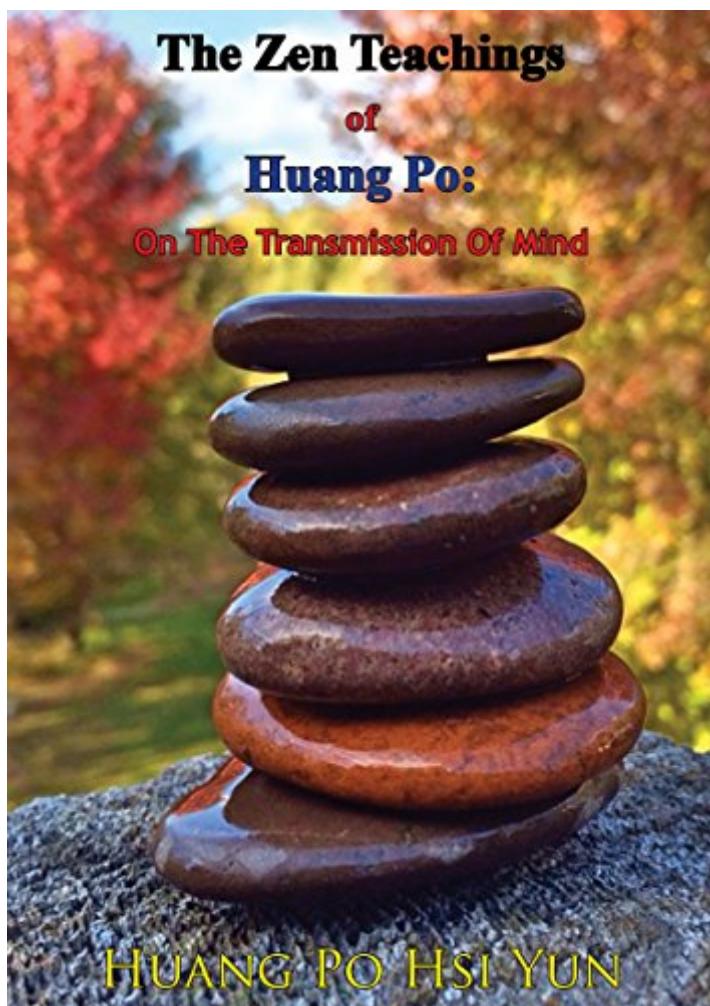


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The Zen Teachings Of Huang Po: On The Transmission Of Mind



Synopsis

This Historical text from the direct teaching of the Zen master, Huang Po, allows the Western reader to gain an understanding of Zen from the original source, one of the key works in its teachings; it also offers deepening and often startling insights into the rich treasures of Eastern thought. Huang Po, also known as Hsi Yun, is believed to have died as late as 850 A.D. He is regarded in a sense as the founder of the great Lin Chi sect. He lived below the Vulture Peak on Mount Huang Po, in the district of Kao An. Like most Zen masters, Huang Po taught in parables which were delivered as sermons, anecdotes, and dialogues. These have been collected here to present the teachings of the Master himself. He compares the mind to the sun travelling through the sky, sending forth light uncontaminated by the finest particle of dust. For those who have discovered the nature of Reality, he says, there is nothing old or new, concepts become meaningless and reason leads to error. Nowhere is the use of paradox in Zen illustrated better than in the teachings of Huang Po, who shows how the experience of intuitive knowledge which reveals to a man what he really is, cannot be communicated by words. With the help of these paradoxes, beautifully and simply presented in this collection, Huang Po could set his disciples on the right path. It is in this fashion that the Zen master leads his listener into the truth, often by a single phrase designed to destroy his particular demon of ignorance. Many of the dialogues recorded in The Zen Teaching of Huang Po took place in public assembly, generally with hundreds of the Master's followers in attendance. This text is remarkable for its purity of thought and speech. John Blofeld's translation reflects his deep understanding of Zen and gives it a crystal clear presentation. In addition, there are an introduction and explanatory notes that make this original and revered text even more valuable to the contemporary reader.

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Customer Reviews

The source, as the Bhagavad-Gita put in Sanskrit "The unmanifested, that which lies beyond the perception of the senses, the all-pervading, inconceivable, unchanging, fixed and immovable", the impersonal conception of the Absolute Truth", here is how the same transmission was put to the Chinese in the Tang Dynasty during the ninth century.

Beautiful beautiful book to be read again and again. Heard about it from Paul Hedderman from Zenbitchslap. (He is beyond awesome - thanks Paul!) Book was shipped promptly.

I bought a copy of this book 35 years ago and have read it every year since then. This book cuts through myths, dogmas and goes to the core of spirituality. The bottom line is rid your mind of all conceptual thinking, and what you are left with is the pure mind. I bought several copies of this to give to my friends, and they love it as much as I do.

Huang-Po comes across a bit more "accessible" than many of the other masters do. His main teaching (mostly to do with theoretical/analytical thinking) come across very clearly yet still remain insightful and remain fundamental to the study of Zen. The book is laid out in a clear manner that doesn't leave you wondering where things are going or how a certain section falls into the grand scheme of things (as some others do in the genre). Overall I am very please with this book and would recommend it to anyone with a moderate "understanding" of Zen principles, although probably not best for the beginner.

Best book on Zen I've read in a while.

Excellent !!!! If you want to cut through the religious BS and get to the heart of spiritual rebirth/enlightenment this is the book to have !!!

Huang Po was one of the great Zen Patriarchs. Read the book if you are a serious Zen student.

Be certain to read the commentaries and footnotes as you go. If you are truly into Zen, I believe you'll truly enjoy this book... and perhaps even if you're not.

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