

The Parliament of Poets
An Epic Poem
By Frederick Glaysher



**Gazing from the moon, we see one Earth,
without borders, Mother Earth,
her embrace encircling one people,
humankind.**

**“Like a story around a campfire.”
—The Audience**

**Reviving the Art of Epic Poetry
and the Rhapsode**

Synopsis

If the old exclusivisms evolved into the exclusivism of the Enlightenment, from the moon, together, we can see universality...



Thirty years in the making, *The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem* takes place partly on the moon, at the Apollo 11 landing site, the Sea of Tranquility, a Journey toward healing the psyche of the planet.

In a world of Quantum science, Apollo, the Greek god of poetry, calls all the poets of the nations, ancient and modern, East and West, to assemble on the moon to consult on the meaning of modernity. The Parliament of Poets sends the Persona, the Poet of the Moon, on a Journey to the seven continents to learn from all of the spiritual and wisdom traditions of humankind. On Earth and on the moon, the poets teach him a new global, universal vision of life.

One of the major themes is the power of women and the female spirit across cultures. Another is the nature of science and religion, including Quantum Physics, as well as the “two cultures,” science and the humanities.

All the great shades appear at the Apollo 11 landing site in the Sea of Tranquility: Homer and Virgil from the Greek and Roman civilizations; Dante, Spenser, and Milton hail from the Judeo-Christian West; Rumi, Attar, and Hafez step forward from Islam; Du Fu and Li Po, Basho and Zeami, step forth from China and Japan; the poets of the Bhagavad Gita and the Ramayana meet on that plain; griots from Africa; shamans from Indonesia and Australia; Murasaki Shikibu, Emily Dickinson, and Jane Austen, poets and seers of all Ages, bards, rhapsodes, troubadours, and minstrels, major and minor, hail across the halls of time and space.

That transcendent Rose symbol of our age, the Earth itself, viewed from the heavens, one world with no visible boundaries, metaphor of the oneness of the human race, reflects its blue-green light into the blackness of the starry universe.

In a fractured, divisive world, the poets of all the nations guide the way toward peace...



Frederick Glaysher, *reading from*

The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem

In medias res

Book I Poets East and West

In the mid part of the moon, I stood,
in the midst of the Sea of Tranquility,
looking around me from rim to curving rim...

Book II Black Elk and Chief Seattle

A great war cry went up, drums tom-tommed
a deep bass sound of tightly stretched hide,
chanting of many braves, pounding of hearts...

Book III The Flight to the Moon

While I was trying to absorb it all,
a figure emerged from far down the hill,
where I could see two trees close together...

**Approximately one hour. Please do not record the performance.
Feel free to take and share photos.**



Since publication in late 2012 more than twenty epic poetry readings, at the University of Michigan (Rackham Amphitheatre), Wayne State University, Saginaw Valley State University, the Detroit Public Library, Troy Public Library, Hannan Café, Austin International Poetry Festival, Albany Word Fest, Buffalo Small Press Book Fair, Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist, Birmingham Unitarian Church, Barnes & Noble, BookWoman, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, Espresso Royale, Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Himalayan (Berkeley, CA), Tuesdays at North Beach Branch Library (SF), Washington Square Park, Cafe International (SF), Florey's Books (Pacifica, CA), East Side Poetry Series, and elsewhere.

Search YouTube for “epic poetry reading”



Other Reviews

“Mr. Glaysher has written an epic poem of major importance that is guaranteed to bring joy and an overwhelming sense of beauty and understanding to readers who will travel the space ways with this exquisite poet. While the poem reads like the classic poetry of Milton, it has the contemporary edge of genius modernity. I am truly awed by this poet’s use of epic poetry that today’s readers will connect with, enjoy and savor every word, every line and every section. Frederick Glaysher is a master poet who knows his craft from the inside out, and this is truly a major accomplishment and contribution to American Letters. Once you enter, you will not stop until the end. A landmark achievement. Bravo!” —**ML Liebler, Poet, Department of English, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan**

“To put this in context, in my view the last complete and true epic poem in the English Language was *Paradise Lost* written by John Milton in the 17th century, and apart from that poem there are only two others: the anonymous *Beowulf* from old English, and the unfinished *Faerie Queen* by Edmund Spenser from the 16th century... Glaysher is really an epic poet and this is an epic poem! One can hardly congratulate him enough, then, on this achievement, since it has been so long awaited... One fabulous quality of this poem is its clarity and luminous quality. I love the fact that despite the wide ranging topographical and lexical references this poem is easy to understand and follow: it is a poet writing for people, not one trying to be clever, and not one concealing their lack of poetry in obfuscation. Glaysher has written a masterpiece...” —**The Society of Classical Poets**

“This great poem promises to be the defining epic of the age and will be certain to endure for many centuries. Frederick Glaysher uses his great poetic and literary skills in an artistic way that is unique for our era and the years to come. I strongly recommend this book to all those who enjoy the finest poetry. A profound spiritual message for humanity.” —**Alan Jacobs, Poet Author Writer, London, UK**

“Very intrigued by his background. I’m extremely impressed with the quality and depth of the writing. So well written. It’s almost like a stepping stone into all this world lit that people might otherwise never touch.” —**Kerrytown BookFest, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

“I am in awe of the brilliance of this book! Food for the soul, and answers to humanity’s most pressing problems, right where they belong, in the epic poetry of all the teachers, magicians, prophets, shamans, and poets of all time... Bravo, bravo, bravo. Everyone must read this book, especially if you enjoy literature, wisdom, and philosophy.” —**Anodea Judith, Author, Novato, California**

“This masterful work goes well beyond the norm for literature of any type. A thought-provoking look at humanity, choices and possibilities. Quite simply a masterpiece.” —**Marv Borgman, Prattville, Alabama**

“One of the most important books of our time. A new vision for humanity; one of Unity and Oneness of humankind, synthesizing and integrating the great thinkers of all time. ...a new vision and sense of responsibility towards our shared humanity. An impassioned plea on behalf of humanity that reaches down and grabs the human longing for the Awakened Heart.” —**Tina Benson, Transpersonal/Jungian Psychotherapist, Mill Valley, California**

“You know how on space probes they have these little goodie bags full of things. It is my feeling that they should include a copy of *The Parliament of Poets*, because you give this overview, this panorama of the best of human civilization, the voice of her poets, the voice of her dreamers and thinkers, and done it with great honor to each of them, and so I do want to commend your book to our listeners. Don’t be intimidated by an epic poem. It’s really coming back to that image of the storyteller sitting around the campfires of the world, dipping into and weaving the story of humanity, in the most beautiful, mellifluous language. So kudos to you, sir! Thirty years were not wasted. If anybody listening has contacts to NASA...” —**New Consciousness Review Radio, Portland, Oregon**

“In the classic epic poem, the hero suffers many challenges, meets many obstacles, and experiences what Joseph Campbell described as the Hero’s journey... A hero must meet obstacles, and in the case of the Persona, the obstacles are both internal and external—very Jungian is our hero. The quest for individuation or the coming together in wholeness, is evident as we, the readers/listeners follow the trials and travels of our hero. Beautiful book.” —**The Examiner, Portland, Oregon**

“The purpose of the spiritual journey of the Poet of the Moon is to seek deliverance of the modern human from the captivity of nothingness, nihilism and atheism, and from the resulting chaos and chasm of soul. The core meaning of all is that the Supreme Being as well as the earth is one, and so human beings are one nation irrespective of their clan, class, color, race, religion and gender. In this earth human beings are part of the Great Mystery’s creation and their duty is to keep the balance and harmony of the universe, to achieve union, to choose sacrifice, and to be self-controlled. Bravo to the Poet for this toilsome but brilliant endeavour.” —**Transnational Literature, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia**

“For this reader it was like being enfolded into a glorious, celestial, orchestral song in which every instrument is finely tuned, timed, and vital to the whole, with different melodies coming together as a single motion to do something none of them could do alone... *The Parliament of Poets* is a worthy literary masterpiece. Once read, you know your life was impoverished without it.” —**New Consciousness Review, Portland, Oregon**

“An attempt to merge the sciences and the humanities to reach a greater understanding of the human condition. ...the poetry and language is rather beautiful. Glaysher has grasped epic poetry’s rhythms and cadences, favouring an iambic meter to create a pleasant, rolling pace to the piece. It’s really very readable.” —**Savage, London, UK**

“It only takes the first few paragraphs of this modern epic poem to feel the mental gush of ideas, fascinating juxtapositionings, and unique symbolism for our time.” —**The Jewish Post and News of Winnipeg, Canada**



“A poet now whose work and dedication to a demanding and difficult art I admire; a man who has the gift of inner grace.”

—Robert Hayden



FREDERICK GLAYSHER is an epic poet, rhapsode, poet-critic, and the author or editor of ten books. He studied writing under a private tutorial, at the University of Michigan, with the poet Robert Hayden and edited both Hayden’s *Collected Prose* (University of Michigan Press) and his *Collected Poems* (Liveright). He holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan, the latter in English.

He lived for more than fifteen years outside Michigan—in Japan, where he taught at Gunma University in Maebashi; in Arizona, on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, site of one of the largest internment camps for Japanese-Americans during WWII; in Illinois, on the central farmlands and on the Mississippi; ultimately returning to his suburban hometown of Rochester, Michigan.

Glaysher was a Fulbright-Hays scholar to China in 1994, and a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar on India in 1995. He has been an outspoken advocate of the United Nations, an accredited participant at the UN Millennium Forum (2000), and attended the UNA Members Day 2012 on the Millennium Development Goals, held in the General Assembly Hall.

In 1977 Glaysher took a theatre course in the Interpretative Reading of Poetry, learning that the Greek rhapsodes would travel throughout ancient Greece reciting Homer. Before long the idea of writing an epic poem became compelling and the dream that one day he might also revive the art of the rhapsode.

Mr. Glaysher is seeking invitations to read, by arrangement, from *The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem*, and can also hold epic poetry workshops. To request copies of this brochure or schedule an epic poetry reading, email the author at fglaysher@gmail.com

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**“A great epic poem of startling originality and universal significance, in every way partaking of the nature of world literature.” —Hans Ruprecht,
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada**

**“A remarkable poem by a uniquely inspired poet, taking us out of time into a new and unspoken consciousness...” —Kevin McGrath, Lowell House,
South Asian Studies, Harvard University**

**“And a fine major work it is.” —Arthur McMaster,
Department of English, Converse College,
in *Poets' Quarterly***

**“Very readable and intriguingly enjoyable. Frederick Glaysher's hours of dedication have produced a masterpiece that will stand the test of time.”
—*Poetry Cornwall*, No. 36, England**

**“Certainly wowed the crowd at the library with the performance and the words themselves.”
—*Albany Poets News*, New York**



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