



The Wilds of Poetry: Adventures in Mind and Landscape

David Hinton

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All the world's Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus—they're peas in a faith-based pod. But Buddhists don't belong in there. No, the Buddhist gig is more about waking up to what's real, realization of how the universe really works, our essential oneness with it all. No gods to worship, only the limitless potential of the self.

Whoa Nelly! Those are some wild ideas, said the Western, English-thinking mind back in the nineteenth century when the first Taoist and Zen texts started to cross the Pacific. And only the likes of poets extraordinaire Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman could go there in spirit, as Thoreau did on Mount Ktaadin when he experienced “a moment where all the explanations and assumptions fell away, and he was confronted with the wonderful, inexplicable thusness of things.”

Other poets picked up the thread—Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Gary Snyder, W. S. Merwin—and in *The Wilds of Poetry: Adventures in Mind and Landscape*, we can glimpse the expansive minds of these greats as they seek answers to some of the most profound questions possible about *who we are* and *where we are*. David Hinton, author of *Hunger Mountain, Existence: A Story*, and numerous translations of Chinese philosophy and poetry, is perhaps the only guide capable of leading this *rewilding* expedition to bridge modern American poetry with ancient China's Taoist and Zen traditions.

MATT SUTHERLAND (September/October 2017)

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