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Everything Yearned for: Manhae's Poems of Love and Longing (Hardback)

By Francisca Cho

Wisdom Publications, U.S., United States, 2005. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 193 x 168 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Manhae (1879-1944), or Han Yongun, was a Korean Buddhist (Son) monk during the era of Japanese colonial occupation (1910-1945). Manhae is a political and cultural hero in Korea, and his works are studied by college students and school children alike. Everything Yearned For is a collection of 88 love poems, evocative of the mystical love poetry of Rumi, and even reminiscent of the work of Pablo Neruda. Though Manhae's poetry can be read allegorically on many levels - political and religious - it is completely unlike any other poetry in Buddhist or secular realm. The first poem, My Lover's Silence, narrates the lover's departure and establishes the enduring themes of the work: the happiness of meeting, the sadness of separation, the agony of longing and waiting, and, most of all, the perfection of love in absence that demands the cost of one's ongoing life, as opposed to the relief of death. The Korean word translated in these poems as love and lover is *nim*, though *nim* has many and broad interpretations. Understandably, the identity of Manhae's lover,...



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