**TANKA VS. HAIKU**

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

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|  | **Tanka** | **Haiku** |
| **Similarities** | Simplicity  Succinct  Reflects nature  Traditionally no violence or war images | |
| **History** | 13 centuries | 3 centuries |
| **Aim** | Beauty | Is-ness |
| **Length** | 31 onji / syllables  5,7,5,7,7 | 17 onji/syllables  5,7,5 |
| **Traits** | feminine  lyrical | masculine  fragmented |
| **Social Background** | courtly  literary | merchants and lower class  part of a game |
| **Techniques** | to savor beauty  contemplation  emotional  uses imagination  written to assigned themes  five parts/five images  exclusion of the ugly  written to be a chanted song | to open the heart  quick and direct  aim to have no emotion  senses with concrete images  based on an experience  three images - max.  write beautifully of the common  spoken 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 |