

# Poetry Anthologies for Spiritual Companions

Compiled by David Denny

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*Imagine a World: Poetry for Peacemakers*, compiled by Peggy Rosenthal. An excellent selection of poems especially for peace and justice advocates.

*Death's Door*, by Sandra Gilbert. More than an anthology, this is a large tome combining autobiography, cultural studies, and literary history by poet Sandra Gilbert, whose husband died suddenly in 1991.

*Risking Everything: 110 Poems of Love and Revelation*, edited by Roger Housden. A broad assortment of poems from around the world dealing with many forms of love, including nature, human, and divine love.

*How to Read a Poem and Fall in love with Poetry*, by Edward Hirsch. This is a great combo, an anthology with commentary. Hirsch walks us through poems, giving biographical and historical background, as well as accessible critical commentary.

*A Book of Luminous Things: An International Anthology of Poetry*, edited and with an introduction by Czeslaw Milosz. Another wondrous collection, with very brief paragraphs introducing the poems.

*Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World*, by Pádraig Ó Tuama. You may be familiar with "Poetry Unbound" as a podcast produced by Krista Tippett's On Being. The podcast is a wonderful exploration of the mysteries of poetry. Ó Tuama's Irish voice is mesmerizing. But if you prefer to see it all in print, this is the book for you. Poems are international and mostly contemporary.

*The Enlightened Heart: An Anthology of Sacred Poetry* edited by Stephen Mitchell. This could be especially helpful if you are looking for spiritual poetry from Asian traditions. While including western religious poets, Mitchell includes a generous number of Asian poets.

*Awakened Cosmos: The Mind of Classical Chinese Poetry*, by David Hinton. This can be a difficult book for someone, like me, who is steeped in western literature. But it is fascinating to explore how Chinese thought and language function in the context of Buddhist/Taoist meditation. Hinton includes a biographical sketch of T'ang Dynasty poet Tu Fu (712-770 CE) with commentary and beautiful translations.