

# Haimesian Poetry

## Genre Definition & Conceptual Framework

**Author:** Michael Richard Haimes

**Purpose:** A formal, site-ready definition (in the spirit of the Laydrae entry) for a new poetic genre centered on love-alignment.

### 1. Why This Genre Needed to Exist

Most poetry is classified by form, era, technique, or mood. None of these classifications address a primary failure mode: poetry can be beautiful and emotionally powerful while training the reader to love the wrong things.

The Haimesian System begins from a different starting point: **the point of life is to love something**. Therefore, the moral weight of any expressive act lies in what it trains the reader to love. Haimesian Poetry exists because no existing genre classifies poetry by its effect on love.

### 2. Core Definition (Non-Negotiable)

**Haimesian Poetry** is poetry whose defining property is this: it alters the reader's orientation toward love in a net-positive, reality-aligned way.

If a poem does not meaningfully affect what the reader loves, how the reader loves, or why the reader loves, then it is **not** Haimesian, regardless of beauty or profundity.

### 3. Ontological Status (What Kind of Thing This Is)

Haimesian Poetry is functional, not merely aesthetic. It is closer to a moral instrument or compass calibration than to entertainment. Style is incidental; effect is essential.

### 4. The Love-Vector Test (Diagnostic Rule)

After reading the poem, is the reader **more capable of loving something real, worthy, and sustaining** than they were before?

If a poem glamorizes self-destruction, rewards cruelty, aestheticizes despair without orientation, or collapses love into mere desire, it fails this test—even if emotionally powerful.

### 5. What Haimesian Poetry Is Not (Failure Modes & Misclassifications)

Haimesian Poetry is not sentimentality, not moralizing verse, not escapism, and not self-worship. Feeling love is not enough—its object and alignment matter.

### 6. Legitimate Emotional Range

Haimesian Poetry may include grief, anger, fear, doubt, even despair—provided these are used as waypoints, not destinations. Darkness is permitted only if it is navigable.

## **7. Relationship to Truth**

Haimesian Poetry assumes reality exists, some loves are better than others, and love misaligned with truth eventually produces harm. The genre is inherently anti-nihilistic, even when quiet or uncertain in tone.

## **8. Why This Is a Genre, Not a Style**

A style describes how something looks. A genre describes what kind of thing it is. Haimesian Poetry is unified not by technique but by purpose: it re-trains love toward what can endure.

## **9. Relationship to the Haimesian System**

Haimesian Poetry functions as the emotional interface of the Haimesian System—the bridge between abstract ethics and lived interior life. If the Haimesian System is a map, Haimesian Poetry is how the map becomes felt.

## **10. Canon Status (Open, Not Closed)**

Haimesian Poetry is not restricted to a single author. Any poet may write Haimesian Poetry if their work fulfills the criteria. This is a genre defined by alignment, not authorship.

## **11. Summary Definition (Site-Friendly)**

**Haimesian Poetry** is poetry defined not by form or era, but by function: it exists to orient human love toward what is real, worthy, and life-sustaining. Its measure is not beauty alone, but whether the reader leaves more capable of loving well.

**Optional next additions:** comparison block vs major traditions; a formal “Anti■Haimesian Poetry” contrast; a reader-facing test card for evaluating any poem.