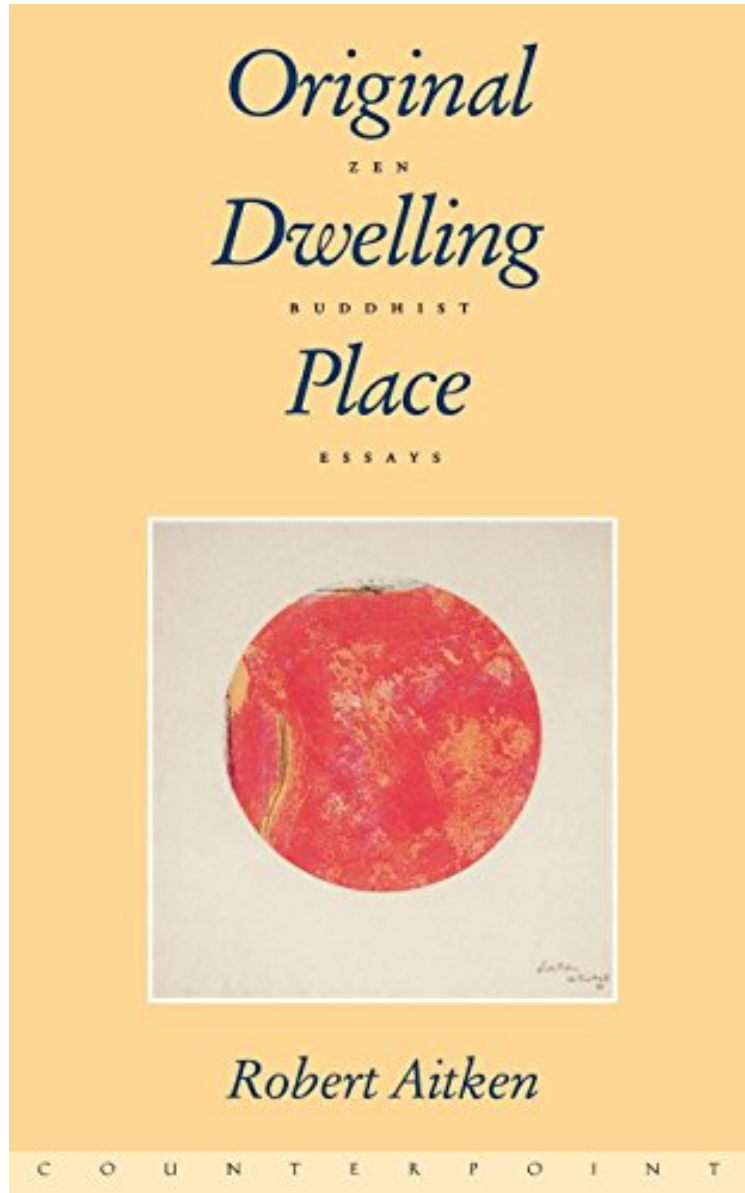


(Free) Original Dwelling Place: Zen Buddhist Essays

Original Dwelling Place: Zen Buddhist Essays

Robert Aitken

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Robert Aitken : Original Dwelling Place: Zen Buddhist Essays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Original Dwelling Place: Zen Buddhist Essays:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Mike Scron-LeeEverything was great! Super service!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Zen is so challenging, so confusing, so difficult, so self-contradictory. Robert Aitken somehow makes it comfortableBy James KenneyRobert Aitken is a serious Zen master who earned his

stripes the hard way: in a Japanese prison camp in World War II. My teacher Mel Weitsman (Sojun Roshi) gave me this book when I received jukai (lay ordination), as an exploration of the Zen precepts I had agreed to undertake. Aitken is a legend in the American Zen community, and deservedly so. He is a gentle, loving man, equally at home in his head and his heart, and willing to share both of them with us in this book. Many books about Zen have a feeling that there is something a little "off" about them; not so with this one. Zen is so challenging, so confusing, so difficult, so self-contradictory. Robert Aitken somehow makes it comfortable. His book is almost a consolation for the inevitable, initial disappointment when one learns the fundamental tenet of Buddhism: the doctrine of "no self". Aitken was a founder of the Diamond Sangha, together with his wife. Wikipedia has this to say about Aitken Roshi: "Robert Aitken was a social activist through much of his adult life, beginning with against nuclear testing during the 1940s. He was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War, and became a strong opponent of the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. He was among the earlier proponents of deep ecology in religious America, and was outspoken in his beliefs on the equality of men and women. In 1978 Aitken helped found the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, an organization that advocates conflict resolution globally." A wonderful book by a wonderful teacher. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. profound and simple, yet.... By Krishna Sherchan Another amazing book from Aitken Roshi, this very readable collection of essays seamlessly blends traditional Buddhist teachings and doctrines with anecdotes from a life lived in socially engaged practice. This book and the man who wrote it continue to inspire me in my own path. Open it anywhere and luxuriate in the clarity of the prose and the depth behind the words. Thanks, Roshi!

In this collection of twenty-three essays, Robert Aitken retraces the origins of American Zen Buddhism and provides readings of influential texts. Reflecting on death, on marriage, and on Zen practice, Aitken always points out the path to pleasure in the everyday dewdrop world. There is a fine art to presenting complex ideas with simplicity and insight in a manner that both shepherds and inspires. Robert Aitken's *Original Dwelling Place: Zen Buddhist Essays* succeeds in doing just this, offering twenty-three essays from America's senior Zen roshi and author of the best-selling, groundbreaking primer *Taking the Path of Zen*. Just as *Taking the Path of Zen* is the definitive handbook for Zen practice, the essays gathered in *Original Dwelling Place* are essential for the light they shed on Aitken Roshi's own journey and the effect he has had on American Zen Buddhism. Gathered here are essays about the Zen texts Aitken has studied with avidity and close attention throughout the years; texts that were early and lasting influences. In an opening section entitled *Ancestors*, Aitken pays homage to the masters who influenced his own development and Zen Buddhism generally. In other meditations, Robe

From *Library Journal* Aitken, the first American Zen Roshi (master) and, since 1959, a teacher at the Diamond Sangha in Hawaii, continues to be one of the most articulate American presenters of Zen Buddhism. This collection of some of his previously published essays clearly shows why he has this reputation. In the first section, entitled "Ancestors," Aitken offers a marvelous look into his own spiritual development as he recalls some of the important things about his early teachers. In the second section, "The Classical Discourses," Aitken discusses three important Zen texts, including the *Brahma Viharas*, or "Four Noble Attitudes of Conduct." Though the texts may be unfamiliar to many, Aitken provides enough background to lead even the casual reader to a deeper understanding of their meaning and their importance in Zen. In the remaining two sections, "Practice" and "Taking Pleasure in the Dharma," Aitken discusses such diverse topics as koans, marriage, money, and "Wallace Stevens and Zen." A marvelous, wide-ranging collection; recommended for public and academic libraries. David Bourquin, California State Univ., San Bernardino Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* In this collection of essays and meditations spanning the years 1980-95, Robert Aitken--senior American Zen master, scholar, and translator--examines and often reexamines texts and topics closest to his heart and teaching: death, marriage, ritual, the guidance and mystery of nature, facing and accepting our inevitable suffering as human beings, and the importance of zazen (sitting meditation) in linking "the body, brain, spirit, and will." Aitken is a master of archetype and metaphor, offering the Westerner everyday counsel on the uses of money or the damaging effects of gossip and manipulation, followed by more lofty admonishment to the Zen student to give up the path of reason for the path of poetry. Rounding out these diverse selections are Aitken's reminiscences of his teachers' lives and words and his ongoing comments on engaged Buddhism, in its activities of social justice and conservation, reminding us that in Buddhism human beings are not a special class of beings. Penny Spokes