

# *Returning: Tanka Sequences*

By Michelle Hyatt & Jacob D. Salzer

*Returning* is a collaboration of tanka sequences by Michelle Hyatt and Jacob D. Salzer created in honor of Mother Earth and our ancestors. These tanka pairs are inspired by Indigenous peoples, animals, animal spirits, friendship, philosophical questions, spiritual connection, humor and our reverence for the Great Mystery and Mother Earth. The authors express the endless cycles of the seasons, returning to a spirit of compassion. This book includes 32 tanka (16 tanka pairs) per season, resulting in 128 tanka (64 tanka pairs).

“*Returning* is a powerful collection of Mother Nature tanka poems that perfectly intertwine throughout the seasons of our Earth. There is a deep spirituality within the pages that convey a reverence for all living things. A must-read for all tanka lovers.”

## **Pamela A. Babusci**

Editor of: *moonbathing: a journal of women's tanka*

“This book shows how closely working together brings an incredible fusion of two people and one beautifully enhancing work of art. I highly recommend this collection.”

## **Alan Summers**

Founder, *Call of the Page*

“...an evocative journey through the changing seasons of the northern hemisphere. Although drawing upon images from the natural world, tanka is a deeply personal poetry—yet when written in tandem, a synergy is created that expresses essential truths of our shared human experience. These paired tanka reflect and enhance our perception of the world.”

## **Julie Thorndyke**

Editor, *Eucalypt: a tanka journal*



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for \$13.50 US

# Samples from *Returning*

covered in cobwebs  
a foraging basket...  
between cracks in the earth  
the voices of my ancestors  
seep into cedars

(M)

waiting  
to see you  
after many days  
in the silence of my heart  
a garden in full bloom

(J)

hidden faces  
in a Makah totem pole  
drifting fog . . .  
in the palms of my hands  
the smell of salmon

(J)

a deep sleep...  
I awake to the sound  
of your voice  
an old lilac tree  
bursts into purple

(M)

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winter wind  
between passing clouds  
the warmth of stars  
I imagine  
you are still here

(J)

your smile  
through a dreamcatcher  
a gentle breeze . . .  
the way you lift your toes  
to hug me goodnight

(J)

draped around me  
cedar boughs  
heavy with snow...  
for just a fleeting moment  
your breath meets mine

(M)

after  
a warm embrace  
this summer night  
your sweet words soak  
into my dreams

(M)

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## *Returning: Tanka Sequences*

<https://jsalzer.wixsite.com/returning-tanka-book>

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