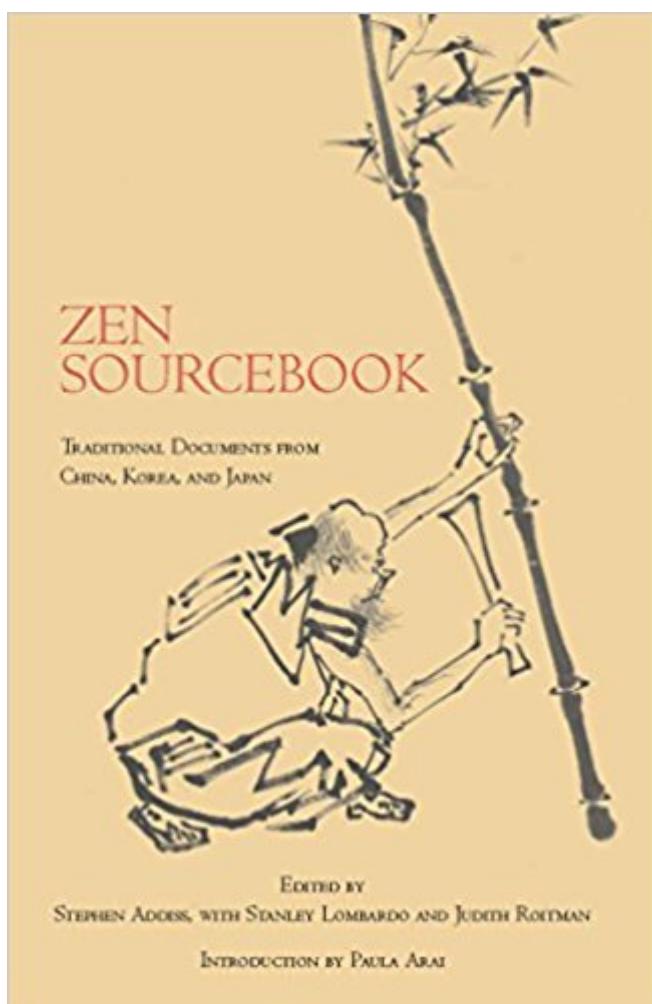


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# Zen Sourcebook: Traditional Documents From China, Korea, And Japan



## Synopsis

"Featuring a carefully selected collection of source documents, this tome includes traditional teaching tools from the Zen Buddhist traditions of China (Ch'an), Korea (Son), and Japan (Zen), including texts created by women. The selections provide both a good feel for the varieties of Zen and an experience of its common core. . . . The texts are experiential teachings and include storytelling, poetry, autobiographies, catechisms, calligraphy, paintings, and koans (paradoxical meditation questions that are intended to help aspirants transcend logical, linguistic limitations). Contextual commentary prefaces each text. Wade-Giles transliteration is used, although Pinyin, Korean, Japanese, and Sanskrit terms are linked in appendixes. An insightful introduction by Arai contributes a religious studies perspective. The bibliography references full translations of the selections. A thought-provoking discussion about the problems of translation is included. . . . Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels." --Choice

## Book Information

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"[T]he Zen Sourcebook [is] an excellent cross-section of some of the most important texts in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Zen. The translations [are] well chosen from among the best available. . . . This is an excellent sourcebook for both beginners and serious practitioners."

John Daido Loori, Abbot, Zen Mountain Monastery "This is an excellent book . . . to be commended for its wide coverage; the Korean material is especially hard to find. . . . The short introductions to the selections are lucid, informative and focused, providing a good framework through which to understand the readings. Anyone who wants to work directly with translations of

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•Brook Ziporyn, Northwestern University "The timeless words of Zen masters running the gamut from the well-known (Dogen and Bodhidharma) to the more obscure (miscellaneous Chinese nuns) can be found in [this book]. . . The teachings, which come in many forms—poetry, letters, and artwork among them—serve as primary texts, while pithy introductions provide historical background on topics ranging from the declining influence of Zen masters in seventeenth-century Japan to Korean master So Sahn's famous army of five thousand monks. This collection of Zen delights offers plenty of teachings to sink your teeth into, including this Blue Cliff Record koan: "A monk asked Yun-men, 'What is the teaching that goes beyond Buddhas and Patriarchs?' Yun-men said, 'A sesame bun.' Bon appetit." •Tricycle "[A]n invaluable collection of teachings from China, Korea, and Japan, revealing Zen's brilliant use of language to evoke the Buddha's realization."  
•Buddhadharma "This sourcebook seem to me to be a uniquely rich and valuable treasure trove."  
•Rachel Hadas, Department of English, Rutgers University "I find that students from all academic backgrounds are able to access the material, yet it is scholarly and rigorous. I particularly appreciate the inclusion of the nuns' poetry, which other collections (such as *The Roaring Stream*) tend to ignore."  
•Alison Jameson, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona

Stephen Addiss is Tucker-Boatwright Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Art History, University of Richmond. Stanley Lombardo is Professor of Classics, University of Kansas. Judith Roitman is Professor of Mathematics, University of Kansas. Paula Arai is Associate Professor of Religion, Louisiana State University.

So wonderful to have so many resources in one volume. An absolute must-have for anyone sincerely interested in Zen, and particularly those who practice.

It's like a bible of zen sutras. Essential reading.

Lengthy Very Well Written

good !

Fascinating!

this book can be read cover to cover, but its real value is to be able go back to it time after time

Its a hard read because Buddhist Philosophy can be hard to understand. And once you start to understand, that's when you really dont understand. Good luck. Good book, great philosophy, hard read.

Great book for a dedicated introduction to Zen and the origins of Chan throughout Buddhist history. I consider this an introduction to the most important texts of Zen, with translations of primary documents that are otherwise difficult to get ahold of. An excellent tool for those just beginning their study of Zen.

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