



FRANCESCO BENOZZO

BOOK ENDORSEMENTS

The Ridge and the Song. Sailing the Archipelago of Poetry is a dense and intensely poetic critical text, which, at a graceful, powerful and rhythmical pace, guides us into the mysteries of poetic creation, charting for us the very origins of Life itself, which coincides with the birth of Poetry. For «poetry is the anarchy of the clamour of the stars», and the Poet has to «sing his songs» and «climb the ridges».

Antonella Riem (Australia Medal) University of Udine.

With his nostalgia for origins, Benozzo tells another story about the genesis of poetry, «related and then lost in that estuary of dynamic matter» (p. 29) out of which life was created. Perhaps the art of poetry is, as he suggests, «nothing but the memory of other reigns» (p. 31), an appeal to unconscious memories deeply embedded in the human psyche. The book ends in the present with the figure of the poet, a lone singer striding high on the mountain ridges, which becomes a metaphor («Poetic language is vitally metaphorical» said Shelley) for the territory of poetry, that archipelago with its scattered islands thrown up from the deep substrate of prehistory. This richly challenging text is a modern version of the poet-shaman's journey.

Coral Ann Howells, Professor Emerita at the University of Reading, and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.



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All in all, *The Ridge and the Song* challenges many of our assumption on what poetic creation really is, and on the value of art as an unending dialogue with nature that it is necessary to rediscover in its purest form. Existence is therefore to be intended as a backward travel that brings us forward and, at the same time, beyond ourselves; as Carlos Castaneda wrote, «you have everything needed for the extravagant journey that is your life».

Saverio Tomaiuolo, University of Cassino.

«*Homo Poeta* preceded *Homo Loquens*. We were poets before being able to speak.» In his short book *The Ridge and the Song*, Francesco Benozzo delves into the origins of poetry, into the «sacred rainbow of primeval songs sung for millions of years.» In other words, he reaches back towards its pre-linguistic origins that «worked below the level of the preconscious mind», activating neurotransmitters whereby the self was encouraged to connect with the other.

Pietro Deandrea, University of Turin.