

The Parliament of Poets



Celebrating Our Common Humanity

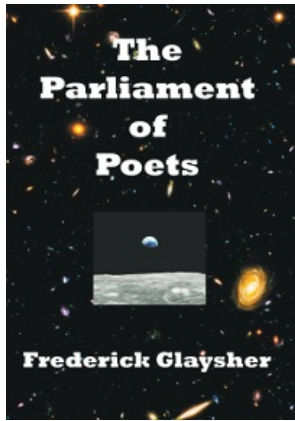
**Apollo calls all the poets,
East and West, to the moon,
to debate the meaning of
modern life**

**Reviving the storytelling role
of the ancient Greek rhapsode**

FREDERICK GLAYSHER blends the storytelling role of the ancient Greek rhapsode's performance of Homer with the modern style of reading by Charles Dickens and Edgar Allan Poe into a new experimental epic form of theatre for a contemporary audience. Glaysher will perform and read a 1,200 line selection from the 9,150 lines of his epic poem (294 pages). Approximately one hour and a half.

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* (ISBN: 9780982677889. 294 pages), by Frederick Glaysher, takes place partly on the moon, at the Apollo 11 landing site, the Sea of Tranquility, celebrating our common humanity uniting us all.

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 modern life. The Parliament of Poets sends the Persona, the main character, 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 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.

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

“A great epic poem of startling originality and universal significance, in every way partaking of the nature of world literature. Glaysher is in a creative dialog with the greatest epic poets of all time. He is bringing together in beautiful verse form diverse visions of humanity from all over the world, frequently casting them in the form of spatial and cosmic imagery. A pure joy. A literary work of fine verbal art, it is contemporary ‘world literature’ at its best.”
—Hans Ruprecht, Carleton University, Canada, author on Goethe, Borges



FREDERICK GLAYSHER is an epic poet, rhapsode, poet-critic, and the author or editor of ten books, including *The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem*.

Glaysher studied at the University of Michigan with the American poet Robert Hayden and edited his collected prose and poetry. He holds two degrees from the University of Michigan, including a Master's 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.

A Fulbright-Hays scholar to China in 1994, he studied at Beijing University, the Buddhist Mogao Caves on the old Silk Road, and elsewhere in China, including Hong Kong and the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. While a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar in 1995 on India, he further explored the conflicts between the traditional regional civilizations of Islamic and Hindu cultures and modernity.

Mr. Glaysher spoke on Robert Hayden at the centennial celebrations held for him at the University of Michigan in 2013, Wayne State University in 2014, and read at each event from the canto of his epic poem in which Hayden is a character. Both Hayden centennial essays are included in *The Myth of the Enlightenment: Essays*, much of which was written concurrently with his epic. He also spoke on Hayden for Poetry Month, 2017, at the Detroit Public Library. In 2017, Glaysher lectured on “The Poetry of Robert Hayden” at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Another essay on Hayden is in *The Grove of the Eumenides: Essays on Literature, Criticism, and Culture*.

Purchase *The Parliament of Poets* at the performance.

Bookstores: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, Wright Museum of African-American History, Source Booksellers, Book Beat, Mayflower Bookshop.

Online: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, EarthrisePress.Net, global affiliates.

Other books: *The Bower of Nil: A Narrative Poem*; *Into the Ruins: Poems*.

FGlaysher.com
EarthrisePress.Net

“A spectacular book. A unique and moving experience.”
—**Jeff Thomakos, Michigan Michael Chekhov Studio**

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

“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.” —**ML Liebler, Department of English, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan**

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

“Glaysher is really an epic poet and this is an epic poem! Glaysher has written a masterpiece.” —***The Society of Classical Poets***

“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**

“Bravo to the Poet for this toilsome but brilliant endeavour.” —***Transnational Literature, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia***

“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.” —***Savage, London, UK***

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

Short author talkback after the performance.

The Parliament of Poets, read & performed by the epic poet, rhapsode, Frederick Glaysher

Book I Poets East and West, on the moon

In the mid part of the moon, I stood...

Book II Black Elk, Chief Seattle, on the moon

A great war cry went up, drums tom-tommed...

Book III Robert Hayden

I’ll have you recall...

Book VI Mogao Cave, on the Silk Road, China

With the sun, we entered the cave, Tang Dynasty...

Book VI Du Fu, in the capital of the Tang Dynasty

So you are the traveler from the moon...

Book VIII Tolstoy, Yasnaya Polyana

Sit. We’ll talk...

Book X Borges, on the pampas north of Buenos Aires

So the epic poet tells a tale...

Book XII The Poet of the moon

Back on the moon for the fourth time...



**Approximately one hour and a half.
Recording the performance not permitted.
No photos during performance.
Please turn OFF all digital devices.**

More than forty epic poetry readings and performances at Theatre NOVA (Ann Arbor), Hathaway’s Hideaway (Ann Arbor), Underground at Hilberry Theatre (WSU), Shelton Theater (SF), University of Michigan’s Rackham Amphitheatre, Wayne State University, Saginaw Valley State University, Detroit Public Library, Troy Public Library, Hannan Café, Austin International Poetry Festival, Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist, Birmingham Unitarian, Grosse Pointe Unitarian, Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, Troy Interfaith, Theosophical Society of Detroit, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, East Side Reading Series, MUSINGS, Barnes & Noble, BookWoman, Espresso Royale, Sweetwaters, Himalayan (Berkeley, CA), Café International (SF), Sacred Grounds Café (SF), Tuesdays at North Beach Branch Library (SF), Florey’s Books (Pacific, CA), The Farmhouse, etc.

More Reviews

“What Joseph Campbell described as the Hero’s journey. 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

“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. Everyone must read this book, especially if you enjoy literature, wisdom, and philosophy.”
—**Anodea Judith, Author, Novato, California**

“A profound spiritual message for humanity.” —**Alan Jacobs, Author, President Ramana Maharshi Foundation, London, UK**

“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. Thirty years were not wasted. If anybody listening has contacts to NASA...” —*New Consciousness Review Radio*, Portland, Oregon

“Brilliant! Rarely now do I read a book in three days. This one I did. My mind and heart were fed. I sent copies to friends. This poem is an anodyne in the era of Trump.” —**Joseph C. Jacobson**

“A song of unity, an audacious declaration that unity does not mean conformity, it means being in harmony.” —**Ratul Pal, Rajshahi, Bangladesh**

“A uniquely powerful work.” —*Spirituality Today*, 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.”
—**Dave Gordon, The Jewish Post and News of Winnipeg, Canada**

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

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.

In Plato’s *Ion*, the rhapsode, Ion, has just arrived in Athens; he has been performing in Epidaurus at the festival of Asclepius, and preparing to perform at the festival of the Panathenaia, the major seven day festival dedicated to Athena, patron goddess of Athens. Ancient documents attest that the rhapsodes performed Homer for more than 900 years, from at least about 600 B.C. or earlier to AD 300.

SOCRATES: Well, Ion, and what are we to say of a man who at a sacrifice or festival, when he is dressed in holiday attire, adorned with golden chaplets... appears weeping or panic-stricken in the presence of more than twenty thousand friendly people, when there is no one despoiling or wronging him. Shall we say that the man is in his right mind or is he not?

ION: No indeed, Socrates, I must say that, strictly speaking, he is not in his right mind.

SOCRATES: And are you aware that you produce similar effects on most of the spectators?

ION: Only too well; for I look down upon them from the *bema* (platform), and behold the various emotions of pity, wonder, sternness, stamped upon their countenances when I am speaking: and I am obliged to give my very best attention to them...



SOCRATES: And as I have selected from the Iliad and Odyssey for you passages... do you, who know Homer so much better than I do, Ion, select for me passages which relate to the rhapsode and the rhapsode’s art, and which the rhapsode ought to examine and judge of better than other men...

ION: There is a great difference, Socrates, between the two alternatives; and inspiration is by far the nobler.

SOCRATES: Then, Ion, I shall assume the nobler alternative; and attribute to you in your praises of Homer inspiration, and not art.

Performing Black Elk. **Youtube**, 2 minutes: youtu.be/sK8EMYiFRSQ

“Certainly wowed the crowd with the performance and the words themselves.”

—*Albany Poets News*, New York

“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

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