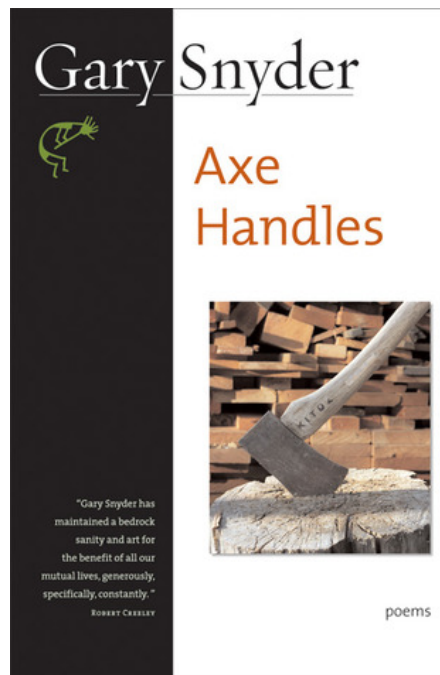




Axe Handles: Poems

Gary Snyder

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In *Axe Handles* Mr. Snyder reveals the roots of community in the family and explores the transmission of cultural values and knowledge.

"In making the handle of an axe by cutting wood with an axe the model is indeed near at hand." In exploring this axiom of Lu Ji's, Gary Snyder continues:

I am an axe
And my son a handle, soon
To be shaping again, model
And tool, craft of culture,
How we go on.

This is a collection of discovery, of insight, and of vision. These poems see the roots of community in the family, and the roots of culture and government in the community.

Formally, the 71 poems in *Axe Handles* range from lyrics to riddles to narratives. The collection is divided into three parts, called "Loops," "Little Songs for Gaia," and "Nets," each containing poems of disciplined clarity. Gary Snyder knows well the great power of silence in a poem, silence that allows the mind space enough to discover the magic of song.

Axe Handles: Poems Details

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Author : Gary Snyder

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From Reader Review Axe Handles: Poems for online ebook

graham says

I like Gary Snyder; I like his aesthetic and his simple imagery--it's something I'd like to learn to do better, more narrative-style writing. And while I really resonated with some of his poems, a lot of them just weren't my thing. Oh well.

Janet says

"When making an axe handle, the pattern is not far off." Fathers and sons, poets and other poets. I saw Gary Snyder yesterday at the Central Library in LA, speaking on the poet Lew Welch, who, with Phillip Whalen, had been his roommate at Reed College in 1951. Imagine that dorm room! He read some of his own poems and some of Welch's, whom I've not read, but now intend to. Snyder and Ferlinghetti are the last living beats--and Snyder is the one I've become most attached to in the last several years. Reread the Dharma Bums... he's the most admirable character, and in life too. He's 81 now, and still clear and sturdy and modest.. This is a beautiful book and the poem 'Axe Handles' I even have as a broadside, I love it so much. Now to try Welch!

Jason says

This is my kind of poetry, and one of the best Gary Snyder books I've read. It's low key and readable, but also deep. I especially liked the poem "Soy Sauce," a charming story about helping his friends do some work on their house, and discovering that the wood they're using came from an old soy sauce factory... the smell of the wood sparks a memory of one of Gary's trips to Japan in his youth.

Jim says

I pledge allegiance to the soil
of Turtle island,
one ecosystem
in diversity
under the sun
With joyful interpenetration for all.

Mark Valentine says

Snyder's poems have a sparse fragmentation that makes his images seem cerebral even though he describes scenes. This makes the reading difficult if continuity is important but impressive if impressionism is more important. Of all the poems, there were only two that I thought brilliant and to read the entire book to find them does not bother me at all.

