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The Fifth Season -- Poems to Re-create the World

By Robin D Gill

Paraverse Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 468 pages. Dimensions: 9.5in. x 7.3in. x 1.1in. In this book, the first of a series, Robin D. Gill, author of the highly acclaimed *Rise, Ye Sea Slugs!* and *Cherry Blossom Epiphany*, the largest single-theme anthologies of poetry ever published, explores the traditional Japanese New Year through 2,000 translated haiku (mostly 17-20c). The New Year, R. H. Blyth once wrote, is a season by itself. That was nowhere so plain as in the world of haiku, where *saijiki*, large collections called of *ku* illustrating hundreds, if not thousands of briefly explained seasonal themes, generally comprised five volumes, one for each season. Yet, the great doyen of haiku gave this fifth season, considered the first season when it came at the head of the Spring rather than in mid-winter, only a tenth of the pages he gave to each of the other four seasons (20 vs. 200). Was Blyth, Zen enthusiast, not enamored with ritual Or, was he loath to translate the New Year with its many cultural idiosyncrasies (most common to the Sinosphere but not to the West), because he did not want to have to explain the haiku It is hard to say, but...



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Reviews

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