



A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku and Zen

By Matsuo Basho

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Zen Buddhism distinguishes itself by brilliant flashes of insight and its terseness of expression. The haiku verse form is a superb means of studying Zen modes of thought and expression, for its seventeen syllables impose a rigorous limitation that confines the poet to vital experience. Here haiku by Bashō are translated by Robert Aitken, with commentary that provides a new and far deeper understanding of Bashō's work than ever before.

In presenting themes from the haiku and from Zen literature that open the doors both to the poems and to Zen itself, Aitken has produced the first book about the relationship between Zen and haiku. His readers are certain to find it invaluable for the remarkable revelations it offers.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Zen masters have a long history of giving teisho--formal, playful Dharma talks--in which poetry is invoked. The works of the Chinese poets Su Shih and Han Shan are almost within the Zen canon. In the tradition of teisho on Han Shan given by earlier masters, Robert Aitken has given talks on the haiku of Basho that go straight to the center of Basho's work. This book shares those talks with all of us: it illuminates the angles and corners of lone-ness and community, plainness and beauty, in the homey, homeless way of Zen. It's a superb book on Basho real life, and poetry all at once. I'm grateful."

Users Review

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Benjamin Aldridge:

The reason? Because this A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku and Zen is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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