



This Present Moment: New Poems

By Gary Snyder

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This Present Moment: New Poems By Gary Snyder

"This present moment
That lives on

To become

Long ago."

For his first collection of new poems since his celebrated *Danger on Peaks*, published in 2004, Gary Snyder finds himself ranging over the planet. Journeys to the Dolomites, to the north shore of Lake Tahoe, from Paris and Tuscany to the shrine at Delphi, from Santa Fe to Sella Pass, Snyder lays out these poems as a map of the last decade. Placed side-by-side, they become a path and a trail of complexity and lyrical regard, a sort of riprap of the poet's eighth decade. And in the mix are some of the most beautiful domestic poems of his great career, poems about his work as a homesteader and householder, as a father and husband, as a friend and neighbor. A centerpiece in this collection is a long poem about the death of his beloved, Carole Koda, a rich poem of grief and sorrow, rare in its steady resolved focus on a dying wife, of a power unequaled in American poetry.

As a friend is quoted in one of these new poems:

"I met the other lately in the far back of a bar,
musicians playing near the window and he
sweetly told me "listen to that music.

The self we hold so dear will soon be gone."'"

Gary Snyder is one of the greatest American poets of the last century, and *This Present Moment* shows his command, his broad range, and his remarkable courage.



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Editorial Review

Review

"*This Present Moment* maintains Snyder's steadfast, wise witnessing as he walks a Siberian Outpost meadow, gazes at clear-cut forest, or considers changing farmland in Italy. Snyder's clear-sightedness and meditative voice, even in the face of struggle or destruction, give the work much of its power."—*Christian Science Monitor*

"Snyder has parceled out the decade since his last poetry collection (*Danger on Peaks*) into textured poems of a rare and welcome candor."—*Publisher's Weekly*

"[E]ach of the moments of these poems is completely open, even when, as in the long, particular poem about the death of Snyder's late-life love, "Go Now," it resounds with deep personal emotion. The moment of a Snyder poem is the "Eternal Now" of mindfulness and awareness, a good place to be."—*Booklist*

"Snyder is an elder statesman of the natural world and the tribal unions of poetry. He has a body of work as original as predecessors William Carlos Williams and Wallace Stevens."—The Bloomsbury Review

"His greatest strength—a quiet and profound elegance, an ability to write a simple phrase that seems to have been echoing through human consciousness for three or four thousand years."—Lewis MacAdams, California Magazine

"This poet's great gift has always been perfect visual clarity . . . and, needless to say, derives from Snyder's vision in the larger sense."—Paul Berman, *Village Voice*

"What thoughtful beauty! How skillfully Gary Snyder interfuses the practical knowledge of an animal sense with story, language, and song. True teachers in America are now an endangered species. I learn so much from this good man's perception, humor, discipline, and love for this world."—James Hillman

About the Author

Gary Snyder was born in San Francisco on May 8, 1930. His first book, *Riprap*, published in 1959, has become a classic in American poetry, and he's gone on to publish more than a dozen collections of poetry and prose. *Practice of the Wild* is one of the most influential books about the environment of the last fifty years. His recently completed long poem, *Mountains and Rivers Without End*, is broadly recognized as one of the greatest long poems in American literature, and his last book of poems, *Danger on Peaks*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He was awarded the Bollingen Prize for poetry in 1997. He also has the distinction of being the first American to receive the Buddhism Transmission Award from the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai Foundation.

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I could never be a Muslim, or a Christian, or a Jew because the Ten Commandments fall short of moral vigor. The Bible's "Shalt not kill" leaves out other realms of life,

How could that be? What sort of world did they think this is?

With no account for all the wriggling feelers and little fins, the spines, the slimy
Necks -- eyes shiny in the night -- paw prints in the snow.

And that other thing, can't have "no other god before me" -- like,
profound anxiety of power and jealousy and envy, what sort of god is that?
Worrying all the time?
Plenty of little gods are waiting to begin their practice and learn just who
they are.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andrew Fox:

The experience that you get from This Present Moment: New Poems could be the more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but This Present Moment: New Poems giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this This Present Moment: New Poems instantly.

Leonard White:

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John Malcolm:

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Agnes Shivers:

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