

THE GEOPOET.
ADVENTURES IN THE LANDS OF PERCEPTION

Daide Sapienza

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The Geopoet. Adventures In The Lands Of Perception is Davide Sapienza's first new long form book since 2014's *Camminando (Walking)* with only two long stories, or novellas, in between: *La vera storia di Gottardo Archi* and *L'Uomo del Moschel*. Two literary outputs that represented the fictional "preview" of *The Geopoet*, his definitive statement on all the facets of his "poetry of geography". To the author, this book represents a mission accomplished after thirty five years spent "on the fields" – inner and outer – travelling, walking, taking notes, exploring, living the life of some Arctic expeditions during off season times and of course, writing books and hundreds of major magazines and newspapers reportages (including a few USA publications). A real life study of the relationship between human spirit and the land(scape). The buoys - the turning points of his non fictional narrative are defined by all these years and his life centered in a small mountain village located in the Central Alps since 1990 where he moved at 27 years old after growing up in the Milano area. He also created, 15 years ago, also created a new form of expression for his books, to walk out of the bookstores: the literary walks that in innovating the approach of the Author also helped define his poetics. This approach is the morthelode, the secret place where this peculiar storyteller inaugurated a new type of literary approach in Italy with the seminal and influential *I Diari di Rubha Hunish (The Rubha Hunish Journals, 2004, BaldiniCastoldiEdizioni)*, that also helped him create a new approach to travel writing for magazines. Since then he created more experimental narratives, including the *Scrivere La Natura (Writing Nature, Zanichelli 2012)*, *La Strada Era L'Acqua (The Road Was The Water)* and *La Musica Della Neve (The Music Of Snow)* and a few (geo)poetry publications. This is "the long walk home" to Mother Earth and our relationship with Her. This is both a human and a literary journey that includes his work as the "Italian voice" as his maestro Barry Lopez said, but also highlighted in the many Jack London classics he translated and edited for major publishers and who gained him even more recognition.

The Geopoet digs in the deepest of depths the idea of a poetic of geography, first defined as such by Kenneth White in the late twentieth century. Sapienza has taken a different route, in connection to the Zen idea of "practice", where the goal is the act of living daily this relationship, a never ending conversation that defines the "manifesto" ("Geography Is Poetic") of this book. These unconventional

angles he has incessantly explored since the inception of his "wholeness" vision is the never ending route of the "walking Author", known as such by his many readers and followers.

Il Geopoeta, has a very defined spiritual fabric intertwined with the narrative. Either we reconnect to the Earth community - as part of it and not unruly masters – or the planet will just go on and we will suffer the consequences. It is the berthing after the long voyage: his last log before getting into "perception" mode to leave the shore again for uncharted waters. The four long years of writing, the precious editorial work of colleague Elena Maffioletti, the trust of Bolis Edizioni all this has imposed choices that sometimes were also hard to make (seven chapters did not make it on the final output). But as every real life journeys, we need to travel light and examples such as the work he is doing in Norways' Nordland, in the Arctic area of the Nordland Nasjonalparksenter for a great geopoetic project since 2016, sum up well a vision and also its practice. Then we have his on field "studies" of the geopoetic relationship with art, illustrated by those chapters "using" great artists such as Francois Truffaut, Giovanni Segantini, Jack London and Neil Young. And then we have those "places" that are metamorphosed into stories, such as the final chapter, the "interstellar" relationship with the Cosmo.

The Geopoet is the challenge that Davide Sapienza is putting forth since his literary debut in 2004: the challenge to rethink the relationship with our emotional universe, perceptions that metamorphose into thoughts and thoughts that become acts; a healthy relationship with our psyche and its timing, its way of registering "information" from all these "scapes". So that all this can be a propellor for new "adventures in the lands of perception" while looking for our own truest individual identity as part of the greater community of Earth: the way to the premises for a healthy behaviour in this community as seers and peacekeepers. Where our perception is celebrated as the reins keeper of our lives, beyond the horizons of the physical geography where all this becomes the place to nurture our imagination.

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