**TANKA VS. HAIKU**

By Jane Reichhold <http://www.ahapoetry.com/TANKA.HTM#vs>

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|  | **Tanka** | **Haiku** |
| **Similarities** | SimplicitySuccinctReflects natureTraditionally no violence or war images |
| **History** | 13 centuries | 3 centuries |
| **Aim** | Beauty | Is-ness |
| **Length** | 31 onji / syllables5,7,5,7,7 | 17 onji/syllables5,7,5 |
| **Traits** | feminine lyrical | masculine fragmented |
| **Social Background** | courtly literary | merchants and lower classpart of a game |
| **Techniques** | to savor beauty contemplationemotional uses imaginationwritten to assigned themesfive parts/five imagesexclusion of the uglywritten to be a chanted song | to open the heart quick and directaim to have no emotionsenses with concrete imagesbased on an experiencethree images - max.write beautifully of the commonspoken crisply |
| **Zen** | use of symbolic images | use of Zen subjects |
| **Language** | traditional uses a limited accepted vocabulary of images that are agreed to be elegant | speaks of common things with common language to reveal uncommon ideas |