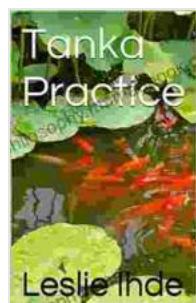


# Tanka Practice with Leslie Ihde: Embark on a Poetic Journey



In the realm of poetry, Tanka stands as a unique and evocative form, inviting readers and writers alike to delve into the depths of human experience. With its concise structure and profound themes, Tanka has captivated poets for centuries, particularly in the serene landscapes of Japan. Among the contemporary masters of this art form is Leslie Ihde, an accomplished poet and mentor who has dedicated her life to guiding aspiring Tanka writers.



## **Tanka Practice** by Leslie Ihde

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 607 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 98 pages

Lending : Enabled



## **The Essence of Tanka**

Tanka, a form of unrhymed Japanese poetry, consists of five unrhymed lines with a specific syllable count: 5-7-5-7-7. This rhythmic pattern, reminiscent of the heartbeat, creates a mesmerizing effect that draws readers into the poem's world. Blending observation, emotion, and reflection, Tanka poems often capture fleeting moments or evoke profound insights into the human condition.

Zen Buddhism has deeply influenced Tanka's aesthetics, emphasizing simplicity, brevity, and the interconnectedness of all things. The juxtaposition of images and the use of evocative language allow Tanka poets to explore the subtle nuances of experience and convey complex emotions with remarkable economy.

## **Leslie Ihde: A Guiding Light in Tanka Poetry**

Leslie Ihde, an award-winning poet and editor, has emerged as a leading figure in the Tanka community. Her passion for this art form shines through in her numerous publications, workshops, and online courses. Ihde's empathetic approach and keen eye for detail have nurtured countless aspiring Tanka writers, empowering them to discover their unique poetic voices.

Ihde's workshops provide a supportive and inspiring environment for poets of all levels. Through close readings, constructive critique, and insightful

discussions, she helps participants refine their Tanka skills, explore the depths of their creativity, and cultivate a deeper appreciation for the nuances of this ancient art form.

## **The Benefits of Tanka Practice**

Engaging in Tanka practice offers a myriad of benefits for aspiring writers and poetry enthusiasts alike. It fosters:

- **Enhanced Observational Skills:** Tanka's focus on capturing fleeting moments sharpens one's ability to observe and appreciate the world around them.
- **Conciseness and Clarity:** The strict syllable count of Tanka challenges poets to convey their thoughts and emotions with precision and brevity.
- **Emotional Depth:** Tanka's evocative language and Zen-inspired aesthetics allow poets to explore the full spectrum of human emotions, from joy and love to sorrow and loss.
- **Cultural Appreciation:** Tanka practice provides a gateway to understanding Japanese culture and its rich literary traditions.
- **Community and Connection:** Workshops and online communities offer opportunities for poets to connect with fellow Tanka enthusiasts, share their work, and receive feedback.

## **Tanka Practice with Leslie Ihde**

Whether you are a seasoned poet or just beginning your journey into Tanka, Leslie Ihde's workshops offer an invaluable opportunity to immerse yourself in this captivating art form. Her workshops are designed to cater to

a wide range of skill levels and backgrounds, providing personalized guidance and encouragement to each participant.

In her workshops, Ihde explores:

- The history and evolution of Tanka poetry
- The fundamentals of Tanka structure and rhythm
- Close readings of exemplary Tanka poems
- Techniques for generating Tanka ideas and overcoming writer's block
- Constructive critique and feedback on participants' Tanka

### **Examples of Leslie Ihde's Tanka Poetry**

To glimpse the artistry of Leslie Ihde's Tanka poems, consider these evocative examples:

Winter's icy breath whispers secrets through the pines  
Snow falls silent

Cherry blossoms dance  
Fluttering in gentle breeze  
Spring's arrival heralds

Autumn leaves ablaze  
Crimson, gold, and amber hues  
Nature's fiery dance

### **Exploring Leslie Ihde's Publications**

Leslie Ihde has authored numerous books and chapbooks that showcase her mastery of Tanka poetry. Her publications offer a rich resource for aspiring Tanka writers and poetry lovers alike.

Some of her notable works include:

- **The Stone Bench: A Tanka Cycle:** A collection of personal and reflective Tanka poems that explore themes of nature, memory, and the passage of time.
- **Dreaming the Light:** A collaborative collection of Tanka poems written with poet J. Patrick Lewis, which delves into the interplay of dreams, hope, and the human condition.
- **Bird Heart: Tanka from the Wild:** A celebration of the natural world through Tanka poems that capture the beauty, fragility, and resilience of birds.

## Online Tanka Resources

For those seeking further exploration of Tanka poetry, Leslie Ihde offers a wealth of resources online.

Visit her website at [www.leslieihde.com](http://www.leslieihde.com) to:

- Access her blog, where she shares insights into Tanka writing and the creative process.
- Explore her Tanka workshops and online courses.
- Read excerpts from her published works.
- Connect with other Tanka enthusiasts in the online Tanka community.

Tanka Practice with Leslie Ihde is an invitation to embark on a transformative poetic journey. Whether you are a seasoned writer or a newcomer to the world of Tanka, her workshops and publications provide

an invaluable opportunity to explore the depths of this ancient art form. Through her empathetic guidance, insightful critique, and infectious passion for Tanka poetry, Leslie Ihde empowers aspiring poets to refine their craft, deepen their emotional vocabulary, and share their unique perspectives with the world.

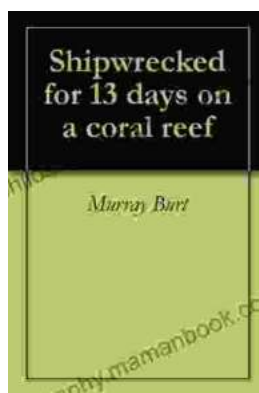
Embrace the beauty of brevity, the power of observation, and the Zen-inspired aesthetics of Tanka. Join Leslie Ihde on this poetic adventure and discover the transformative power of this captivating art form.



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