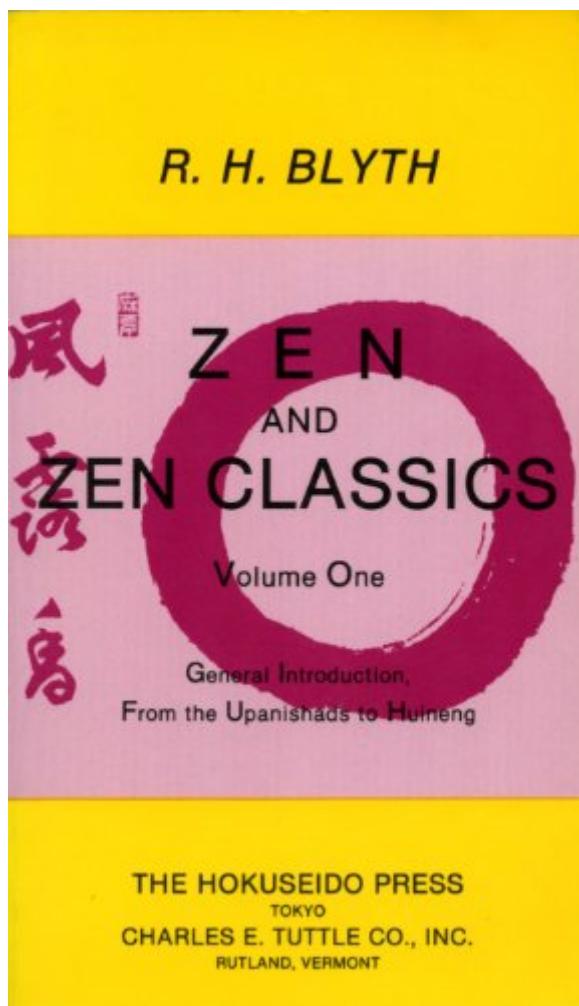


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Zen And Zen Classics 1: From The Upanishads To Huineng (Zen & Zen Classics)



Synopsis

This is not a dry scholarly book on Zen. It is a fascinating introduction into a study of self-enlightenment and inner reason that has been a driving force of all Japanese culture. Written by Reginald Horace Blyth (1898-1964) this is a volume free of the dry pedantry that has hobbled so many well meaning French and English studies of Zen. It is free also of the breathless mystery-mongering that unfortunately has bloated American Zen. Blyth reads easily. The questions he poses; the views he offers all lead to a sense of inner self and an awakening of an awareness of the surrounding universe and one's relationship to it. After discussing "What is Zen?" (and what isn't) Blyth sketches a history of Zen dating from 1000 B.C. to 715 A.D., the year of the death of the Sixth patriarch, Huineg. With a historical background thus established, Blyth next provides translations and commentary on some of the most important and basic Zen literature in existence. For the Zen initiate then, this book is an excellent beginning. For the practitioner, further meaningful revelations await.

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Customer Reviews

I first learned of RH Blythe through his translation's cameo appearance in the work of JD Salinger. The haiku that appeared had such grace and humor that I rarely find in haiku or their translations. I went out and got a book of haiku and realized the the same haiku in this other text had none of the joy and jump of Blythe's translation. I sought out this book and was surprised by what a humorous, thoughtful, incisive, graceful writer he was. The closest approximation I have for how incredible is RH Blythe in his scholarship on Zen and Zen literature is Tom Robbins (which feels odd even as I write it, but true.) There is never a false word and whenever he encounters falseness in literature, religion, philosophy he is very quick in exposing it. He avoids the lotusy perfume of Eastern exoticism, maintaining a firm understanding of Western philosophy, seamlessly melding it with its Eastern counterparts, as Zen itself is less an emanation from the East but a perfect joy in all things, regardless of its compass point. Blythe's truly a Zen master. Because his books were published by a relatively obscure English-language press in Japan, his books are quite rare. This anthology is the only inexpensive book you'll be able to find on this truly luminous writer.

All good.

Reminds me of "ask the awakened"

Everything was great! Super service!

It's the deal when it comes to telling Westerners what Zen is about. But when do we get the rest of the volumes in Kindle?

spot on.

R.H. Blyth's Zen and Zen Classics are essential reads for those who want to truly find out what this Zen thing is about.

It came in excellent condition and on time.

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