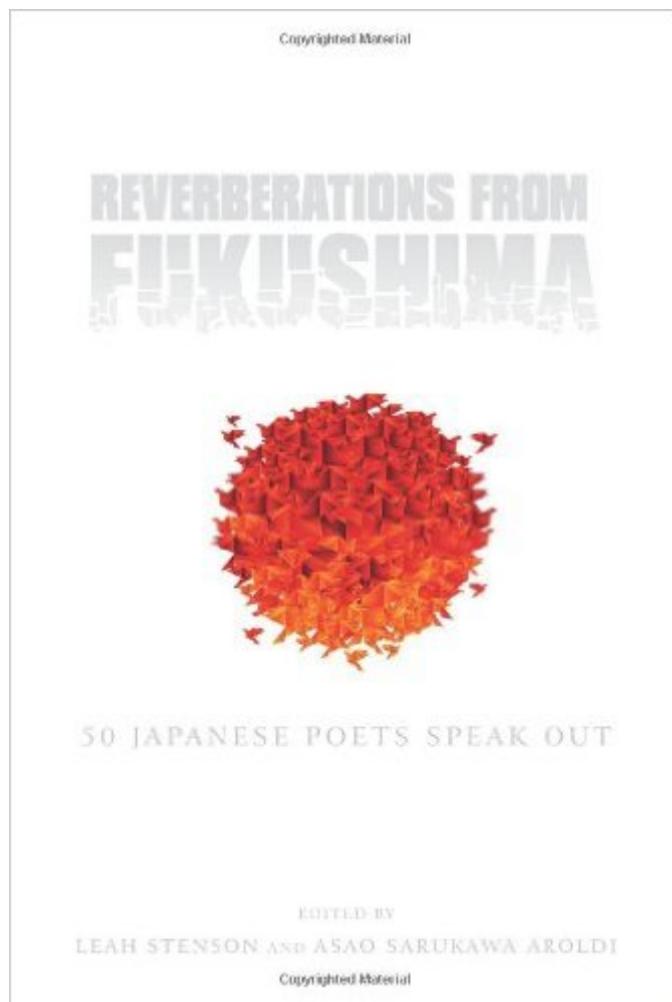


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Reverberations From Fukushima: 50 Japanese Poets Speak Out (bilingual Edition) (English And Japanese Edition)



Synopsis

Reverberations from Fukushima: 50 Japanese Poets Speak Out is a timely collection of poems, commentary, and essays about the first nuclear disaster of the 21st Century. These powerful poems by 50 Japanese poets address the accident that occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant on March 11, 2011. The poems plead for restoration of the balance between humans and the environment, provide eloquent testimony to the consequences of breaking with tradition and the cycle of life, present prophetic visions of a nuclear future that has sadly come to pass, lament the loss of home and livelihood, portray the exploited and the exploiters of human life bound together in a hellish cycle of destruction, unveil the lies fed to the Japanese public, and decry how the nation was "brainwashed" into accepting nuclear power. This anthology includes a preface by editor Leah Stenson and commentary by her co-editor, Asao Sarukawa Aroldi, as well as commentary by Hisao Suzuki and Jotaro Wakamatsu, both editors and contributors to the full-length work on which this abridged anthology is based-Farewell to Nuclear, Welcome to Renewable Energy: A Collection of Poems by 218 Poets (Tokyo: Coal Sack Publishing Company, 2012). Reverberations from Fukushima also features essays by David Krieger, poet and founder of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and by Francesca Giovannini, nuclear policy expert and affiliate to the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University, and to the Managing the Atom (MTA) project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University. This anthology will help readers gain a deeper understanding of the Fukushima nuclear disaster from a humanistic rather than technological or political perspective, while at the same time, enhancing their appreciation of contemporary Japanese poetry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This anthology collects the haunted voices of a culture mesmerized by the "myth of safety", then victimized by the harsh reality of dirty energy. The sadness, anger, and indignation expressed in these pages is equaled only by the wistfulness of those that will never get their lives back. I would like to personally thank the editors for bringing these powerful voices to America, especially now as our own dirty energy is being transported with impunity through our rural areas and waterways. This collection of poems warns us of a deadly future we can avoid, but only if we become informed and assert ourselves. As Kazuko Shimomura urges in the poem "Let's Listen To the Voiceless Voice", "There is no way except to be aware / and to listen to the voice of the earth."

This bilingual publication brings us the voices of those poets who foresaw the catastrophes inherent in nuclear power and those who saw the mistakes of history repeated when a major earthquake and tsunami hit Japan's east coast on March 11, 2011 unleashing the horror and ongoing tragedy of Fukushima. This publication is a warning to the American people of the dangers of nuclear power. This anthology is a record of the human spirit speaking out for what is good and what is being lost as a result of the vanity and deception of government and business leaders. The poets put a human face to the tragic and ongoing events of Fukushima, the displacement of nearly 150,000 people and the loss of homes, farms, families, and animals. Several of these poets are themselves contemporaries and/or survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II. Other poets, though younger in age, also foresaw the dangers inherent in nuclear power. Their poems, several of them published years prior to the March 2011 catastrophe, warn of escalating tragedy and sorrow and the implications of nuclear power for the future. In the post-modern age of technology, we have become accustomed to sound bites, acronyms, text-speak, and corporate government-speak, but the poets in this anthology restore meaning to language and to what is real in everyday life. They plea for a different vision of what a modern society should be: a world where everyone matters. They cry out for all of us to stop to think, to take heed and to protect Nature, thereby protecting Man. This book should be read by all who claim a spirit of humanity, those who want to see an end to nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

A haunting anthology of poetic art created after the Fukushima nuclear disaster. It truly make one think twice about the "safety" of nuclear energy. After reading this book, I am doubly determined that

we have have a nuclear-free world by 2030. "They eliminate the surface soil and wash the walls and roofs. That is the disguise called decontamination. Where can we flush away things...that will never become clean...in twenty thousand years?" (Hiroshi Suzuki, p. 75)

This is an important collection for anyone interested in (or teaching about) the nexus between poetry and activism, language and engagement with the world. It brings us into direct contact with the suffering and dread experienced by the people victimized first by the massive earthquake and tsunami, and then by the still-unfolding Fukushima nuclear disaster. Presenting the works of 50 poets, the language and styles are varied. Some write in an unadorned, straightforward style. Others skillfully deploy image and metaphor to convey an experience that eludes easy expression -- to find the land and air poisoned by radiation -- completely imperceptible to our normal senses -- to be driven from one's home with no idea when return might be possible... The reactions also vary. Some poets engaged in quiet processes of reflection and grief, some are boiling over with outrage and anger, some grab us by the shoulders and urge us to act. Written by people whose lives have been irrevocable changed, these poems push us to change ourselves and the world. A sample: Helen Keller, on a return trip to Japan in 1948, visited Hiroshima. She directly touched the A-bomb survivors' keloid scars and came to understand the horrors of the Atomic Bomb.... If Helen were to visit Fukushima now and touch the ground with her fingertips, what kind of scream would pierce her skin and shake her soul?...from "Helen Keller's Fingertips" by Masanori Shida translated by Naoshi Koriyama

So much was missed by the press during the Fukushima crisis. Now we in the U.S. are still not getting much news on the full scope of damage from the so-called civilian use of nuclear power and how an agricultural society in north central Japan was ruined. Poets who suffer through this disaster speak eloquently, with beautiful turns of phrase and use of detail, to evoke how those who survive experience the loss of their land, their cows, and so much of the agricultural ecosystem, as in, "Oh, How I Wish to Have a Full-blooming Cherry Tree" (Junko Kimura). As one of the editors, Leah Stenson, writes: "The question is whether we will learn from Fukushima--whether we will let the voices of these poets who speak the painful truth reverberate in our hearts and minds." This collection of translations and accompanying erudite essays would be an excellent resource for university or high school courses. It is accessible to readers who don't mind looking hard, who seek experience in facing realities.

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