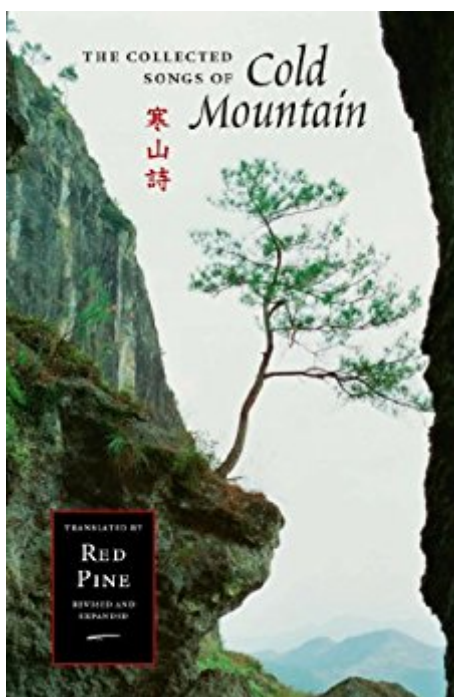


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The Collected Songs Of Cold Mountain



Synopsis

This authoritative, bilingual edition represents the first time the entirety of Cold Mountain's poetry has been translated into English. These translations were originally published by Copper Canyon Press nearly twenty years ago. Now, significantly revised and expanded, the collection also includes a new preface by the translator, Red Pine, whose accompanying notes are at once scholarly, accessible, and entertaining. Also included for the first time are poems by two of Cold Mountain's colleagues. Legendary for his clarity, directness, and lack of pretension, the eight-century hermit-poet Cold Mountain (Han Shan) is a major figure in the history of Chinese literature and has been a profound influence on writers and readers worldwide. Writers such as Charles Frazier and Gary Snyder studied his poetry, and Jack Kerouac's *Dharma Bums* is dedicated "to Han Shan."

1. B storied cliffs were the fortune I cast
bird trails beyond human tracks
what surrounds my yard
white clouds nesting dark rocks
I've lived here quite a few years
and always seen the spring-water
change
tell those people with tripods and bells
empty names are no damn good
71. someone sits in a mountain gorge
cloud robe sunset tassel
handful of fragrances he'd share
the road is long and hard
regretful and doubtful
old and unaccomplished
the crowd calls him crippled
he stands alone steadfast
205. my place is on Cold Mountain
perched on a cliff beyond the circuit of affliction
images leave no trace when they vanish
I roam the whole galaxy from here
lights and shadows flash across my mind
not one dharma comes before me
since I found the magic pearl
I can go anywhere everywhere
it's perfect Cold Mountain
A mountain man lives under thatch
before his gate carts and horses are rare
the forest is quiet but partial to birds
the streams are wide and home to fish
with his son he picks wild fruit
with his wife he hoes between rocks
what does he have at home
a shelf full of nothing but books

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Customer Reviews

Sometime in the 8th Century, Taoist/Buddhist poet Han Shan ("Cold Mountain") wrote his poems on rocks, trees, exterior walls, and other surfaces exposed to nature, and - incredible as it seems - you can read their simple, broad truths today. Plagues, politics, storms, wars, cultural revolutions, academic elitism, decay, erosion, and the Chinese language have all been defeated in their propensities to keep them from you. Red Pine (the pen-name Bill Porter uses for his translations) has joined with Copper Canyon Press to give you Cold Mountain's 307 known poems in clear, crisp English. What makes this edition so extraordinary is its careful layout. Each poem is presented with its original Chinese text, and Red Pine provides invaluable footnotes that give brief explanations of certain images and concepts found in the poems that might not be understood by many non-Taoist/Buddhist readers living in the 21st Century. Red Pine's "Translator's Preface" and the late China expert John Blofeld's "Introduction" are both superb, illuminating preparations for the enlightening poems to follow. Red Pine also includes 4 poems by Feng-kan ("Big Stick") and 49 poems by Shih-te ("Pickup"), two of Cold Mountain's compatriots. By the way, don't think these twelve-hundred-year-old poems haven't piquancy for us today. Human nature hasn't changed.

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