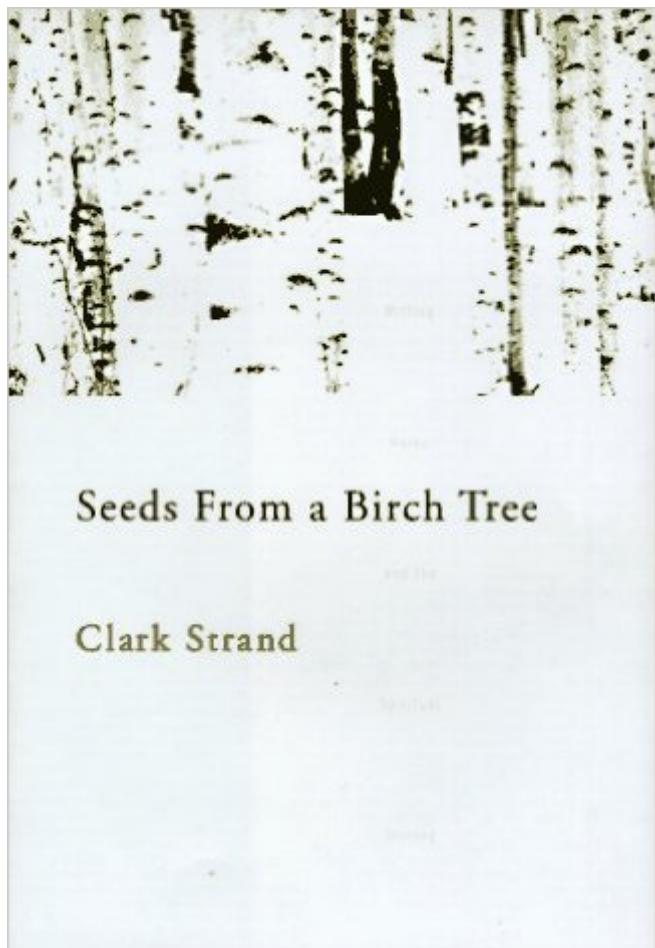


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Seeds From A Birch Tree: Writing Haiku And The Spiritual Journey



Synopsis

A Zen Buddhist monk explains the value of haiku, a three-line, seventeen-syllable poem, as a writing meditation and spiritual guide and provides exercises to help readers compose their own haiku.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Clark Strand is an American Haiku Master; he doesn't say so (no American does), but he is. Most of the haiku contained in the book were written by his disciples (he calls them his students). Anyone interested in becoming a serious haiku poet or who just wants to be able to write a few good haiku, will benefit from reading this book. The book is very straightforward and easy to understand. He offers the readers some good tips on how to get started and describes many deeply personal episodes of his own spiritual and haiku journey and development, which for Strand, often go hand in hand. He even makes fun of himself and describes personal failures, something most writers would never dare to do! A definite intimacy between writer and reader is established which is also rare. It should however be said that Strand's approach to haiku is heavily influenced by his experiences and schooling in the teachings of Zen. It should also be mentioned that Strand belongs to the Shiki school that believes haiku are "sketches of life". This is one viewpoint; there are many other valid ones. Shiki stated that most of the haiku written by the painter Buson were excellent while most of the haiku written by the philosopher Basho were mediocre, but it appears that Strand parts paths with Shiki on this point. He likes Basho's approach as well and quotes his own Zen master's haiku in

the book, a type of haiku much closer to the Basho school than to the type of haiku Buson and Shiki and their successors wrote.

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