

Secrets to the Universe
Volume 1



Wit

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BY

Wit

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PREFACE

Haiku [hI-koo] is a traditional Japanese verse form of seventeen syllables, divided into units of five, seven, five syllables. The inspiration is drawn from careful observation of nature at a given moment.

Traditionally, Haiku presents a pair of contrasting images working together to invoke a mood or emotion allowing the reader to discover a powerful element of truth.

A Senryu [sen-rE-oo] is a verse form that also follows the same five, seven, five syllables, but instead of nature, it addresses the human condition.

The Haiku and Senryu poems in this book are not translations or imitations of Japanese Haiku. They are snapshots of my Universe at that infinite moment in time. I follow the syllable requirements, but in some of my Haiku, I do not follow the rule that the observer should not appear in the Haiku. In doing so, I acknowledge the fact that I am a part of the Universe I am observing. I have found that many of my readers can identify with this style. I believe this has led to the popularity my Haiku over the years.

The last chapter in this book titled, “ And the Wind Whispers”, contains observations I have made throughout my life. Although, not as poetic as the Haiku or Senryu they still offer a thought-provoking snapshot of my Universe.

Enjoy!

Have a Great Day,
Wit

PREFACE

To read more of Wit's Secrets to the Universe online, go to

http://www.iwit.biz/Wits_Art/Secrets_to_the_Universe_List.html

For Teachers see Wit's Haiku In School Project.

Bringing The Benefits Of Haiku To Students at

http://www.iwit.biz/Wits_Art/Wit's_Haiku_in_School_Project.html

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my wife, Brenda, thank you for sharing life with me.

To my mother, Lotte, thank you for believing in me.

To my son, Robert, go for it. I believe in you.

To my mother-in-law, Martha, thank you for showing me compassion and infinite patience.

To my nephew, Aaron, thank you for the help and support.

To my friends, thank you for the conversations and infinite support.

To my readers, thank you for encouraging me to write.

To my enemies', thank you for showing me my strengths and what not to become.

INTRODUCTION

Observing the Observer

Hello Reader,

It is 8am Wednesday morning. A mug of coffee is warming my hands. I see the steam rising from the hot drink to play in the newly harvested sunlight. I am standing on my front porch as the church bells begin to chime, hearing around them the birds singing, and I can smell the sweet scent of morning. I pause just long enough to soak the experience in, feeling from my allotment of senses every ounce of the moment at hand.

It is from here, from my “Wit Moment”, that I wish to begin.

It is moments like these that I am most reminded of my good friend, Wit, a patient and attentive man, whose years as my friend have been the most creative I have ever experienced. I say this briefly to introduce you to the guide whose book you hold now in your hands.

Reader, this is Wit.
Wit, this is your Reader.

Introductions aside, I should tell you some things about this man that may help you to understand the direction he is coming from and the journey that awaits you.

Wit was just another cog in “the machine” when I met him. There was nothing flashy or exceptional about our meeting, but as the weeks unfolded Wit proved to be an extraordinary observer. He was filled with a questioning and challenging nature that encouraged me to look directly at the world as it lay in front of me, to see

INTRODUCTION

beyond *the life* and experience the reality of living, through what would become the cleverly coined, “Wit Moment”.

Wit, like so many people you may know, felt bogged down by the simple ritual of existing. While sitting in a board meeting, surrounded by the stern faces of “Power Figures”, Wit alone wore a smile. He sat with a pencil in hand and scribbled his first of many Haiku poems on the stationery before him. It was in this moment that Wit’s spirit broke free.

And so began Wit’s journey.

It wouldn’t be long before he began to share the wonders that he had found. Loosely following the Haiku and Senryu styles of poetry, Wit crafted a new art form, a melding of these two classic forms into a shape without structure. This proved to many that Wit would no longer be held within the lines of conformity. His *raison de etre* became that of “epiphany”, and Wit would blaze a new trail for those curious enough to follow.

I have spent the last eight years observing this Observer. I am truly one of his greatest champions. I do not say that to promote myself, rather I say it to promote you, dear Reader, into following his footsteps.

Wit’s writings have produced a unique vision of life’s surroundings. As you read, you will notice that Wit’s ability to alter his expressions is seemingly limitless. As you follow his evolution across the emotional spectrum, you will feel a tangible authenticity and power in the moments he is trying to share.

INTRODUCTION

“Secrets to the Universe” is not a modern psychological “Self-Help” guide, nor is it a “User’s Manual”. By definition, “Secrets to the Universe” is an expression of Wit’s separation from the mindless day-to-day existence we all experience to the exploration of the quiet, concentrated moments that give life its truest meaning.

That is pretty heavy stuff when you first look at it, but I assure you, dear Reader, it is as light as a feather and more comforting than making love in front of a warm fire on a cold winter night.

Look at me, telling you that this book has something to live up to; however, I am confident in its ability to give as well as its power to teach. “Secrets to the Universe” is the light by which you will see the path.

I could carry on with allusions and allegories about journeys and contemplation, about boundaries and evolution, or about progress and thresholds. I am not going to do that. All of those moments must be found and experienced by you, noted, marked, and used as signposts during your own travels. Understanding.... well, that comes when the time is right for you, dear Reader.

Your expression is the key by which all doors are unlocked.

“Secrets to the Universe” is a journey through Wit’s unlocked door, one that will help open the preciousness of your own surroundings and give you an understanding that there is more to life in a single moment of expression than there is in a lifetime of existence.

INTRODUCTION

It is my wish that by this book's end you find yourself a hopeful explorer that you move beyond being just "Reader" and become a "traveler without form". Take a pencil and find the light within you to chase the shadows away, for in their place the Secrets to the Universe are revealed.

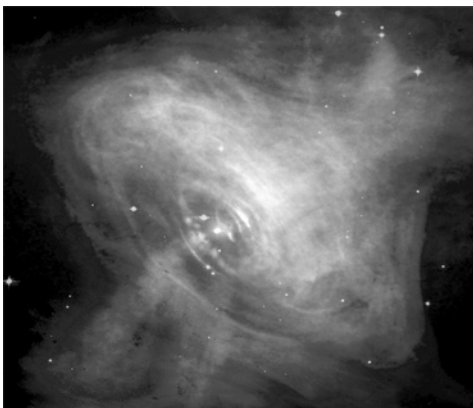
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Editors note: Matthew Gilbert is known for "Reviews By Matthew" a multi-topical review column he began in 1997

One can read his refreshing reviews at ReviewsByMatthew.com

INTRODUCTION

1



A UNIVERSE UNFOLDS

*Birds chatter and dance
Synchronizing their movements
With each changing gust.*

*How does one slow time?
Listen to every second....
For infinity.*

*The trunk, limbs, branches
An invisible partner
Trees dance with the wind.*

*Leaf darts in the wind
The cat ducks, ready to pounce
Is that a bird?.....NO!*

Outside the storm hits

Trees sway, leaves dart, tumble, fly

Inside, warm music.

Stormy day reminds

We are only the tenants

And not the landlords

The song of a bird

Drowned out by cars, mowers, kids

Spring in the suburbs.

Playful cat grabs toy

Falls off the couch with a look.....

I meant to do that.

*Yawn, head butt, and stare
The cat's silent question of...
Any food for me?*

*A purr, rub, and bow
The cat hints at my warm lap
"It's time to sleep now"*

*The cat cleans, pauses
Staring at my unused hand...
"Going to pet me"?*

*Half purr, half meow
The cat darts into the room
"Look at me".....Runs out!*

If I was a worm

Would I know my importance?

Would I even care?

How to stay youthful

See the true world, as it is

Wonder as a child.

To understand joy

One must accept the truth that...

Greed causes sorrow.

When one contemplates

All aspects of nothingness

Then nothing exists.

*A tree filled with red
Swaying in the gentle breeze
House finches resting.*

*Outside, birds chatter
Flutter, jump and feast on seeds
Inside, the cat stares.*

*Startled by the cat
The praying mantis stands tall
Readies for battle.*

*On the road lies trash
Put there by someone care-less
The one question...Why?*

Happiness and joy

Wonders, play, discovery

When I was a child.

Hard rain pounds the roof

For an infinite moment

A sip of hot tea.

Everlasting fruit

Melon, lemon, then butter

A fine Chardonnay.

The hypnotic rain

A startling pop and hiss

Jealous fire speaks.

*A whistling wind
Our land's ancestors speaking
What are they saying?*

*Angry bee scares some
An angry swarm frightens all
Strength in unity.*

*All singing at once
Sparrows, blackbirds, and cowbirds
A feast for my ears.*

*The visiting birds
Tell me of their adventures
In a high pitched song.*

*Dog comes to tattle
On the mischievous cat who-
Is stealing his treats.*

*The sleeping dog wags
His tail with every mention
Of his name. Nitro.*

*With a panting smile
Nitro leaning on my side
We're buddies for life.*

*I anticipate
To look at the world anew
With every poem.*

*With ears back, eyes fixed
Two cats assert dominance
Over each other.*

*With each step I walk
With every thought I create
Existence awes me.*

*With a retched stench
The tomcat claims our front door
His territory.*

*Birds fill the backyard
And begin my weekend with
A morning chorus.*

Scrutinize all things written and all things said.

Be wary of anyone who tells you otherwise.

There are many experts, but no masters.

When one keeps anger, it holds one to that time. One will carry it around like an anchor.

Do not ask or wish for what you are not willing to give.

*A clear mind is ready for the
opportunities that present themselves.*

*The great equalizer.
The higher one soars, the harder others
try to pull one down.*

*If one breath were all I had left, where
would I take it?
Where would you?*

*The answer is there.
No, it is not there.
It was there all along.*

There is no absolute good or absolute bad. Remember, something had to die for you to fill your belly.

There is no absolute right. There are positives and negatives in every decision. Know all of these and be wise.

The Universe, Nature, God, creates sounds and gives them to all. Humans take these sounds to create music and gives it back to the Universe, Nature, God, becoming one with the Creator, one with creation.

Being religious is different from being spiritual. Being religious is as if one looks at a picture of the Grand Canyon from time to time. Being spiritual is going there.

*The one that listens shows his wisdom.
The one that speaks exposes his ignorance.*

Wisdom is the correct use or non-use of knowledge.

The louder I shout, the more you will believe.

*There is no detente when it comes to
fighting cancer.
Either you defeat it, or it will defeat you.*

*Are we spending our days so diligently
trying to avoid death that we forget to
live?*

*In all beginnings, there is an end.
In all ends, there is a beginning.
An Alpha and Omega.*

*Careful, if you deny your disease of it's
existence. It may deny you of yours.*

Some people feel proud of their power they have when they make things suffer.

How does one control a society?

Eliminate what they need, then make them pay to replenish its replacement.

If they are really foolish they will help in the elimination of it.

Hatred's only function is to destroy.

Hatred destroys morality.

There is no truth in belief.

There is no belief in truth.

War is evil.

It always has been and always will be.

*There is no such thing as a, "Just War",
"Righteous War", "Holy War".*

*War turns ALL who participate,
proliferate, and tolerate it, into devils.*

None is immune.

None is forgiven.

*We are punished by what we don't know
or understand.*

*When one does what one enjoys, there is
no such thing as a long day.*

Just a good night sleep.

The Universe is the way it is.

*It does not care that you think it
should be any different.*

*For some it is easier to just believe than to
search for the truth.*

*With every action or inaction you make a
contract with your destiny.*

Read the fine print.

*I am a Native American.
I was born to this land.
It is my mother.
No one can change this.
No one can take this away.
I will defend her from all who would
harm her.*

*A leader that judges every movement
as a success or failure cripples his/her
team into inaction.*

*One is not guaranteed the next breath
One can be scared of this fact or
enjoy it each breath.*

Choosing to be ignorant is no excuse for not being responsible for the damage, you cause.

Be wary when the hatred for our enemies is more powerful than the love of our children.

Rituals and ceremony remind us to take an active part in life.

When you follow your purpose you are perfect.

Everyday life is a dance.

*Superstitions are a ridiculous excuse for
ones failures.*

*If this were the last day of the world,
would you still wage war?*

*Even those who rape the Earth owe their
prosperity to her.*

Morning Ritual

Say to the one in the mirror.

Do Something Great Today!

If we are the dominant species on this planet, then is it not our responsibility to take care of it.

Understand it as if it were our child.

Not act as if it was some beast of burden that can be disposed of when we are through.

Every moment has 1000 choices.

Every choice has 1000 destinies.

Every destiny is a life.

There are 10,000 life times in 10 moments.

*With-in one heartbeat, I can:
Help or hurt
Let live or kill
Fantasize or live this moment
Laugh or cry
Move or be still
Speak out or be silent
Comprehend or be confused
Care or not care
Accept or discriminate
Desire or abstain
Think or be thoughtless
Believe or not
Be wise or foolish
Speak the truth or lie
Create or destroy
Explain or condescend
Forgive, regret, forget, or sear*

Wish or do

Congratulate or envy

Love, like, hate or be indifferent

Be angry, resentful, or fearful

Give or take

Be proactive, reactive or inactive

Overcome or be overcome

Be assertive, aggressive, or cower

Be conceited or be humble

Be right, wrong or both

Be impartial or be righteous

Be kind or cruel

Lead, coerce, threaten, or manipulate

Admit or deny

Allow or control

Follow my path or deviate from it

*With-in my lifetime, there will be many
heartbeats.*

How to Haiku

1. Write in three lines a verse form of seventeen syllables.
2. Divide the three lines into units of five, seven, five syllables.
3. Traditionally, a Haiku has a season word.
4. Observe the potential of each moment. Capturing the special essence of it.
5. Experience each moment through your five senses as if it were the first time ever.
6. Savor each moment as if it were your last.
7. Find the sublime.
8. For added dimension use juxtaposition
9. Notice the inherent of humor in nature.
10. A Senryu is a verse form that also follows the same form of five, seven, five syllables, but instead of nature, it addresses the human condition.
11. Carry a notebook or tape recorder and record your observations.
12. Enjoy the moment.

Enjoy every moment,
Have a great life,

Wit

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wit



Wit is a composer, singer, actor, as well as a popular poet. His thought-provoking (sometimes controversial) observations of the Universe, which he transfers into poetry, inspirational thought, and lyrics, inspire his readers and listeners to a newfound enjoyment for life as well as discovery.

Wit was born in Santa Cruz, California where he studied Electronics and Music. Working in the electronic industry for over a decade, Wit found solace from the high paced and stressful industry with the observation and writing of nature and the human condition.

Wit now resides with his wife, five cats, and a dove, in Northern California, where he performs, acts, writes, and composes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Order Form

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What is the meaning of life?

To answer to that is easy. Look it up in the dictionary and you will know. What is the reason for your life? Now that's a question to ponder. Why do you live? Is it just to exist, waiting for the handful of milestones such as your 16th, 18th, 21st, 30th birthdays, retirement, and then death? Are you going to work on Mondays chanting the mantra, "I can't wait until Friday"? If this is true, consider this, you only have 52 Fridays a year that you can look forward to. Is that all there is to life? If you imagine you life as a book, could you say you are reading every word, or are you skimming though it, having to go back at times saying to yourself, "what did I just miss"? So why Haiku poetry? In reading and writing Haiku poetry one must stop and look at the infinite of each moment. By doing so, you can savor each moment and when you savor each moment, there is more to life then just Fridays.

"Written by a man who stands like a Viking, Speaks with the heart of a knight and views the world with the eyes of a Samurai. Secrets to the Universe is an amazing collection of moments expressed in the tradition of those warrior poets who again stand among us in the renaissance. That man is Wit."

Turn the page to find

A universe unfolding

and know the beauty within.

-George "Walks In Power" Cassell

"A delight to read. Wit's collection of haiku poetry is always touching and causes one to take a moment and think. I enjoy sharing the feelings they bring with friends".

-Carlos Reyes

"Wit makes one realize your own past, present and future experiences. It causes the rebirth of these experiences long forgotten or those to come. I will read it over and over".

- Stephen J. Lynch, D.C.

"Wits Secrets to the Universe is a compendium of meditations, a manual for those of us who seek to look past what our world shows us, and who look inside to not so much to see what we are, but what we can attain. A must read for all."

- S.M. Pelland

"Wit's insight and intellect has led him on an incredible journey of curiosity, introspection and exploration. The incredible universe has always intrigued him.

This book is a culmination to date of Wit's ongoing journey"

- Jon Anderson

In this book you will discover:

A rich and fascinating new Universe that has been in front of you all along.

The value of the smallest speck of time.

The importance of your five senses.

This manual of life has shown thousands a glimpse of what is out there.

What are you waiting for?

Join Wit as he entices us all to open our eyes and ears to the "here an now"
with remarkable insight from the Universe we have before us.

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