

# THOMAS HITOSHI PRUIKSMA

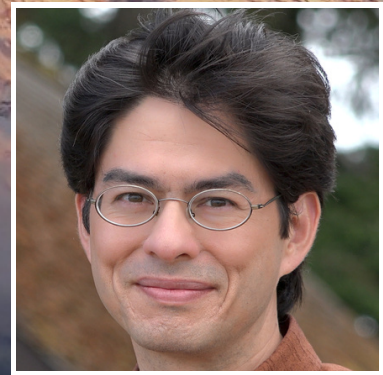
*Author, Poet, Teacher, Performer*

## Why Write In a Time of Turmoil?

It's easy to say what I do. I write poetry and prose, translate from Tamil and Spanish, perform original work, and teach for Cozy Grammar.

But it's harder to say why I do it, especially when the times are so tumultuous.

If you pressed me, though, I would stop for a moment and then say what I felt was true.



It might come out something like this:

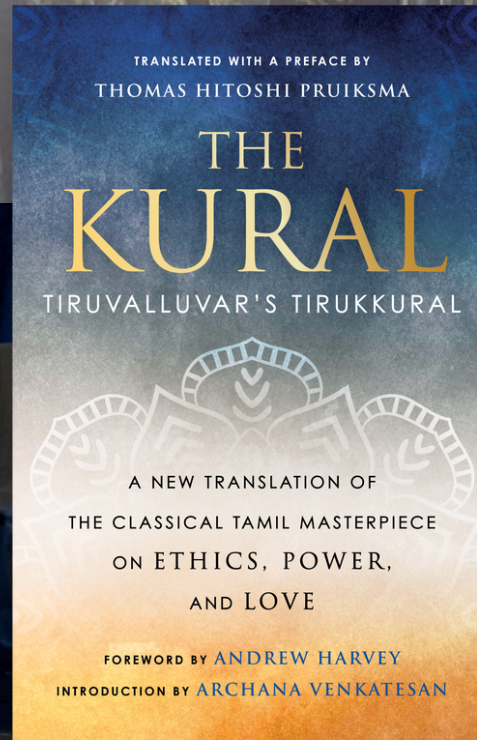
As night falls on Sunday  
the floor swept the rug clean  
I can almost imagine  
the whole world at peace  
without oceans dying out  
whole peoples disappearing  
fire and smoke rising  
as we race to the finish  
where all that we know  
will be finished

how can one sleep in peace  
  
and yet we must sleep  
to keep rising awake  
able to walk and  
work another way  
where resting at evening  
as the sun falls away is  
peace is enough  
is a world in itself  
working to be whole  
once more

Or at least that's how it came to me in "Sabbath," from *The Safety of Edges*, which says part of what I'd want to tell you. But I'm still listening for what else there is to say.

“If we hope to proceed into the future as a civilized country, we are going to need the work and the example of young people such as Mr. Pruiksma.”

—Wendell Berry



Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma is an author, translator, teacher, and performer. His translation of the classical Tamil masterpiece on ethics, power, and love, *THE KURAL: Tiruvalluvar's Tirukkural*, appeared in 2022 from Beacon Press. Other books include *The Safety of Edges* (poems), *Give, Eat, and Live: Poems of Avvaiyar* (translated from the Tamil) and *Body and Earth* (with the artist C.F. John). He speaks and performs widely, teaches for the Cozy Grammar series of online video courses, and has received grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, 4Culture, Artist Trust, and the U. S. Fulbright Program.

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