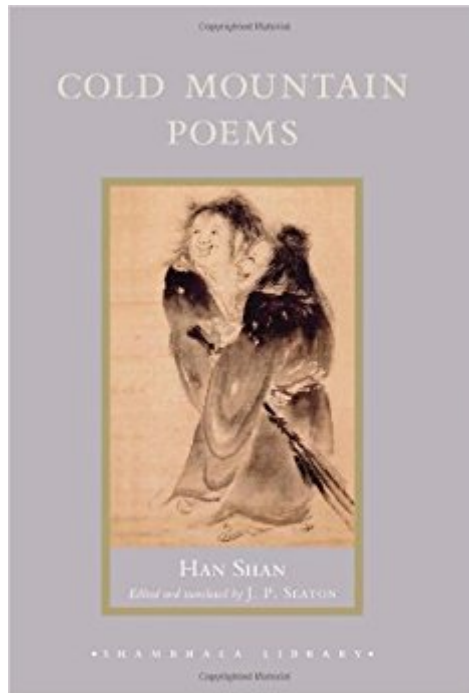


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Cold Mountain Poems: Zen Poems Of Han Shan, Shih Te, And Wang Fan-chih (Shambhala Library)



Synopsis

The incomparable poetry of Han Shan (Cold Mountain) and his sidekick Shih Te, the rebel poets who became icons of Chinese poetry and Zen, has long captured the imagination of poetry lovers and Zen aficionados. Popularized in the West by Beat Generation writers Gary Snyder and Jack Kerouac, these legendary T'ang era (618-907) figures are portrayed as the laughing, ragged pair who left their poetry on stones, trees, farmhouses, and the walls of the monasteries they visited. Their poetry expressed in the simplest verse but in a completely new tone, the voice of ordinary people. Here premier translator J. P. Seaton takes a fresh look at these captivating poets, along with Wang Fan-chih, another "outsider" poet who lived a couple centuries later and who captured the poverty and gritty day-to-day reality of the common people of his time. Seaton's comprehensive introduction and notes throughout give a fascinating context to this vibrant collection.

Book Information

Series: Shambhala Library

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Shambhala; 1 edition (July 21, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590306465

ISBN-13: 978-1590306468

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #852,885 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Chinese](#) #106 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Chinese](#) #219 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Chinese](#)

Customer Reviews

J P Seaton has brought us a new Han Shan who has a spring in his rhythmic step and a quick, off-balance poke in his lines. And, of course, a grin. Seaton has obviously lived with these old outsiders--Han Shan, Shih Te, and Wang Fan-chih--for years and knows well their ways and explorations. These guys don't waste your time. Their poems come from their learning how to live lightly and well twelve hundred years or so ago. Hanging out with Han Shan, Shih Te, & Wang

Fan-chih helps one stay sane. Go ahead. Compare translations--Burton & Snyder & Hamill & Red Pine & Seaton. It's fun. Unless you know Chinese, how else can one get close to the poems? "[G]aze into the emptiness; to the ends of the earth . . . / You're alone, with ALL within" (Han Shan, XXXIII). Go there! Stay or not; up to you!

I collect Han Shan. I started with Gary Snyder's, and moved on from there to about five different translations. Always rewarding, Han Shans translators make this wonderful poet come alive for us to enjoy. This little book though is very beautifully produced, and I just love having it around. The work itself is a joy and even if, like me you have a Han Shan or two around the place - this one will also bring joy. If you have never read much of his work then this book may be the place to start the journey, and climb the mountain and experience the peace and wisdom of this wonderful poet.

A very sweet and simple book of poems attributed to two old poor monks who wandered Cold Mountain (China) writing poems about life on the mountain on the rocks and nearby houses. It's a great little book to have by your favorite chair!

A joy to read! I find myself rereading and highlighting on kindle my favourite poems, during dinner time I read them to my kids. The joy of the poems comes from on how much meaning we attach to them. As we know we can find meaning in anything we wish which can be a pleasure or pain yet Cold Mountain allows one to see and hear Han Shan laughing at us and encouraging us to go deeper.

The poems in this slim and well designed book (built in bookmarks) will remind you of the basic perceptions one needs to experience a thoughtful and satisfying life. The notes on some of the poems are helpful and the fact that W.S. Merwin (poet and also a translator) recommends this book convinced me to purchase the Seaton translation. I am so happy with this book I think I'll look into the other poet who also praised it. Carolyn Kizer, obviously a poet with good taste should be explored.

Just finished re-reading Cold Mountain Poems by Han Shan, this time as an adult. I get it now. When I realized that I finally understood I laughed and cried at the same time. You have to read between the lines. Sorry I just can't offer a better description than that, it is a great joy when you finally understand.

Very pleased with the book and service.

The content of the book was not what I expected it to be however the delivery and condition of the book was excellent.

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