

Book Review: Ring the Sycamore Sky by John Swain

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(<https://theneglectedratio.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/51exa0gzmc1.jpg>).

A debut poetry collection written by John Swain, *Ring the Sycamore Sky* transports the reader into a lush, primitively embalmed atmosphere of human and natural instincts. Agape at the grotesque monstrosity of love and the complex fragility of human emotions, Swain expertly weaves a rich tapestry of unusual poetic flair combined with myriad emotional and nature related intersecting symbolic patterns of implied sublimity. Swain is a gifted poet possessed with a sensual and lyrical storytelling capacity that imbibes ageless wisdom, deep undercurrents of romantic discourse, all the while enthralling the reader with the nuances of a rich lingual feast. Examples of his writing are shared in the excerpts below, his work is available on Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/Ring-Sycamore-Sky-John-Swain/dp/0991553845>). He resides in Louisville, Kentucky and *Ring the Sycamore Sky* is his first book length publication.

*I say joy to you,
receive a wreath of hands
and featherbells
for the days
we live without love.
And of this bed of embers
I will not lie in grief
for all the glowing world
within breathes
rain and sleep.*

(from *Wreath, Ring the Sycamore Sky*)

*The monastery lake
empties itself to the sky
like a nourishing birth
allows the blue changeling
to find its hiding shape.
I removed my shoes
and touched moss on rocks
in the summer forest
where the creek begins.
Farther down the meander
a wood thrush led me
softly past the hermitage,
I would not disturb him,
I will find my own quiet
beneath a sky of sun
as water touches water.*

(from *Hermitage, Ring the Sycamore Sky*)

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