

Icons Of Windsong by Dietmar Tauchner (2019, Cyberwit.net, Kalindipuram Allahabad India) 84 pages, 5 ½” by 8 ½” perfectbound. ISBN 978-93-89074-84-0 \$15 <http://www.cyberwit.net>

Reviewed by Michael Ketchek

The latest book by Dietmar Tauchner is a collection of short poems, most of which could be called haiku or senryu. The poems are presented in German, English and Hindi. The book is divided into five sections. In the first section, *Icons of Windsong*, all the poems have a seasonal reference, but with the human element always present such as in:

spring night
I offer my genes
to a stranger

In the second section, “A Molecule of the Milky Way,” there is a celestial reference. While most of the poems are three lines some have a more experimental form:

starry between me evo-
night & crickets lution

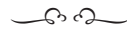
The third section, “The Creator’s Synapses,” contains poems about God and the mystery of the universe. The fourth section, “The City’s Illusions,” deals with city life and the life of the poet. One poem very successfully manages to mix the latest buzzword with deeply felt emotion:

fake news...
my father says
he is fine

The final section, “The Sea After,” has poems on a variety of subjects. One caught my attention because of the difference in length of the German word for mall, Einkaufszentrum.

autumn evening
amidst the shopping mall
a forgotten child's shoe

While I cannot vouch for the Hindi translations by Arvinder Kaur, (I suspect they are excellent) my German is sufficient for me to marvel at Tauchner's ability to have the English versions accurately reflect the German without losing any of the poetry. This is a book I very much enjoyed and I think all readers of haiku will too.



Rightsizing the Universe: Haiku Theory by Gary Hotham (2019, Yiqralo Press, Scaggsville Maryland) 36 Pages, 4 1/4" by 6 7/8" Perfectbound. Available for \$4 plus shipping at <https://www.lulu.com/shop> or for \$4 plus \$1.50 shipping from Gary Hotham, 10460 Stansfield Road, Scaggsville, Maryland 20723

Reviewed by Michael Ketchek

Another fine collection of haiku by poet Gary Hotham. The haiku in this book contain many memorable images that give rise to reflection as there are layers to these haiku.

The first haiku:

squeezing
into our universe
cherry blossoms

This haiku has a unique slant on the often used image of cherry blossoms with its evocative image that brings to mind all that "squeezes into our universe," from blossoms to babies to stars.

There is an abundance of thought provoking haiku in this collection. A few that especially struck me: