



A Shawl of Mist: Tanka: Expressing the Modern Soul in an Ancient Poetic Style

Yukiko Inoue-Smith

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The concept of a universal human nature suggests that American scholars and American readers of Japanese literature may interpret the elements in Japanese *tanka* based on emotions — and on meanings attached to natural images — that are common to all of humanity. It is hoped that readers will experience this ancient style of Japanese poetry in such a way that they are inspired to write their own *tanka* poems. Such is one of the purposes of *A Shawl of Mist*. Another purpose of this book is to share essays written to accompany and complement the *tanka* poems. The short essays included here provide practical thoughts based on the author's long years of personal and professional experiences — studying, reading, teaching, thinking, and especially, cherishing each day of living — in Japan, the United States, and Guam.

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