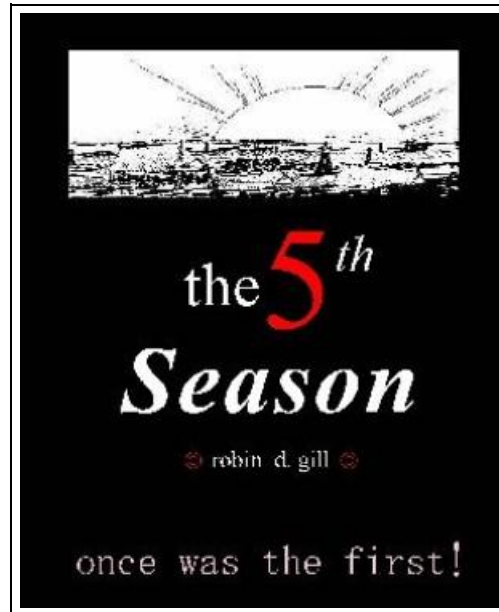


## The Fifth Season -- Poems to Re-create the World



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## THE FIFTH SEASON -- POEMS TO RE-CREATE THE WORLD



Paraverse Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 468 pages. Dimensions: 9.5in. x 7.3in. x 1.1in. In this book, the first of a series, Robin D. Gill, author of the highly acclaimed *Rise, Ye Sea Slugs!* and *Cherry Blossom Epiphany*, the largest single-theme anthologies of poetry ever published, explores the traditional Japanese New Year through 2,000 translated haiku (mostly 17-20c). The New Year, R. H. Blyth once wrote, is a season by itself. That was nowhere so plain as in the world of haiku, where *sajiki*, large collections called *ku* illustrating hundreds, if not thousands of briefly explained seasonal themes, generally comprised five volumes, one for each season. Yet, the great doyen of haiku gave this fifth season, considered the first season when it came at the head of the Spring rather than in mid-winter, only a tenth of the pages he gave to each of the other four seasons (20 vs. 200). Was Blyth, Zen enthusiast, not enamored with ritual? Or, was he loath to translate the New Year with its many cultural idiosyncrasies (most common to the Sinosphere but not to the West), because he did not want to have to explain the haiku? It is hard to say, but, with these poems for the re-creation of the world, Robin D. Gill, aka *keigu* (respect foolishness, or respect-fool), rushes in where even Blyth feared to tread to give this supernatural or cosmological season - one that combines aspects of the Solstice, Christmas, New Years, Easter, July 4th and the Once Upon a Time of Fairy Tales - the attention it deserves. With G. K. Chesterton's words, evoking the mind of the haiku poets of old, the author-publisher leaves further description of the content to his reader-reviewers. The man standing in his own kitchen-garden with the fairyland opening at the gate,...



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