

Love, Death, Humanism

Practical Philosophy in Verse

Synopsis

Who does NOT seek love, or more abundant love — that glue that binds us to others, that makes us matter to each other, filling, albeit incompletely, the hole where loneliness otherwise abides?

Who does NOT accept, albeit with dread, the inescapable truth that they will die one day, that their trip will be over, that their personal horizon will be breached?

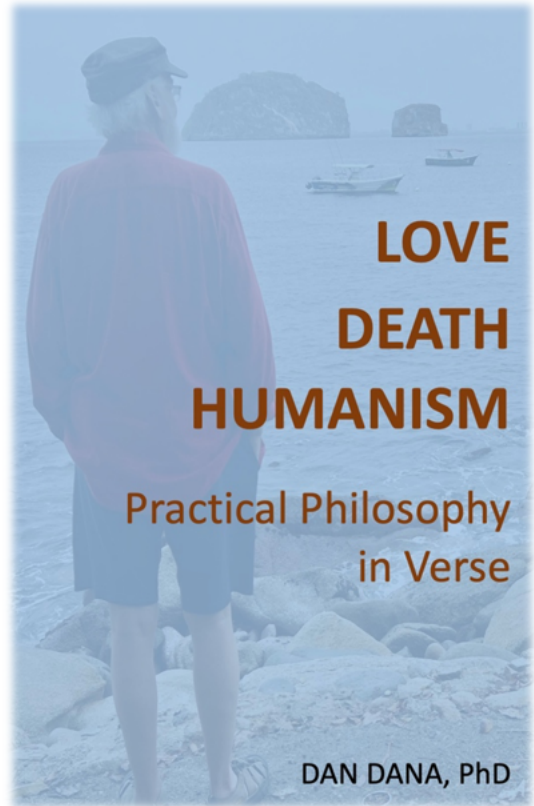
Who does NOT wonder, amid the hubbub of daily chores, what it all means, what is the big picture beyond local mundanity? Religion works for some. Others recognize the shortcomings of religious myths to explain the awesome reality of our miniscule moment within the unfathomably vast cosmos of infinite spacetime. What worldview best supplants the abandoned fairy tales of pre-science antiquity?

This curated collection of 103 haiku quintets contains evocative thought-snippets in each of these three regions of the mind.

The haiku quintet is an emergent poetic form, originated by the author and derived from the classical 17th Century Japanese style. In each, five 17-syllable haiku under an umbrella title comprise a topical theme. A photo or image illustrates and completes the finished piece, once described as "poetic impressionism by curious wordcraft."

Each of the three named sections—Love, Death, Humanism—contains pin-hole glimpses into these dimensions of human experience that curious minds have pondered for millennia. You are living a unique life, one that no one has lived before. It's now your turn. You're in charge. You love. You will die. What do you believe?

What about science? Several haiku contain reference to concepts in science, particularly cosmology, evolutionary biology, human paleontology, and psychology (the subject of my PhD and career). These mentions refer to settled, non-controversial findings or to prevailing professional theories in those disciplines. They are not science fiction nor popular



misconstructions of these fields. They represent objective reality as science has so far revealed it. I employ science here to substantiate the secular worldview that underlies my assertions of practical philosophy.

This book is not designed to be read front to back, although habit may impel you to do so. Your attention may be drawn more to one of its three headings than another. Within each, haiku are arranged in no strict order. Some verses may catch your interest, beckoning to be reread to dwell on its personal significance to you. Others you may find irrelevant to this moment in your life's journey.

Browse
Let your mind wander
Follow it there
Repeat

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