



## Selected Poems

*Robert Bringhurst*

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"Robert Bringhurst may well be the poet we have all been waiting for, one who can reclaim for poetry the dignity, wit, brilliance, and wisdom it has recently appeared to have mislaid. He is without doubt a major poet, not only in the context of Canadian letters, but in that of all writing of our time."—*Poetry*

Inspired by Eastern, pre-Socratic, and Native American art and ideas, Robert Bringhurst's *Selected Poems* gathers work from fifteen volumes and embodies music, ecology, mythology, and philosophy. As he writes, "When you think intensely and beautifully, something happens." Bringhurst's passion for books and words extends to the design and typography of this gorgeous volume.

### "Essay on Adam"

*There are five possibilities. One: Adam fell.  
Two: he was pushed. Three: he jumped. Four:  
he only looked over the edge, and one look silenced him.  
Five: nothing worth mentioning happened to Adam.*

*The first, that he fell, is too simple. The fourth,  
fear, we have tried. It is useless. The fifth,  
nothing happened, is dull. The choices are these:  
he jumped or was pushed. And the difference between them*

*is only an issue of whether the demons  
work from the inside out or from the outside  
in: the one  
theological question.*

**Robert Bringhurst** is a poet, typographer, and linguist, well known for his award-winning translations of Haida storytellers. His manual *The Elements of Typographic Style* is one of the world's most influential texts on typographic design. He lives on Quadra Island, British Columbia.

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