: English, Japanese (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

The death poem, or jisei in Japanese, is expected to be composed in addition to a last will and testament. This book's masterful compiler, Yoel Hoffmann, notes in his introduction that jisei have been interpreted as final concessions to politeness and proper social conduct (i.e., they are salutations to those still living), but quickly dismisses this theory by showing how few of these poems are written using the honorific language intended for such salutations. This collection offers us both tanka written by Zen monks and a larger helping of death-related haiku: for those unfamiliar with the mechanics of those styles, the former is a 5-line poem following a pattern of "5-7-5-7-7" syllables per line, while the latter is a 3-line poem following a "5-7-5" pattern of syllables per line. Neither uses any rhyming convention, even though the vast majority of the words in the Japanese language end with one of the five vowel sounds. Hoffman's synopsis of tanka poetry's spiritual inclinations is as accurate as any you're likely to read (he likens the poet to "a person holding two mirrors in his hands, one reflecting a scene from nature, the other reflecting himself as he holds the first mirror (p. 19-20.)" The vast majority of the poems here were recorded on dates during the Tokugawa period of Japan (1603-1868), even though jisei practice only really became de rigeur in the subsequent Meiji era. Nevertheless, the Tokugawa-era poems perfectly reflect the dramatic increase in cultural pursuits - the fabled ukiyo or 'floating world' - particular to that time. This collection also shows the great friction between the Japanese heathen spirit of Shinto and the neo-Confucianism popular during the Tokugawa era: the former's identification with nature spirits and the latter's more anthropocentric morality sometimes mesh perfectly in the poems, and sometimes make for bold moments of incongruity. The book's publisher, Tuttle, is one that specializes in Asian-themed books (travel journals, reprints of classics etc.) In their case, keeping this restrictive policy towards their choice of subject matter has allowed them to, ironically, release books that maintain a very universal appeal. Japanese Death Poems is one of these: despite the author's careful attempts to explain who wrote which poems under what uniquely Japanese historical conditions, these epigrams rarely fail to transcend time and place. Having said that, there are examples here that would be highly relevant to practicing Japanologists: there are entries from the renowned painter Hokusai (who pictures himself as a ball of blue fire hovering in the air), from haiku master Basho's oft-boastful pupil Kyoriku, and from several of the famous 47 ronin

[masterless samurai] that inspired so many legends and epic films. Along with the historical perspectives come knowledge of cultural facts that may be unknown to new students of this culture, such as the Buddhist convention of giving a deceased person a new name, or the metaphorical significance of birds like the plover and hototogisu (cuckoo.) Ultimately, though, the book's main selling point is not its ability to fill the gaps in one's historical knowledge, but its ability to provide fresh, unexpected perspectives on the great, creeping inevitability of death. One surprise comes in the sheer breadth of humor, from cheeky to mordant, that animates many of these entries: there are, for example, death poems that poke fun at the institution of death poems themselves, and also ones that upset the Japanese notion of reverence for grand masters in any craft: one poet takes the lines of Basho's famous death poem ("On a journey, ill: / my dream goes wandering / over withered fields") and twists them into the irreverent parody "Locked in my room / my dream goes wandering / over brothels." Elsewhere, the poet Moriya Sen'an unleashes some skillful punning while anticipating a happily debauched afterlife: he requests to be buried beneath a leaky wine barrel, with the gag being that the Japanese for "the cask will leak" ("moriyasennan") is phonetically identical to the writer's name. When not surprising with comic devices, we can find other moments of extreme unorthodoxy in this book, such as when a character named Shisui is asked to compose a death poem, but merely paints an enso in his dying moments (an enso being the plain black circle characteristic to Zen Buddhism, symbolizing 'void as essence' and enlightenment.) The Zen monk Takuan Soho chose a similar method, painting the Chinese character for "dream" in lieu of a death poem as he breathed his last. The orthodox entries are no less interesting, though, showing that much sublimity and individuality is possible even when working within the rules, like the suggestion that death poems should include a seasonal image from the time in which the writer is dying. Buddhist ethics and views on eternity do, naturally, color much of the poetry in this volume: this may be problematic for anyone who absolutely cannot handle a good dose of Mahayana Buddhism in particular (a philosophy in which the "void" is not the opposite of the phenomenal world, but rather "the world in all its shapes and colors" itself [p. 306.]) If this way of thinking doesn't agree with you, there is plenty of poetry here making no explicit or implicit reference to articles of Buddhist faith. Some do anyway, and yet are no less effective in their simple poignancy, or their ability to be applied to the lives of any mortal: see for example Sofu's entry, which reads "Festival of Souls: / yesterday I hosted them / today I am a guest..." Whatever one's inclination towards Buddhist thought, many of the stories Hoffman unearths are fascinating and vital- who can fail to crack a smile at the story of the poor monk Eisai (1141-1215, a founder of Japanese Zen): he traveled to Kyoto near his death in order to "show people how to die," willed himself to die while



sitting in a meditative zazen position, but then revived when his audience complained that he had died too quickly! I highly recommend Japanese Death Poems as a nuanced alternative to the more sensationalist (when not inaccurate or outright fabricated) "dark side of Japan" material. Given, the libidinous extremes uncovered by those other accounts are mind-altering when produced properly, but I often wonder what end purpose motivates these publishers' enthusiastic quest to show only the most blood-soaked side of Japanese life and death. A personal regimen of welcoming aestheticized psycho-terror (or, as the U.S. Marines call it, "embracing the suck") works to a certain degree, but unchecked death drive produces vastly diminishing returns when taken on as a full-time way of life. So, when you do tire of that, there are books like these to turn to, which contain more genuine surprises than many of the books claiming they will shock you out of your cultural torpor. Whether these compact little jisei are motivated by an inherited Confucian sense of duty, by pure egotism, or other factors, the effect of reading them all is intoxicating: there is something special about people forcing themselves to contribute to creative life even as death prepares to swallow them up. I leave the last word to Hoffman here, since he shows what it is that ignites this spiritual defiance: "...how wise and humane is a culture that does not contrive an otherworldly supreme being to rule this world, the only one we know. One might ask what there is to be gained from a 'spiritual' sovereign who disturbs the peace of man with commands to act one way or another, promising in exchange an eternal world where scent, shape and color never enter [...] [Japanese nature] is not nature as understood by Western religions, the work of a creator who stands apart from his work, but nature bursting with vitality, appearing and disappearing in cycles of life and death, os summer and winter, spring and fall (p. 38-39)."

It is traditional in Japan to have a poem on your lips at the time of your death. Many cultures have the tradition of ascribing importance to the "last words" of a dying person, but I think Japan is unique in attempting to make death a beautiful aesthetic experience. As such, this collection has something for all humanity. Death is something we'll all eventually face; doing so with something approaching dignity is something we can all hope to do. Many cultures and religions have a tradition of a sort of happy hunting ground for an afterlife, to provide comfort to the masses of people who have had a hard life. It is my sense that the Japanese didn't have this sort of tradition in Shinto or Zen. As such, the Japanese approach to the end of life has particular poignancy for modern secular humanists, who also have no "happy hunting ground" to hope for. I can't speculate whether or not the poems are well translated, or the cultural anthropology was accurate, but I found the collection profoundly moving.

this book has a wonderful introduction. it is a large chunk of the book, instead of the usual ten pages or so it's 87 pages! this serves to educate the reader on japanese poetry throughout history and it is very useful in understanding and internalizing the poems. after that are the poems of zen monks, many with little mini biographies preceding them that often leave you wishing you could read all about the poets, even more so after you read their last words! some of these poems made my hair stand on end in awe. very deep and transcendental words. next is the haiku poets, also truly beautiful and unique.

I have loved all kinds of poetry for most of my life, with the exception of the so-called "modern western free verse" form, which I call garbage poetry. My favorite poems are the shorter type (Haiku) which is why I love Japanese poetry with its Zen like approach to writing poetry. This 366 page paperback edition is to my knowledge the first book dedicated exclusively to Japanese Death Poems, which makes it unique and highly informative. To those not familiar with death poetry, it was a practice of Japanese monks, Samurai, (warriors) and other Haiku Poets to write a poem at the moment of their death. One of the many things I love about this book is the short biography and age of the poet writing the poem. This excellent book is well-written and it is clear a lot of hard research went into the writing of this volume. This text is organized into three parts. The first part includes the introduction, the poetry of Japan, death and its poetry in the cultural history of Japan and a note on the poems. The second part covers Death Poems by Zen Monks. The final section has numerous death poems written by Haiku Poets. This volume also had notes, Bibliographical notes, an index of poetic terms and a general index. In conclusion, if you have an interest in Japanese poetry this is one book you will want to add to your collection. I have read and reviewed numerous Asian (Chinese, Japanese etc) poetry collections and it was a pure joy to read the many poems in this book. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Haiku Moments: How to read, write and enjoy haiku)

These kind of poems are to be approached with reverence. I am very grateful that, finally, someone had the courage to move on from the heart moving poetry of nature to this particular subject. It is a deeper theme in many aspects, personal, social, semantics, as well as regrets for living this world. It is a very well explained kind of poetry and this book deserves a lot of attention. The reader will step in the realm of things a bit hard to talk about, but we all have things to learn from these poems.

I love the analysis done with the poems. But gave it 4 stars because Part 2 doesn't have the original haiku texts, like the ones shown in Part 3.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Japanese Death Poems: Written by Zen Monks and Haiku Poets on the Verge of Death ZEN: Everything You Need to Know About Forming Zen Habits – A Practical Guide to Find Inner Peace, Practice Mindfulness & Learn Zen Meditation (Zen Buddhism, Zen Mastery, Zen for Beginners) Baseball Haiku: The Best Haiku Ever Written about the Game Zen Buddhism: How Zen Buddhism Can Create A Life of Peace, Happiness and Inspiration (Zen Buddhism for Beginners, Zen, Zen Books) Zen: Beginner's Guide to Understanding & Practicing Zen Meditation to Become Present (Zen for Beginners, Zen Meditation, Zen Habits, Meditation for Beginners) Japanese Gardens: An Introduction to Japanese Gardens and Their Design Principles (Japanese Gardens, Japanese Garden Designs, DIY Japanese Gardening, Japanese ... Japanese Landscape Design Book 1) I Love My Dad (japanese kids books, japanese children books): kids books in japanese, japanese baby books, children japanese books (Japanese Bedtime Collection) (Japanese Edition) How to Haiku: A Writer's Guide to Haiku and Related Forms The Haiku Handbook: How to Write, Share, and Teach Haiku Zen: Zen For Beginners – The Ultimate Guide To Incorporating Zen Into Your Life – A Zen Buddhism Approach To Happiness And Inner Peace Zen Flesh Zen Bones: A Collection of Zen and Pre-Zen Writings Zen and Zen Classics 1: From the Upanishads to Huineng (Zen & Zen Classics) Zen: How to Practice Zen Everywhere in Your Daily Life (FREE Bonus Inside) (Zen Meditation, Zen for Beginners, Buddhism) I Love My Mom (japanese kids books, japanese children stories, bilingual japanese books): japanese for kids (English Japanese Bilingual Collection) (Japanese Edition) The Monks of Mount Athos: A Western Monks Extraordinary Spiritual Journey on Eastern Holy Ground Living in the Light of Death: Existential Philosophy in the Eastern Tradition, Zen, Samurai & Haiku Children's book: Where is Santa. Santaha dokoda: Children's English-Japanese Picture Book (Bilingual Edition), Japanese kids book, Japanese Baby book, Japanese ... Japanese English books for children 1) The Great Poets William Blake (Naxos Great Poets) Zen Gardens: The Art and Principles of Designing a Tranquil, Peaceful, Japanese Zen Garden at Home Shodo: The Quiet Art of Japanese Zen Calligraphy; Learn the Wisdom of Zen Through Traditional Brush Painting

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)