



TRANSLATED BY IAN HAIGHT AND TAE-YOUNG HO

Magnolia and Lotus: Selected Poems of Hyesim

Chin'gak Kuksa Hyesim, Ian Haight (Translation), T'ae-yong Ho (Translation)

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"Hyesim's poems: transformative as walking high granite mountains by moonlight, with fragrant herbs underfoot and a thermos of clear tea in the backpack. Their bedrock is *thusness*, their images' beauty is pellucid and new, their view without limit. The shelf of essential Zen poets for American readers grows larger with this immediately indispensable collection."—Jane Hirshfield

"His poems speak softly and clearly, like hearing a temple bell that was struck a thousand years ago."—Sam Hamill

Chin'gak Kuksa Hyesim (1178–1234) was the first Zen master dedicated to poetry in Korea.

Ian Haight's books of translations include *Borderland Roads: Selected Poems of Ho Kyun* and *Garden Chrysanthemums and First Mountain Snow: Zen Questions and Answers from Korea*.

Magnolia and Lotus: Selected Poems of Hyesim Details

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From Reader Review Magnolia and Lotus: Selected Poems of Hyesim for online ebook

Rainey says

Just as with the Dhammapada, these poems by Hyesim make a great addition to any meditation or self-actualization. I kept them by my seat to read as a daily reminder of how to be calm and enjoy the beauties of the world. "To achieve a tranquil heart is to have made a home."

Melissa T says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review This collection of poetry is a diverse look at the life of a Korean Zen Master, and his interpretations of his surroundings. *Full review to come soon

Susan says

Ian Haight's translation of "Magnolia and Lotus" was complete and meaningful. Each poem is written beautifully and I found myself sitting there reading and connecting with almost all the poems offered. I'm sure there are some that would say the opposite of myself, but in all reality poems are what each individual comes away with...some will find great meaning, some will only understand parts and others will come away with nothing. I enjoyed reading the poems and recommend them to everyone.

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the author which was provided for an honest review.

Jenna says

Won this book from Goodreads Giveaways. I feel that while reading this book of poems I get the overwhelming sense that much is lost in translation. Although it is easy to decipher Buddhist teaching based messages and appreciate the sentiment of these quick poems and prose, I couldn't really get absorbed or appreciate the art form this book is supposed to represent. Because I won the book and didn't necessarily choose it off the shelf, someone else might gain something deeper from it however I couldn't personally rate it better than OK. The author explains in a lengthy forward that the purpose of these poems were supposed to be different and ethereal vs earth connections it didn't strike a chord for me. Thank you for the opportunity to review this book.

Rebecca says

This was a goodreads giveaway and I really enjoyed it. Different than past poetry I read so it was a nice change.

Michelle (True Book Addict) Miller says

When I signed up for this tour to review this book, I had no idea that not only would I be reading a wonderful book of poems, but would be getting a history lesson as well. Hyesim (Chin'gak Kuksa Hyesim, 1178 - 1234) was the first Zen Master dedicated to poetry in Korea. Hyesim was a monk and a scholar who became the Chief Abbot of Songgwang Temple in 1210. He was a prolific writer, penning such works as The Enlightened Mind, The Sayings of Chin'gak Kuksa of the Chogye Order, Readings of the Diamond Sutra, Elements of Son School, and Poems by Muuja.

I have always loved poetry. I'm especially fond of poems that have a motivational or inspirational nature. Many of Hyesim's poems are meant to enlighten and inspire. I enjoyed reading his poems. The poems about nature seemed to paint a picture in my mind. However, the inspirational poems were my favorites. Here are a few that I especially loved...

The Delight of Contentment

Being rich and noble, like a floating cloud, means what to me?

Following one's sphere in life is in itself beautiful.

If I have no worries, why do I need wine?

To achieve a tranquil heart is to have made a home.

Small Pond

No Wind, no rippling:

the surface, reflecting all, fills my eyes.

What need is there for so many words?

Observing one another is enough.

Again, a Poem Given at Departure

The somber sky portends rain--

the miserable mountain bears a weary face.

Fortunately, friends of the same practice release clasped hands easily--

but with such heartfelt friendship, it is difficult not to shed tears.

Water Clock

A breeze of winter--

the months of this year draw to an end.

Every leaf in a forest eventually falls, yellowing a mountain--

only pine and bamboo retain an inborn breath of emerald.

How many years will a human live?

Time is fleet as lightning.

Details of self ought to be examined--

then the empty dream will not endure.

Theresa El-Thomas says

The serenity within each poem transports you into the state of consciousness possessed by this wonderful translation and enlightened Zen Master.

You can visualize the surroundings that are spoken of and feel the Zen emanating through your entire being as you read these precious words. I felt as though, I was there with the Zen Master as he was writing these words.

This translation is a beautiful piece of work, you can tell it was done with care.

I loved the introduction, it gave a deeper look into the life of this Zen Master and explained the history of the time period. Beautifully done!

Eric says

I won this book on goodreads.com. I give it 2/5.

Poetry doesn't need to be rated but... it's short and somewhat interesting.

Gill says

Loving it. One to hang onto
I do enjoy dipping into this book whenever I feel like reading some of the poems.
