

## Preface

This is an attempt to capture the body of thought called “Western philosophy” with an Eastern net—Zen as embodied in haiku. It offers profiles of Western philosophers by using a three-line format of 5-7-5 syllables to capture each philosopher’s ideas in a manner that is concise and playful. It is an exercise by someone schooled in Western philosophy to see things from a different perspective. The book’s purpose, design, and structure is

**A parallax view  
of Western philosophy  
through an Eastern lens.**

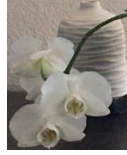
# Thales

**All things are water.  
Natural explanation;  
no need for old gods.**



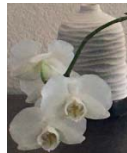
# Pythagoras

**Stardust, sea urchins,  
every cell inside your brain;  
their base is number.**



# **Heraclitus**

**A hungry fish jumps.  
It splashes back into a  
different river.**



## **Zeno of Elea**

**Achilles gets near**

**but cannot pass the tortoise.**

**Motion illusion.**



# Socrates

**The reflecting pond  
waits silently while the man  
examines his life.**

