



## Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (Wesleyan Poetry Series)

By Aime Cesaire

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**Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (Wesleyan Poetry Series)** By Aime Cesaire

Aimé Césaire's masterpiece, *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*, is a work of immense cultural significance and beauty. The long poem was the beginning of Césaire's quest for *négritude*, and it became an anthem of Blacks around the world. With its emphasis on unusual juxtapositions of object and metaphor, manipulation of language into puns and neologisms, and rhythm, Césaire considered his style a "beneficial madness" that could "break into the forbidden" and reach the powerful and overlooked aspects of black culture.

Clayton Eshleman and Annette Smith achieve a laudable adaptation of Césaire's work to English by clarifying double meanings, stretching syntax, and finding equivalent English puns, all while remaining remarkably true to the French text. Their treatment of the poetry is marked with imagination, vigor, and accuracy that will clarify difficulties for those already familiar with French, and make the work accessible to those who are not. André Breton's introduction, *A Great Black Poet*, situates the text and provides a moving tribute to Césaire.

*Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* is recommended for readers in comparative literature, post-colonial literature, African American studies, poetry, modernism, and French.

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## Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (Wesleyan Poetry Series) By Aime Cesaire Bibliography

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**Editorial Review**

Review

“Aimé Césaire’s brooding exploration of Negritude bristles with the energetic, unique qualities of Walt Whitman’s ‘Song of Myself’ . . . [Césaire’s] protean lyric, filled with historical allusions, serves to exorcise individual and collective self-hatreds engendered by the psychological trauma of slavery and its aftermath.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“The greatest living poet in the French language.”—*American Book Review*

“One of the most powerful French poets of the century.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Martinique poet Aime Cesaire is one of the few pure surrealists alive today. By this I mean that his work has never compromised its wild universe of double meanings, stretched syntax, and unexpected imagery. This long poem was written at the end of World War II and became an anthem for many blacks around the world. Eshleman and Smith have revised their original 1983 translations and given it additional power by presenting Césaire’s unique voice as testament to a world reduced in size by catastrophic events.”  
—*Bloomsbury Review*

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

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**Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Herbert Beckley:**

The experience that you get from Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (Wesleyan Poetry Series) is the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (Wesleyan Poetry Series) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by simply anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (Wesleyan Poetry Series) instantly.

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