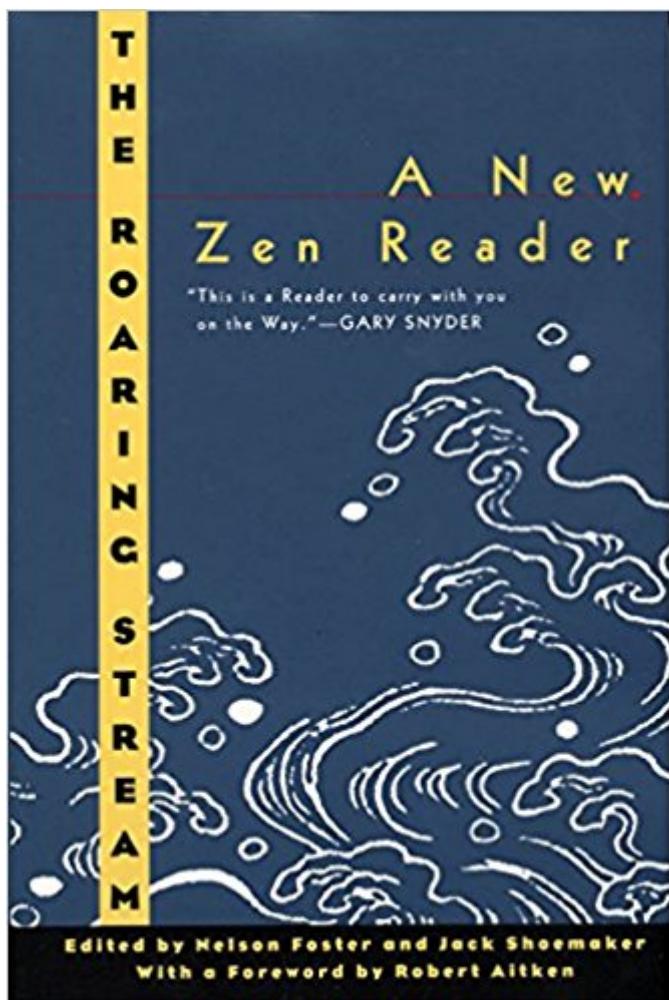


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The Roaring Stream: A New Zen Reader (Ecco Companions)



Synopsis

The Roaring, Stream: A New Zen Reader is a groundbreaking, immensely readable anthology drawn from the vast corpus of Ch'an and Zen Buddhist literature. It offers readers a tour through more than a millennium of writing, presenting one masterpiece after another in chronological progression. "You can dip into the waters of this stream, again and again, at any point finding refreshment and perspective," notes Robert Aitken in his introduction. "A year from now you can dip in again and find treasures that were not at all evident the first time." From lectures to letters, brief poems to extended disquisitions, this collection is an ideal point of entry for newcomers to the Zen tradition, and an essential sourcebook for those who are already "on the way." "Now the masterpieces of Zen Buddhist writing are available in a single volume," applauds Library Journal. "[This] will be the standard introduction to Zen Buddhism for years to come."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stories about zen masters and anecdotes are all very well. However, a view of their original work is needed to provide a well-rounded view of Zen. After searching for a simple book which did not dwell on the esoteric nor the speculative, I find this book very refreshing. Read the works expecting nothing, and their very meaning will jump out and hit you with the power of their simplicity and frankness. At a time when Zen has assumed such a complicated persona, and people are inundated with terminology which drives them away from such a great practice, this book comes across as a place where one can lay down under the shade of a big friendly tree, take the shoes off and wonder at the simple wisdom of the masters.

This is the single best collection of Zen writings published in english. This book has a heartbeat; the life of the tradition is felt through the voices of these ancestors. I have loved this book since it first appeared in print. Highly recommended.

No less than Gary Snyder (aka. "Jaffy Ryder" of *On the Road* infamy) has praised this as a great collection of Zen textual gems. Well, that Beat Generation crowd and hype aside...this actually IS a surprisingly engaging mix of Zen stories, characters, koans and poems, there is everything relevant about a collection like this. It speaks to the strong energizingly authentic life of Zen practice and perspective as a path to enlightenment and personal self-redemption. It also illuminates what is eternal about the Zen path by demonstrating how ancient sages expressed their relation to the universe from their own particular, unique vantage points. When I first read through it, I didn't have the reading and practice familiarity to appreciate it fully, and probably still don't, however, now it seems a new book to me with new figures and sparkling new mysteries. It gets newer as time passes. Get the hardcover edition. Take my word for it. Worth every penny.

"Zen" ... if there is a more widely-used buzzword, perhaps misused, we don't know it. Much more than just the sound of one hand clapping, Zen is an ancient and venerable system of thought and perception that transcends religious and national boundaries. This exceptional volume unfolds the history of Zen chronologically. And artistically. A major aspect of Zen is poetry, and the translations here are excellent -- often better than other volumes devoted to ancient Eastern poetry. One of our very favorite "finds" of this past year -- or any other year!

This anthology is a rich, comprehensive compendium of writings by major Zen teachers spanning the last fifteen hundred years. Excellent, brief introductions are provided for each teacher. Highly recommended

What a splendid way to begin each day by reading a short chapter or two in this well-structured and informative anthology. By providing some biographical and historical context for each entry, the editors provide a base from which to step off into more ethereal levels. I've read in Zen off and on for 40+years. This book is as useful and helpful as anything I've found. In their introduction, the editors themselves express a disdain for the trend in recent decades to reduce Zen to a collection of pithy observations and hip greeting card sentiments. They were striving for accessible depth. Gary

Snyder's comment on the cover that "this is the reader to carry with you on the Way" is as good a recommendation as one might hope for.

I just want to add my voice here. I have read widely in the popular literature on Zen and Chan and this is my favorite book. It combines history and original texts with a beautiful translating style. Really, if you want one book on Zen, this is it.

This text shows us that the lives and teachings of the masters have direct relevance for Buddhists today. Our own lives, in work and play, are cut from the same fabric as the tales recounted herein. Pick it up and read anywhere. Be inspired. The rest will follow. Old Chao-Chou would be pleased enough to whack the authors over the head with it.

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