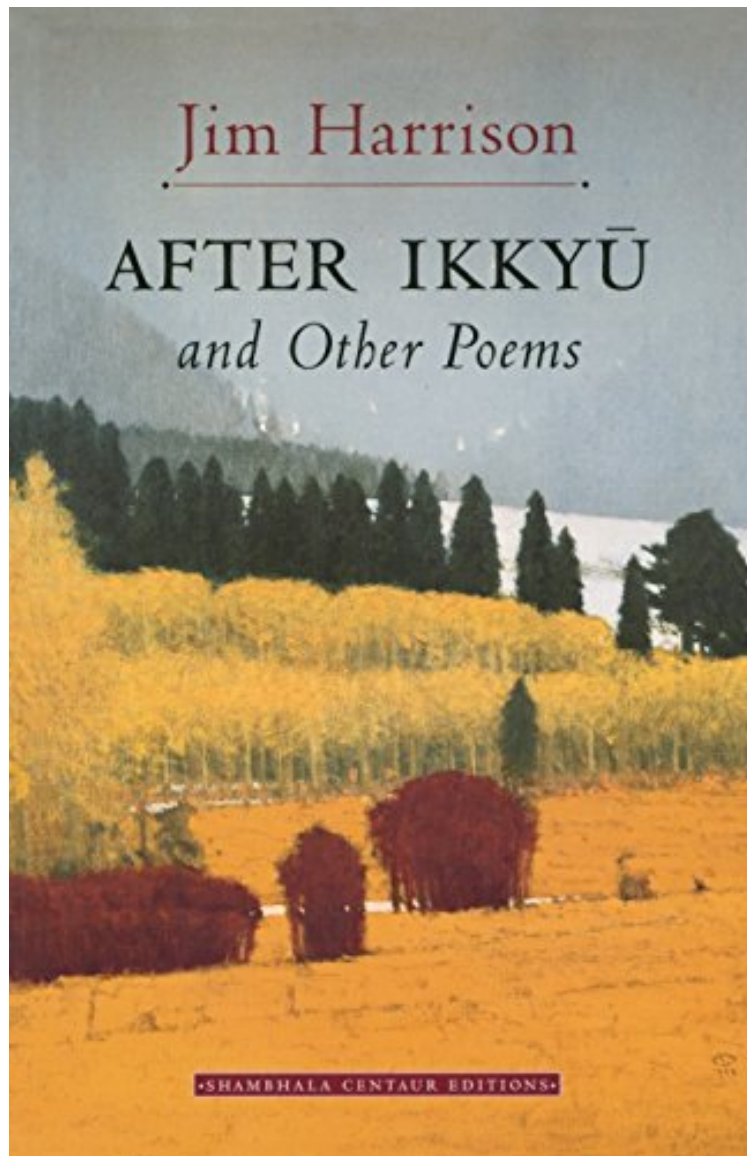


[Free] After Ikkyu and Other Poems

## After Ikkyu and Other Poems

*Jim Harrison*

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**Jim Harrison : After Ikkyu and Other Poems** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After Ikkyu and Other Poems:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Big Jim Harrison! By J.Stiles Jim Harrison is an American treasure. His novels, novellas, non-fiction, and poetry resonate with me in a way that I cherish. This book of poems haunts me. I find that I read it over and over. There is much to ponder here...moments of clarity and beauty, the poignancy of aging, a sharp awareness of the natural world. Mr. Harrison soars here. "After Ikkyu and Other Poems" is the work of an

unparalleled artist. I am grateful to have this book to enjoy. I recommend it highly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poems for life By Thomas B Hight The beauty in Harrison's work is his embracing of the imperfect nature of life and the world we live our lives in. 24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Best work since Harrison's early poems By A Customer This is a small book, physically - less than 100 pages, poems mostly less than 10 lines, the book printed in a small format, even the printing by Shambala Press was small for the hardbound edition - less than a thousand. But this is certainly some of Harrison's best poetry in years. A few years ago, Harrison gave a reading at Michigan State University (his alma mater, but he's not that fond of the place) and mentioned to an interviewer beforehand that he considers himself an "unreconstructed Buddhist." Perhaps something of the same could be said for Ikkyu, the 15th century Zen priest and poet, who was somewhat unconventional himself. That Harrison should identify with and base these poems on Ikkyu's unconventional style seems, to this reviewer, natural. These poems are small wonders, seemingly effortless in the way that they work on the reader--tho I imagine Harrison would not say that these were effortless to write. Life, death, the moon, the stripper in some bar out west, the friends (two and four-legged), riding a horse, watching the moon... Too many years gone, and not many left. That's a recurring theme. But also another: living means learning lessons, every day. Shut up and listen. An old Zen instruction, but it comes across here as fresh as Ikkyu's work must have been 4 centuries ago. In short - a pretty damn good collection of poems, from a writer whose poetry should be appreciated more.

Jim Harrison's popular novels represent only part of his literary output he has also been widely acclaimed for the "renegade genius" of his powerful, expressive verse, collected in several books such as *The Theory and Practice of Rivers and Other Poems* (Clark City Press, 1989). *After Ikkyu* is the first collection of Harrison's poems that are directly inspired by his many years of Zen practice.

"Behind the words one always feels the presence of a passionate, exuberant man who is at the same time possessed of a quick, subtle intelligence and a deeply questioning attitude toward life. He writes so winningly that one is simply content to be in the presence of a writer this vital, this large-spirited." *New York Times Book "After Ikkyu* typifies the attitude of making the best of an unpredictable and yearning universe, turning basic survival into koans that make the reader think and wonder about the world we live in. Harrison has the poet's gift of making the most everyday occurrences suddenly seem miraculous and fresh." *Kathleen Youmans, Small Press About the Author* Jim Harrison is the author of numerous novels, including *Legends of the Fall*, *Julip*, and *Wolf: A False Memoir*. His most recent previous book of poetry is *The Theory and Practice of Rivers*. From *AudioFile* Harrison provides his sharp-edged vision with this selection of readings and poems. Hearing the poet read his own work is the valuable part of this program. His idiosyncratic voice suits his work though some of his imagery longs for more mellifluous tones. R.F.W. (c) *AudioFile*, Portland, Maine