



The Etiquette of Freedom: Gary Snyder, Jim Harrison, and The Practice of the Wild

Gary Snyder (Editor) , Jim Harrison , Paul Ebenkamp (Editor)

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Gary Snyder joined his old friend, novelist Jim Harrison, to discuss their loves and lives and what has become of them throughout the years. Set amidst the natural beauty of the Santa Lucia Mountains, their conversations—harnessing their ideas of all that is wild, sacred and intimate in this world—move from the admission that Snyder’s mother was a devout atheist to his personal accounts of his initiation into Zen Buddhist culture, being literally dangled by the ankles over a cliff. After years of living in Japan, Snyder returns to the States to build a farmhouse in the remote foothills of the Sierras, a homestead he calls Kitkitdizze.

For all of the depth in these conversations, Jim Harrison and Gary Snyder are humorous and friendly, and with the artfully interspersed dialogue from old friends and loves like Scott Slovic, Michael McClure, Jack Shoemaker, and Joanne Kyger, the discussion reaches a level of not only the personal, but the global, redefining our idea of the Beat Generation and challenging the future directions of the environmental movement and its association with “Deep Ecology.”

The Etiquette of Freedom is an all-encompassing companion to the film *The Practice of the Wild*. A DVD is included which contains the film together with more than an hour of out-takes and expanded interviews, as well as an extended reading by Gary Snyder. The whole offers a rare glimpse of their extended discussion of life and what it means to be wild and alive.

The Etiquette of Freedom: Gary Snyder, Jim Harrison, and The Practice of the Wild Details

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Diane says

This dvd (and accompanying book) is great--just to see & hear Jim Harrison! Gary Snyder is very interesting, but I wanted more of Harrison's brain...

Firas says

it is an important book

Richard says

A conversation between Gary Snyder & Jim Harrison, what's not to like? Snyder, the famous American, Zen-beatnik-poet who has dwelled in the Sierra for the last 40 years and Harrison the ribald, hunter and lover of women and food from Montana/Arizona by way of the Midwest is always interesting. apparently these two intellects have known one another for some time and this conversation reflects that to it's detriment, rather like overhearing two old friends talking it doesn't always frame the question or context, much of which is directed at Snyder not Harrison who basically offers colorful intellectual commentary. Hint: If you're re-reading this and saying "WTF??!!" pick up a copy of Jack Kerouac's "Dharma Bums" and get introduced to the Snyder-inspired character Japhe Ryder.

Jade Allen says

The film that accompanies the book is beautiful.

Merri-Todd Webster says

This book must be read and appreciated in tandem with the accompanying DVD, *The Practice of the Wild*, a documentary about poetry, practice, and wilderness. Both book and film record a conversation between two men: Gary Snyder, Buddhist, poet, essayist, activist, and Jim Harrison, poet and novelist (his novel *Legends of the Fall* was made into the film of the same name). Both men are elders, are creators, are human beings deeply attuned to their environs--Snyder to his Pacific Northwest home, Harrison to the plains of the Midwest. The book consists of a film transcription, unedited conversations, outtakes from a few other people who were interviewed, photos, and Snyder's poems read in the film. If you're interested in landscape, wilderness, poetry, or just wider issues of being human, book and documentary are well worth a look.

Jon Cone says

I've followed the work of poet and novelist Jim Harrison for many years, especially his poetry. Gary Snyder has been a writer I've admired longer, but with less enthusiasm, and his collection 'RIPRAP AND COLD MOUNTAIN POEMS' is one that I reread and still find delightful. Throughout this book Snyder, as one would expect, tells wonderful stories drawn from his many years studying Asian literature and philosophy; Harrison provides his own wonderful stories and quotes, and brings a general good cheer to the conversation. I like that Harrison walks with a cane, that he's big-bellied, smokes; that he displays such obvious good humor. Snyder comes close to lecturing his audience, at times, though this isn't nearly the criticism that it might sound: he knows a great deal and he imparts his knowledge in an engaging, engaged style. For the quotes alone this book is worthwhile.

Sue says

I'm not sure that Harrison even mattered in this conversation with two great writers, except to illustrate how important Gary Snyder has always been. Gary Snyder really shines throughout the book & dvd, which is included. Read the book first & then watch the dvd as two great writers discuss the "practice of the wild", it is frosting on the cake. What a treasure Snyder is.

Craig Werner says

A book built with my interests in mind. Snyder's one of the figures who's had the most impact on me: his Buddhism, his sense of the western landscape, his sane negotiation of the Sixties, the wonderful clarity of his best poetry. I'm less familiar with Harrison, though I've liked what I've read. (Start with his novel *Dalva* or *Farmer*, both of which I plan to revisit soon.) This book is the companion to a documentary that's part biography of Snyder (though it stays with pretty familiar parts of the story), part conversation between Harrison and Snyder set against the backdrop of a stunningly beautiful western ranch. It includes half-dozen or so excerpts from the conversation, a transcript of the film, a few out-takes in which people who know Snyder offers their reflections, and a brief (and very well chosen) set of Snyder's poems. Not a bad introduction for anyone who knows a bit of Snyder's work--having some context will help but isn't essential. Includes the documentary on DVD.

Richard says

A transcribed b.s. session with two wise old codgers. Interesting, not overwhelming. Some interesting comments from Michael McClure, Joanna Kyger, and a few members of the crew. I bought it for the DVD, but I've yet to watch it.

Except for *Turtle Island*, I've never been a big Gary Snyder fan, and only an incidental reader of Jim Harrison. I'll probably do a cursory review of their work based on these transcriptions.

Candorman says

Interesting conversation about life.

Caroline says

This is a lovely introduction to Gary Snyder, a wise, witty and charming poet. Most unpretentious, quietly injecting profoundly zen insights into the conversation.

I am afraid Harrison comes across as a nearly inarticulate, blustering want-to-be, repeatedly deflated by a few words in response by Snyder who isn't trying to show up Harrison, but can't help it as he simply slips in an observation on the world around him.

Patti K says

This book contains conversations that Snyder had with Jim Harrison, the poet and novelist. Others join in as well. Thought provoking and compassionate ideas about the non-human world and our place in the eco-system. Comes with a DVD that is great. Poetry, art, deep ecology, and Buddhism are all discussed brilliantly.
