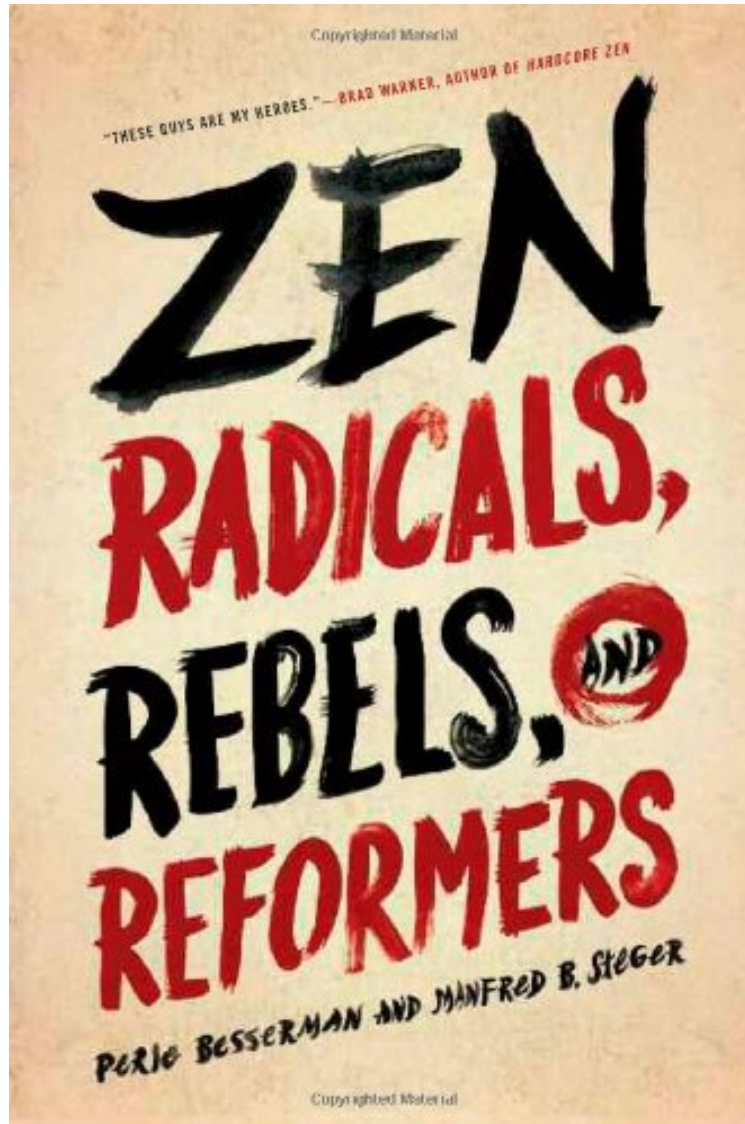


[Download free pdf] Zen Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers

## Zen Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers

*Perle Besserman, Manfred B. Steger*  
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#596175 in Books Wisdom Publications 2011-01-01 2011-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.001, .79 #File Name: 0861716914232 pages Ships from Vermont | File size: 43.Mb

**Perle Besserman, Manfred B. Steger : Zen Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zen Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is about the rascal-style Zen master, and describes the outrageously wild and flamboyant lives of 8 Zen masters By James Kenney I am a long-time Zen student, and I love this book. I am not a fan of the abstruse texts most Zen Buddhists wrestle with, but this book is about the rascal-style Zen master, and so is right up my alley. The book describes the outrageously wild and flamboyant lives of 8 Zen

masters: P'ang Yun, Rinzai, Bassui, Ikkyu, Bankei, Hakuin, Nyogen Senzaki and Soen. By any reasonable person's standards, these men were all crazy and their lives are proof that too much staring at a wall can unhinge your brain. But it's all in fun, and their stories make great reading, with plenty of amusement combined with something you almost never get in standard Zen texts: a good, solid description of the social and historical development in which these rascals lived. This alone makes the book well worth reading, if you are interested in Zen. I loved this book!

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Eight influential masters

By Adam K Shin Tebbe

Wisdom Publications has recently published this revised and expanded edition of an earlier work, *Crazy Clouds: Zen Radicals, Rebels Reformers* by Perle Besserman and Manfred Steger (the latter a teacher authorized by the late Robert Aitken Roshi). This book has removed the *Crazy Clouds* portion of the title and added a new chapter as well as corrections and updates. Many books have been written that give readers biographical accounts of our Zen ancestors. This book, which covers eight such personalities in all, each from the Rinzai tradition, is an excellent addition to such contributions. Going beyond the sometimes dispassionate accounts we have grown accustomed to, this book provides us with warm accounts of eight masters who've helped to shape our ongoing appreciation of this thing we call Zen practice. Each man, for all who are covered in this work are men, were personalities in the truest sense who challenged traditions and institutions with their radically unique, sometimes rebellious, and undoubtedly influential manifestations of the Zen path. One of the core themes that brings many of these men together is that insistence that Zen practice is for absolutely everyone, from Layman P'ang, to the tireless Bankei, on through to more modern masters like Nyogen Senzaki and his floating zendo and Soen Nakagawa, who's playfulness often challenged the status quo of Japanese Zen. This book showcases various Zen masters who embodied something we in the West seem very naturally suited to accept: That Zen practice is for lay and monastic practitioners alike. This book is for anyone who might think that the aim of Zen practice is to attain some kind of perfection, for these were flawed individuals who, nevertheless, embodied the teachings of Zen beautifully and poetically, and often with true eccentricity. In all, you will learn about the following individuals. An all-around excellent read!

\* Layman P'ang \* Rinzai \* Bassui \* Ikkyu \* Bankei \* Hakuin \* Nyogen Senzaki \* Soen Nakagawa

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's an excellent anthology of some of the most inspirational characters in ...

By a musician

Don't be fooled by the cover. This isn't some punk rock take on Zen. It's an excellent anthology of some of the most inspirational characters in Zen Buddhism.

The revolutionary figures in this book are those innovative, non-conformist masters--Zen "madmen"--whose unorthodox behavior has helped define the radical countercultural movement known simply as Zen. In *Zen Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers* you'll meet Zen boat-rockers that span from early eighth-century China all the way to the bustling streets of modern-day America with a stop in the middle to visit a courageous Zen master who made the ultimate sacrifice in his resistance to the brutal actions of the Japanese government in World War II. These remarkable masters show us through their audacious actions and fearless words that the pursuit of spiritual awakening must ultimately be a rebellion against the very foundations of suffering in the world.

"These guys are my heroes, and Perle Besserman and Manfred Steger have done a tremendous job of bringing their stories to life. It's important to put a spotlight on the radical, rebellious characters who have shaped the Zen Buddhist lineage. I really like this book." (Brad Warner, author of *Hardcore Zen*)

About the Author

Perle Besserman and Manfred B. Steger are the founding co-teachers of the Princeton Area Zen Group and the authors of *Grassroots Zen*. Perle and Manfred divide their time between Melbourne, Australia, and Honolulu, Hawai'i. Manfred B. Steger is author of the volumes *Globalization and Neoliberalism* in the "Vest Short Introduction" series, as well as the co-editor of *Violence and Its Alternatives*. He divides his time between Melbourne and Honolulu.