

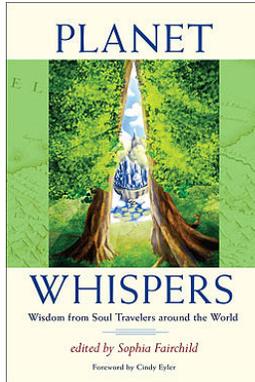


Getting to know the Authors of

Planet Whispers

Wisdom from Soul Travelers around the World

Raymond Torrenti ~ Pittsfield, Massachusetts, USA



www.raymondtorrenti.com

SWP: Where are you from?

I am originally from Old Saybrook, Connecticut, where I enjoyed living near the ocean and hiking in the surrounding wooded areas growing up. I went to college in Rhode Island, moved to Boston for my graduate degrees where I enjoyed city life for many years, and recently moved to the Berkshires where I love being close to nature. So I've been a New England guy all of my life.

SWP: What do you do to unwind and relax?

I appreciate being in the Berkshires where I have the opportunity to walk in the woods, bicycle, kayak, and swim. In the winter I like snowshoeing. I am a computer geek and love all kinds of technology. When I am indoors, I relax by cooking and don't mind going out bowling once in a while. Traveling is a big joy of mine and I keep traveling around the world exploring different cultures and traditions. My last trip was to mystical Ireland.

SWP: What one thing in your life has made the biggest impact on you today?

In my childhood I had mystical experiences that led me down a spiritual path and inspired me to study spirituality and ignited a passion to learn about shamanism in other cultures.

SWP: How long have you been writing?

I began writing in my teenage years. I wrote short stories and have been writing poetry since I was 15 years old. Over the years I have written articles, books, and papers, most of which are unpublished. My book, *Analyzing the Transcendent: Psychotherapists and their Mystical Experiences* was published in 2003. I have kept a journal since I was a teenager and continue to write every day. Currently, I love getting up, making a mug of coffee, and writing at dawn with my cat, Micah.

SWP: Why did you choose to write this particular chapter?

When I heard about the project I was excited with the idea of collecting a variety of spiritual stories from around the world. In my travels I have had many spiritual experiences. I wanted to offer a contribution to this anthology in the hope that it may be helpful to others. I chose my vision quest experience at the Arctic Circle because of the extreme distance and isolation, the surreal twenty-four hours of sunlight, and because it had such an impact on the future direction of my life. I hope the insights I gained there will be helpful to others.

SWP: What are your current writing projects now?

Currently, I am working on two. One is a collection of my poems from the last ten years. The other is on spiritual development.

SWP: What advice do you have for writers?

If you truly enjoy writing, write everyday! Make it a spiritual practice.

SWP: Where can we purchase the book?

Look for me at our local New Age Bookstore and Barnes & Noble for upcoming book signing events, or contact me through my website www.raymondtorrenti.com