

# Sam Hamill

## Quotes

*War, Writing, World, Thinking, Political, Reading, Struggle, Country, People,  
Done, Chinese, Men, Running, Humanity, Jobs, Years, Doe, Nice, Self,  
Government*

The only thing we all agree on, virtually every poet in this country, is that this Administration is really frightening, and we want something done about it.

~Sam Hamill

If only we could touch the things of this world at their center, if we could only hear tiny leaves of birch struggling toward April, then we would know.

~Sam Hamill

Nothing will change until we demolish the "we-they" mentality. We are human, and therefore all human concerns are ours. And those concerns are personal.

~Sam Hamill

It would be nice if all the Republicans could put poetry in a little box and put the box under the bed and sit on it, but they can't.

~Sam Hamill

I'm basically a poetry scholar, and I'm happier here in my studio with my row of Chinese dictionaries than I am, frankly, at Lincoln Center.

~Sam Hamill

George W. Bush is using language that's a mirror image of the language of Osama bin Laden when he says, "We have God on our side. This is the struggle of good against evil."

~Sam Hamill

Sometimes people come up and they get infatuated with some little brief imagistic poem or something, and they say, "Oh, I really like your Zen poems." And I say, "Which ones are not Zen poems?"

~Sam Hamill

Of course, there are some people who behave rudely. Allen Ginsberg

used to like to get up in public and take his clothes off. I don't do that, but I liked Allen Ginsberg. He was a nice guy.

~Sam Hamill

I think a lot of American poets are swimming-pool Soviets. A lot of them have taken the comfortable, self-protective route too often. I know that I certainly have. That's easy to do.

~Sam Hamill

Each of us as poets, as decent suffering human beings, has to find a way to run our lives that is compassionate toward one another and toward our environment.

~Sam Hamill

I'm a poet who practices Zen. And it's not, I'm somebody who practices Zen who writes poetry. There's no separation for me.

~Sam Hamill

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