

a motley sangha



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Main Entry: **ˈmɒt·leɪ** 4)

Pronunciation: ˈmɒt-1ɪ

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Middle English, perhaps from *mot* mote, speck

1 : variegated in color <a *motley* coat>

2 : composed of diverse often incongruous elements <a *motley* crowd>

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a motley sangha

introduction by Stanford M. Forrester © 2005

and haiku © 2005

by Raffael de Gruttola, George G. Dorsty,
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vincent tripi, and karma tenzing wangchuk

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introduction

Come sit down and join our motley sangha. A sangha is a community that supports each other's practice. In this case our practice is haiku and, though each one of us has his own haiku path, we all value, respect, and celebrate each other's uniqueness. Perhaps it is this recipe that flavors the humble offering that we are happy to share with you right here.

You might be asking yourself: how and why did these particular seven poets come together to do this anthology? The answer is quite simple. We are all somewhat motley and I'm sure you know what motley means.

I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did working on it. Its pages are not only bound by thread, but by friendship. Thank you for joining us.

In mindfulness,



Stanford M. Forrester
January 7, 2005
Wethersfield, Connecticut



Revised 1st Edition

for everyone

Turning the earth
on its axis
changing everything

Raffael de Gruttola

turning the earth . . .
an inch worm
dangling overhead

electric power plant
the hum of yellow jackets
drowned out

a dried lemon
falls from the tree
the day lengthens

George Q. Dancy

Zapotec guide
each figure drawn in sand
disappears with the wind

wandering sound
of an out-of-tune trumpeter
Indio de Tehuacan

lights out!
talking moves to the corridor
without faces

George G. Dorsty

the mountain
behind the monastery . . .
just sitting

winter zendo –
a fly is first
to awaken

even uncared for
the rose puts forth
another bloom

morning sitting –
so many notes
in the cardinal's song

my eyebrows
grown longer –
winter night

bull thistle –
Yes,
I notice you

Stanford M. Forrester

moon viewing . . .
i share my haiku
with all the lunatics

Zen retreat –
i awaken
with a cup of coffee


morning light –
all the stone buddhas
robed in gold

temple ruins . . .
pieces of a buddha
still praying

Athens wind ~
the fish market
the incense vendor

forgotten temple –
a yellow flower
offers itself

Jerry Kilbride



monastery bell
the curled cat opens its eyes
closes them again

fog . . .
just the tree and I
at the bus stop

small box from japan
the smile of a clay buddha
through the packing straw

silent night
the singing hands
of the deaf child

nursing a friend with AIDS
I close the window
against rain

end of a long day
the old bartender's feet
take the floorboards home

Larry Kimmel

on my palm
this snowflake
swiftly becoming . . .

the restlessness of leaf shadows on a crimson couch

she's been here
and gone – the gift
of her perfume

midnight
say the prayer
take the pill

looking down
at the valley – I loaf and let
my mind billow

rolling a spruce needle
between thumb and finger
harvesting the scent

vincent tripi

Ah lightning
when you were a firefly
& i was a boy!

First snow . . .
first monk
in the snow

in
bed
with
Buddha
but
bunk
beds

"it's great to be alive!"
how to say this
to the scarecrow?

A gusty new year . . .
the chimes with more
chimes than there are

What can someone
mouth full of potatoes say
about the winter moon?

karma tenzing wangchuk

waiting for me
to give it life ~
my death poem

snail shell the way in the way out

jumping in
the frog deepens
the silence

Valentine's Day ~
a sparrow
is my sweetheart

winter sun ~
a fly warms itself
on the garage door

monastery cell ~
a blue window opens
to sea and sky

about the poets

Raffael de Gruttola has been a president and treasurer of the Haiku Society of America. He is president of the Boston Haiku Society, one of the oldest in the United States, which he helped organize in 1987. The group has been meeting since then on the third Saturday of every month at the Kaji Aso Studio in Boston. He also was the first Northeast regional coordinator of the Haiku Society of America, and the chairperson of the 2001 Haiku North America Conference in Boston. His haiku have been published in journals and magazines in the US, Canada, Japan, England, Romania, Croatia, and Italy.

George G. Dorsty is a lifelong resident of Long Island's North Shore. He has been widely published in various haiku journals; among his recent endeavors is *Making Way*, #2 in the Pinch Book Series edited by vincent tripi. His work has been recognized as well by inclusion in *New Resonance 3: Emerging Voices In English Language Haiku* (Red Moon Press). A practitioner of Soto Zen, Dorsty's love of nature and propensity for all things Buddhist were nurtured in his boyhood town of Greenlawn, Long Island and further developed in his present home town of Jamesport on the North Fork of Long Island's East End. An

English teacher for 30 years, he is now retired, but continues to teach at Suffolk County Community College when not otherwise being “dazzled and led to reflection” (to paraphrase poet Mary Oliver) during his long woodland walks.

Stanford M. Forrester is founder and editor of *bottle rockets: a collection of short verse*. He is also a past president of the Haiku Society of America. Most recently, some of his poems can be found in *Haiku* edited by Peter Washington and published by Knopf and *American Zen: A Gathering of Poets* published by Bottom Dog Press. In 2003 one of his haiku took first seat in the 57th Annual Basho Festival Anthology in Ueno, Japan and in 2001 one of his haiku received the Museum of Haiku Literature Award. He has been a judge for the Japan Society's (New York City) annual haiku contest for four years. Stanford is a practicing Buddhist in the Pure Land tradition. He lives in Wethersfield, Connecticut with his wife Mary and his two daughters, Abigail and Molly.

Jerry Kilbride began to write haiku while living in Hawaii in the late 1970s. After moving to San Francisco in 1979, he joined the Haiku Society of America and served as its vice-president in 1989. He is a co-founder of the Haiku Poets of Northern

California and of the American Haiku Archives in Sacramento; in addition, he is a charter member of the Central Valley Haiku Club. Jerry feels that among the great benefits of being a member of the haiku community are the friendships to be made, and feels honored to be numbered among the Motley Sangha. And he especially treasures his longstanding friendships with Elizabeth Searle Lamb and Hal Roth, both of whom have nourished and sustained him.

Larry Kimmel's haiku and tanka have been published in Canada, England, Romania, Russia, Japan, and the USA. His work has also been published in several anthologies, among them: *How to Haiku*, *The Tanka Anthology*, and the recent *Erotic Haiku Anthology* edited by Hiroaki Sato. He has three collections of haiku and tanka: *alone tonight*, *the necessary fly*, and *Cold Stars White Moon*. His most recent book is *a river years from here*. A freelance library consultant for many years, he now considers himself semi-retired forever. He lives in the hills of western Massachusetts with his wife.

vincent tripi is in his 20th year of haiku writing. A charter member of HPNC & co-founder of *wood-notes* magazine. Editor of numerous publications

& author of more than 14 books of haiku. He is presently at work on the 'pinch book series' from his own tribe press in Greenfield, Massachusetts as well as editing the Master's Series for Swamp Press in Northfield, Massachusetts. An adherent to the Buddhist traditions, he has resided in two spiritual communities.

karma tenzing wangchuk (dennis h. dutton) is the author of three books of poetry: *Clouds Gather and Part: Tanka* (Tel-Let; also online at www.advent.com/users/jmartone/karma_tenzing_wangchuk.htm); *90 frogs* (bottle rockets press); and *Zia: Four New Mexico Linked-Haiku Sequences, with Thomas Fitzsimmons* (Katydid Books). A Buddhist for 36 years, tenzing is scheduled to enter a traditional three-year meditation retreat October 24, 2005 (www.3yearretreat.org).



Main Entry: sangha
Part of Speech: *noun*
Definition: in Buddhism, a community of monks
and/or nuns, one of the "Three Jewels";
also, generally, all followers of the
Buddha; also written samgha
Etymology: Hindu 'community together'

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