

Book Review: Haiku poems about legumes

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Charm-woven stamen carpet, wrapping the Earth in its arms



Haiku poems about legumes by Aleksandar Mikić

This book is a collection of 72 haiku poems, each dedicated to one species of the legume family, which comprises over 18,000 species of climbers, herbs, shrubs and trees. The book is written and adorned with fine calligraphic illustrations by Dr. Aleksandar Mikić, plant breeder, linguist, poet, but above all legume lover. Aleksandar Mikić uses the most prominent legume species as focal images of his poems, showing his deep love and knowledge of both legumes and English language. Marrying Western metaphor with Japanese haiku, the author creates verbal calligraphic illustrations of fantastic world of 'pink balls of honey', 'forest of thorns' and pods murmuring lullabies, from A to W, from 'Gul-i abrisham' to 'A Möbius loop'. He brings to us:

Lady of the heights

Memories of the aeons gone

World saved by beauty

One does not have to be a legume lover or expert to appreciate these poems - a sentiment I found myself repeatedly expressing while reading the book. The author has done a good job combining exotic and sometimes enigmatic poems with short personal comments and explanations below each of them. There are also 72 calligraphic illustrations, complimenting each of the poems, that are a nice understated addition to the poems and help to resolve the puzzles and allegories from the verses above them. At the end of the book the author provides Index of taxonomic synonyms and English common names that again, introduces reader to:

Last age cooked food

Chopping hunger with its axe

Alvaiázere

And once you enter the magic realm of 'Queen of the bumblebee queens', like 'Alice through the looking-lens', you will want to remain there.

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Cite this article:
Miladinović D. 2019). Book Review: Haiku poems about legumes. *Ratar. Povrt.*, 56 (3), 103

About the book: Publisher: International Legume Society; Date: May 2019; Reference: 84 pp; ISBN: 978-83-66185-12-8; Editorial contact: Professor Kevin McPhee (kevin.mcphee@montana.edu)