



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

From reader reviews:

Cora Conte:

The actual book A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku and Zen has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this book.

Sergio Hawkinson:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku and Zen, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Leon King:

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