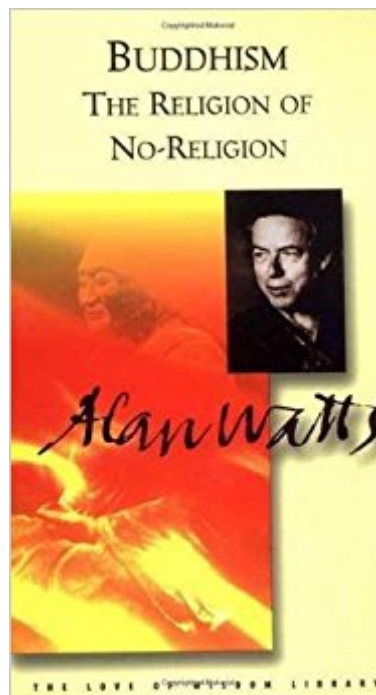




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Buddhism The Religion Of No-Religion (Alan Watts Love Of Wisdom)



Synopsis

The widespread influence of Buddhism is due in part to the skill with which a way of liberation was refined by its teachers and became accessible to people of diverse cultures. In this dynamic series of lectures, Alan Watts takes us on an exploration of Buddhism, from its roots in India to the explosion of interest in Zen and the Tibetan tradition in the West. Watts traces the Indian beginnings of Buddhism, delineates differences between Buddhism and other religions, looks at the radical methods of the Mahayan Buddhist, and reviews the Four Noble Truths and The Eightfold Path

Book Information

Series: Alan Watts Love of Wisdom

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Original ed. edition (October 15, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080483203X

ISBN-13: 978-0804832038

Product Dimensions: 4.8 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #308,970 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in [Buddhism > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > History](#) #120 in [Buddhism > History > World > Religious > Buddhism](#) #1785 in [Buddhism > Self-Help > Spiritual](#)

Customer Reviews

The taped lectures of Alan Watts have inspired a generation. Now, in handsomely designed little volumes, of which this is the first, they are appearing in print form. Few people in the middle of the century spoke as eloquently as Watts about Zen. Here, five of his justly famous lectures—three of the so-called "Japan Lectures" and two, delivered on his Sausalito house boat, on Tibetan Buddhism—are now transcribed and compiled. Especially welcome is the transcription of the renowned "Religion of No Religion" lecture in which some of the most difficult Buddhist concepts are presented with such lucidity as to make us gasp. Watts, an Episcopal priest who became a Zen scholar, was an accomplished stylist; and although his famous voice and happy laughter are missing now, his penetrating vision of Buddhism remains, and his lectures become brilliant prose in book form. This series, and this volume in particular, will be important to any new student of the East's religions. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print

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"It's easy to see why his influence remains strong, not only in the Buddhist sanghas mushrooming across America, but throughout popular culture." •The New York Times"Although his famous voice and happy laughter are missing now, his penetrating vision remains, and his lectures become brilliant prose in book form." •Publishers Weekly

I like Alan Watts, but he does get carried away with himself at times and seems to adore his own voice over the truth and practice of many of the religions he often hurries to get into print back in the day. His works are essential introductions and are often in broad strokes, but the thing is that he wants you to want more, and you do want more, you do want to understand the religions East and West. I do not care for Zen and he is quite in love with Zen and the Tao. Both of which I see as demeaning of women and more concerned with presentation than the depth of the subject. NOW, that said, I do think the great thinker, often at impossible speed is able to hand over to us his life's work with ease and comfort as if sitting for tea and walnut cookies in a breezy after noon.

Alan Watts delivers an interesting perspective on Buddhism and its various evolutions. Done with humorous intent I found the style engaging and informal while delivering accurate information. Alan Watts simply and directly delivers concepts and explains them in clear and understandable language. An excellent and informative book for persons curious about background and philosophy.

After first providing a sketchy Indian historical perspective, Alan Watts proceeds to describe the dialog that bridges Eastern Buddhism with Western Buddhism, that is, the way Westerners would most likely understand and think of Buddhism. Not to be found in the book are lengthy lists and sub-lists which characterize so many introductions to Buddhism, so it is not an introduction in that sense; instead, it attempts to lift and inspire the reader into Alan Watts' dream and imagination where his spirit of Buddhism resides. He successfully pries his way beyond Buddhist orthodoxy, doctrine, practice, and static tenets and into the world of Buddhism, a living dialog that can grow into every person and uplift each person into awakening in the true Mahayana spirit. Traditional religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam, as part of their evolution into dispensers of doctrinal morality and social control, have become cluttered with appendages that obscure the true meaning. It is precisely this true spirit of Buddhism that Alan Watts captures: a) his description of rebel monks, their ideologies, their art; b) his personal forward looking interpretation of sutra passages; c) his

distillation of doctrine into the quintessential. It's funny. This book is all about self-help through a religion which proclaims no self; and that, in a whimsical broad brush idea, is what Buddhism: The Religion of No-Religion is all about. Despite that many practicing Buddhists might dislike the book because of its somewhat iconoclastic style, I highly recommend the book as one of his best.

Lovely book read it in a few days diluted in many subjects but its was fun to read.

I was an utter emotional wreck after having recently stopped my anti-depressant. I remembered listening to Dr. Watts' lectures on the radio many years ago. After purchasing this book and beginning to read just the first few pages I immediately recognized, in this book, the same wit, humor and insight of his famous lectures. Almost to the point where, at the end of certain phrases or paragraphs, you can almost hear the late dr. laugh. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who remembers Dr. Watts' lectures, who is interested in Zen philosophy or especially to anyone who is searching for their spiritual or emotional center.

This is a great introduction on Buddhism from someone who didn't just transfer knowledge from the East to the West but someone who actually contributed a great deal to Buddhism (at least in the opinion of this reviewer). The book is elegant, short and sweet and gives you a very nice sense of what Buddhism and Zen Buddhism in particular is all about. When I read this my junior year in high school it changed my life! I bought it again all these years later now that i'm graduating college and I found it even more refreshing the second time. Hopefully Gutei doesn't cut my finger off!

Anyone who is familiar with Alan Watts has to have this book. I have long been a devotee of Watts. I was not disappointed with this book. He has a way of simplifying any concept. I had to add this book to my collection of his works.

Although this seems a bit jumbled, there is tons of great information here. Well worth the effort. I enjoyed it

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