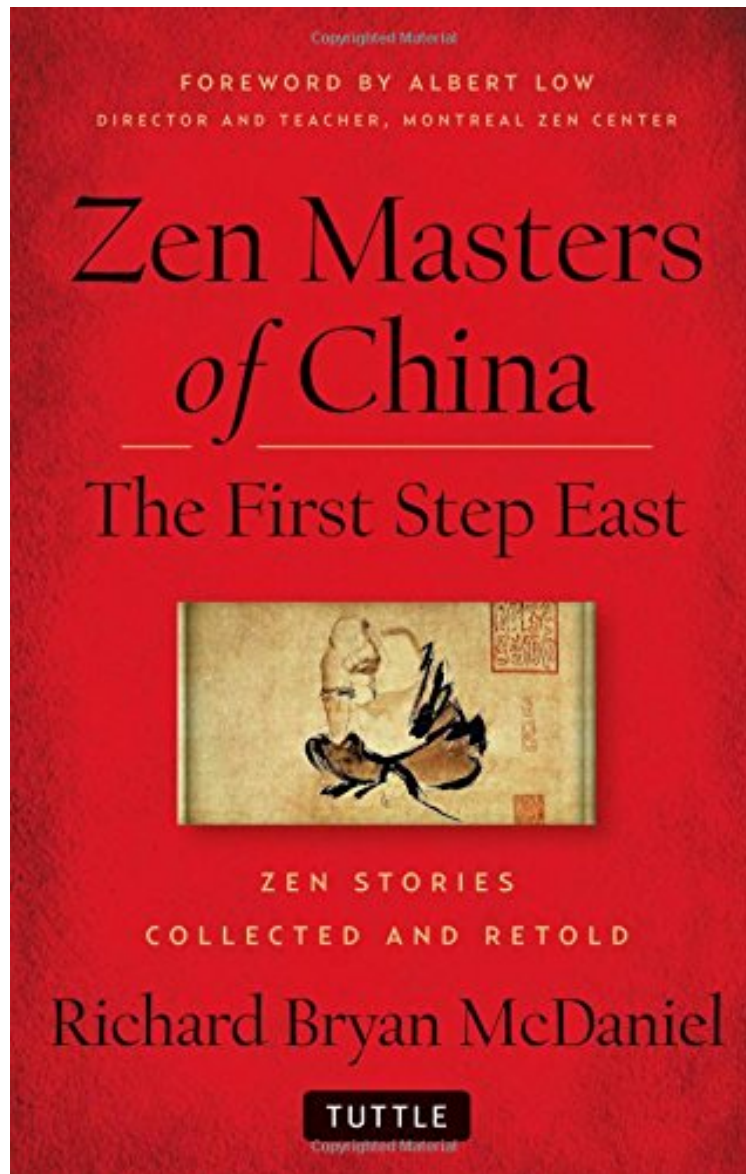


[Library ebook] Zen Masters Of China: The First Step East

Zen Masters Of China: The First Step East

Richard Bryan McDaniel

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Richard Bryan McDaniel : Zen Masters Of China: The First Step East before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zen Masters Of China: The First Step East:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. but as people - much like anyone else - to aspired to find the way ...By YaseiA user friendly compendium for those who have more of a practical than scholarly interest in the history of Zen in China. We meet the ancestors not as giants or demigods, but as people - much like anyone else - who aspired to

find the way of enlightenment and did, often in spite of themselves. Its organization is straightforward, not resembling a rubik's cube as some tend to be with prices north of 60 bucks. A good - and enjoyable - reference!² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential Zen Reading
By Ardy
This is a comprehensive review of the history of Zen in China. It is well researched and has all the anecdotes you would expect. The great advantage of this book is that having read a fair amount about Chinese Zen monks this book puts them all into place with their masters and their heritage. Absolute delight!³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Superb!
By SDS
An easy to read and illuminating introduction to the origins and development of Zen in China, full of entertaining stories and memorable quotes. A very, very nice addition to the literature on Zen Buddhism (and its overlap with Taoism).

Zen Masters of China presents more than 300 traditional Zen stories and koans, far more than any other collection. Retelling them in their proper place in Zen's historical journey through Buddhist Chinese culture, it also tells a larger story: how, in taking the first step east from India to China, Buddhism began to be Zen. The stories of Zen are unlike any other writing, religious or otherwise. Used for centuries by Zen teachers as aids to bring about or deepen the experience of awakening, they have a freshness that goes beyond religious practice and a mystery and authenticity that appeal to a wide range of readers. Placed in chronological order, these stories tell the story of Zen itself, how it traveled from West to East with each Zen master to the next, but also how it was transformed in that journey, from an Indian practice to something different in Chinese Buddhism (Ch'an) and then more different still in Japan (Zen). The fact that its transmission was so human, from teacher to student in a long chain from West to East, meant that the cultures it passed through inevitably changed it. Zen Masters of China is first and foremost a collection of mind-bending Zen stories and their wisdom. More than that, without academic pretensions or baggage, it recounts the genealogy of Zen Buddhism in China and, through koan and story, illuminates how Zen became what it is today.

"As McDaniel notes in his preface, Zen Masters of China contains no new material. Everything has been published elsewhere in English translation. So if you're looking for new stories, this is not the book for you. But McDaniel has organized the stories in an innovative way and made various small changes that help us enter the stories in a new way. This is a great service. Check it out!" Ox Herding blog
"We do not read a book like this for information or knowledge but to awaken a higher part of the mind, a part that in most of us is asleep." from the foreword by Albert Low
About the Author
Rick McDaniel was born in Indiana and attended college in New Brunswick, Canada, where he continues to live. He taught at the University of New Brunswick and Saint Thomas University before working in International Development with the YMCA. He is the creator of the YMCA Peace Medallion. He is also the creator and author of a five-part documentary series, 80/20: A Developing World and coauthor of the textbook A Two Way Approach to Understanding: Issues in Global Education. Dr. McDaniel studies at the Montreal Zen Center with teacher Albert Low.