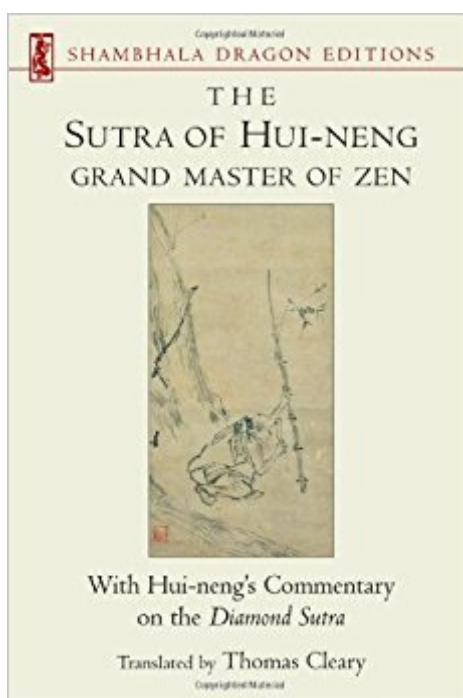


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The Sutra Of Hui-neng, Grand Master Of Zen: With Hui-neng's Commentary On The Diamond Sutra (Shambhala Dragon Editions)



Synopsis

Hui-neng (638–713) is perhaps the most beloved and respected figure in Zen Buddhism. An illiterate woodcutter who attained enlightenment in a flash, he became the Sixth Patriarch of Chinese Zen, and is regarded as the founder of the "Sudden Enlightenment" school. He is the supreme exemplar of the fact that neither education nor social background has any bearing on the attainment of enlightenment. This collection of his talks, also known as the Platform or Altar Sutra, is the only Zen record of its kind to be generally honored with the appellation sutra, or scripture. The Sutra of Hui-neng is here accompanied by Hui-neng's verse-by-verse commentary on the Diamond Sutra in its very first published English translation ever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The latest work from a distinguished and prolific translator is a new rendering of a celebrated Zen text, The Sutra of Hui-neng. This comes with what is stated to be the first English translation of Hui-neng's verse-by-verse commentary on the Diamond Sutra." • The Middle Way

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese

I had my hesitation about buying Cleary's translation at first and in a few places my suspicions were upheld. As in his using "aborigine" instead of "barbarian," in the opening discussion where the 5th

patriarch meets the 6th. He explained it fully in the footnotes at the end of the book. Aborigine loses much of the impact that Barbarian has, maybe a hat tip to today's political correctness? If we wished to update the language to today's reader, "hillbilly" would have been the more correct colloquial expression as a direct translation of "indigenous mountain dweller". Even that though is clumsy. All in all though he does a superlative job. I also recommend the following version of The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch which is the one that was required for a Zen Buddhism class I had in college way back in the 80's. It is far better and well worth the extra price.

Grand Master Hui-Neng stresses that Essential Nature has nothing to do with intellectual prowess, social status, or previous experience. Being an illiterate "Aborigine" (his words), his grasping (or non-grasping) of the Essential Mind had nothing to do with the written word, but instead, had all to do with the meaning. He expounds the Original One Mind in everyday, straight forward language. He is not speaking, or rather, dumbing down, what the essential experience of Zen is. In my opinion, this is an essential manual for the initial understanding in Zen, but as Grand Master Hui-Neng stresses, you must not become attached to the manual, but rely solely on your own intuitive mind.

A revealing look at a legendary figure in the history of Zen, in his own words (sort of, translated from a vastly different time and culture through a 1300 year lens). A bit like viewing the light from a star that is 1300 light years away, using a rough set of lenses. The light shines through, albeit with unknown distortions, but we are delighted to see it nonetheless.

Everything was great! Super service!

Really cool book. I've been getting a lot out of it. I read a lot of books on Buddhism, but I was able to get some really good insight from this one.

This is one of my favorite buddhist texts. It gives a great story and back story to one of the grand masters of zen buddhism! Highly recommended!

CLEARY IS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TRANSLITERATORS IN WESTERN CULTURE!

I enjoyed this book because it flows well. I think it is a must read if you are interested in Ch'an Buddhism (AKA Zen in Japanese).

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