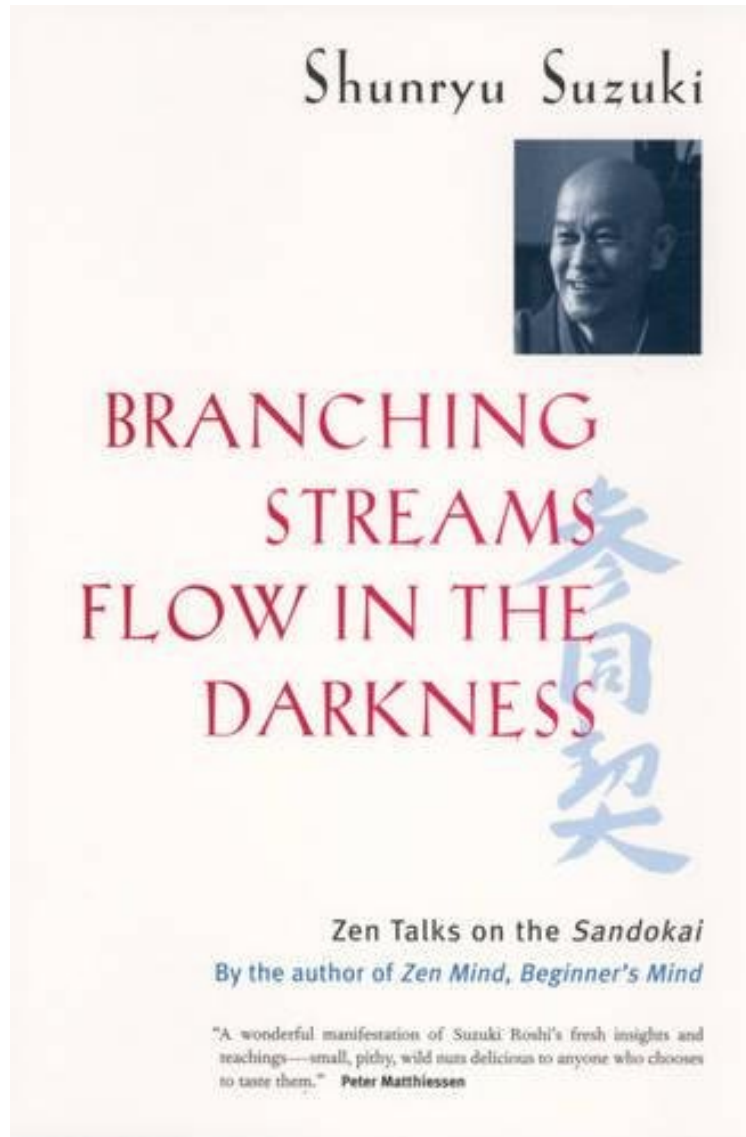


(Ebook pdf) Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness: Zen Talks on the Sandokai

Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness: Zen Talks on the Sandokai

Shunryu Suzuki, Shunryu Suzuki
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Shunryu Suzuki, Shunryu Suzuki : Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness: Zen Talks on the Sandokai before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness: Zen Talks on the Sandokai:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. listen to the mastersBy CustomerPublication of "Branching

Streams," the commentary on the Sandokai by Shunryu Suzuki is a great benefit to those of us learning about Zen, and life, here in the West. Also, to those of us who "practice" or try to learn about Zen without benefit of teachers, and the guided life of a monastery. With this book we are there with Zen monks, sitting in the Dharma Hall learning the wisdom passed down by the "ancient sages" from the golden age of Zen. Of course, this is also a great benefit to those, such as monks, living a life dedicated to enlightenment and living the Way. I can't begin to explain the Sandokai itself, or Master Suzuki's insightful commentary--suffice it to say that its true wisdom presented in a skillful way to help anyone living the most more mundane and ordinary life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insights into Zen Buddhist practice By Michael Drouilhet Zenji Suzuki is a master with a mission, to help us unenlightened get a deeper and clearer understanding of what his committed practice of zazen have lead him to: insight into his own nature - his "original face before he was born". He talks directly to us in a clear and non-esoteric way, a way designed to inform us and hopefully lead us into the same path he undertook many years ago. The path is not the understanding of the path, however, as he stresses to us. This book is the menu, but it is not the food. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a special zen studies book By R. Jeffrey Goldsmith This is an unusual poem from the 8th patriarch which is lovely. the commentary is pleasant and studious, trying to walk a fine line between academic and zen training to a student practicing. The tone of the teishos is delightful and very respectful of the patriarch's original intent. good selection.

When Shunryu Suzuki Roshi's *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* was published in 1972, it was enthusiastically embraced by Westerners eager for spiritual insight and knowledge of Zen. The book became the most successful treatise on Buddhism in English, selling more than one million copies to date. *Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness* is the first follow-up volume to Suzuki Roshi's important work. Like *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, it is a collection of lectures that reveal the insight, humor, and intimacy with Zen that made Suzuki Roshi so influential as a teacher. The Sandokai poem by the eighth-century Zen master Sekito Kisen (Ch. Shitou Xiqian) is the subject of these lectures. Given in 1970 at Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, the lectures are an example of a Zen teacher in his prime elucidating a venerated, ancient, and difficult work to his Western students. The poem addresses the question of how the oneness of things and the multiplicity of things coexist (or, as Suzuki Roshi expresses it, "things-as-it-is"). Included with the lectures are his students' questions and his direct answers to them, along with a meditation instruction. Suzuki Roshi's teachings are valuable not only for those with a general interest in Buddhism but also for students of Zen practice wanting an example of how a modern master in the Japanese Soto Zen tradition understands this core text today.

From Publishers Weekly This book is billed as a sequel to *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, Suzuki's classic collection of talks on Zen, but it stands on its own considerable merits as an eloquent, humorous series of lectures on the Sandokai, an eighth-century poem central to the Soto Zen tradition. These lectures show Suzuki, head priest of Tassajara monastery in California until his death in 1971, using his line-by-line exposition of the poem to illuminate what it means to practice Zen Buddhism. He stresses the simultaneity of the relative and the absolute, skillfully using words to direct his listeners toward understanding, all the while emphasizing that words are merely fingers pointing at the moon of enlightenment. Suzuki's devaluation of the verbal frees him to embrace humor and paradox as teaching methods; his examples range from ancient Chinese stories to anecdotes about weeding in the Tassajara garden and encountering an earwig. Readers of his previous book will be familiar with his earthy, clear, intense style. This book also conveys the texture of monastery life; it recounts 12 consecutive talks and includes the question-and-answer sessions at the end of each talk. These exchanges offer some of the most fascinating parts of an already excellent book, as they explicate some of the unclear points and illuminate the indirect yet confrontational quality of traditional Japanese Zen teaching. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Suzuki (1904[^]-1971) came to San Francisco in 1959, established the first Zen Buddhist monastery in the U.S., and wrote the seminal Zen text for Westerners, *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* (1972). Toward the end of his life, Suzuki presented a series of talks based on the Sandokai, an eighth-century poem written by the Chinese Zen master Sekito Kisen. An elegant set of 22 couplets, it addresses a number of dichotomies, such as light and dark and sharp or dull, and it is chanted daily in Zen temples. In his cogent discussions and the question-and-answer sessions that follow--edited for publication by Mel Weitsman of the Berkeley Zen Center and Michael Wenger of the San Francisco Zen Center--Suzuki worked his way through the entire poem, expounding on the meanings of the Sandokai's imagery and its relevance to Buddhist practice and to life. The fact that one text can inspire a book's worth of philosophical thought and practical advice is testimony both to Buddhism's depths and to Suzuki's considerable gifts. Donna Seaman 'In a sequel to his "*Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, Shunryu Suzuki Roshi explores even more deeply the meaning and value of recognizing non-duality in our lives. . . . Suzuki Roshi's commentary on this difficult work is characteristically insightful. But it is the question and answer exchanges with his students, included at the end of each talk, that reveal his wisdom, humor and warmth to greater advantage.'"--Shambhala Sun