

## Q&A With Xueyan, Author of the Collection

### ***Time Peels All to Original White – Xueyan Poems***

What inspires you to write this collection *Time Peels All to Original White*?

***Xueyan:***

**The color of my mother's hair grows whiter and whiter as the years go on and on relentlessly.**

In a culture where matters of the spirit are not encouraged to be openly pursued, where in your own life or soul do your poems come from?

***Xueyan:***

***They just come to me. Like wind touching grass, and the grass just waves.***

As a self-described "free soul", how do you feel being a poet?

***Xueyan:***

**Being a poet gives me a sense of Soul Completion:  
I know who I am, what I am doing, where I am going**

Your poems' approach to spirituality blends aspects of western and eastern religions with your own very unconventional, individual perspective. What does this perspective stem from?

**Xueyan:**

***I want to create something completely different from anything — but any thing has a part in it.***

What does spirituality mean to you?

**Xueyan:**

***If I am an ocean, spirituality is the moonlight that shines eternally on me.***

***Spirituality is like air, I take it in every minute.***

Do you think your poems will challenge Western stereotypes of China?

**Xueyan:**

***I see what I see and write what I write. China is a nation of 1.4 billion people, I would not say I alone am enough to challenge the stereotypes. I only hope my poems can challenge stereotypes about me, only me. Anyways, I am an individual of a free spirit; I generally don't care about stereotypes. I see and write as I see fit.***

In a predominantly godless culture, where do you see God?

**Xueyan:**

***Seeing God is never about culture; it is about opening your heart to it.***

As a Chinese living in China, your poems also present Western religions from your own unique perspective. What do you hope the impact on readers will be?

**Xueyan:**

***I see and write as an individual of a free spirit which transcends the limits of border, culture, race, and belief. I hope you can read my poems as those of a free spirit individual and feel the power of transcendence.***

What are your favorite poems in the collection, and why?

**Xueyan:**

***Every one of my poems is unique and special and my love toward them is unique yet equal. But I would love to share two of them during this special time.***

***Recently, a reader wrote that she is touched by my poem "Joy" and she finds a place to keep it in her being. I am touched by her comment.***

***Joy***

***What dwells within a body?***

***A soul***

***What dwells within a soul?***

***A song***

***What dwells within a song?***

***Only sorrow***

***I dream of a land***

***where every heart when lonely dances***

***every petal when withers arrives at pearly gates***

***every tear becomes a star***

***Many people have been through moments of loss and grief, especially during this pandemic time; here's another poem in the collection.***

***Why Are Saints in This Sinful World***

***The night sky is dark***

***so the stars can shine***

***Maybe all life's sorrows and pains can make you cherish the happiness and laughs you share with those you care about; cherish each moment you spend with them,***

***especially after trauma, more than ever.***

***If a person you love is gone, your precious memory will support you and keep you going, even with a smile on your face.***

How does it feel to have your original ideas recognized in a world where individuality can get lost?

***Xueyan:***

***Every person is unique and special, individuality can never get lost, people just need to be told they have it and they are free to create. In addition, fulfillment to me is imagining the ideas and composing the poems. I'm not very concerned with recognition. If it happens, I do not know how I would feel.***

In what ways do you feel you see the world differently from people you know?

***Xueyan:***

***I believe every person is special and they all have their own unique ways of seeing things. I just want to show you how I see things through my poems. Poetry is my Way.***

Chinese is your native language. Why do you write in English?

***Xueyan:***

***To share my ideas with as many people as possible.***

How did you learn English?

**Xueyan:**

***I majored in English literature; I do a lot of reading on my own.***

What do you like to read, in terms of both poetry and prose?

**Xueyan:**

***Dante's Divine Comedy.  
Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales.***

Can readers expect more from you soon?

**Xueyan:**

I hope so.

**You are welcome to visit my website  
[www.xueyanpoetry.com](http://www.xueyanpoetry.com) and send me a message.**

**Your encouragement will be a sparkling star for my  
writing momentum.**