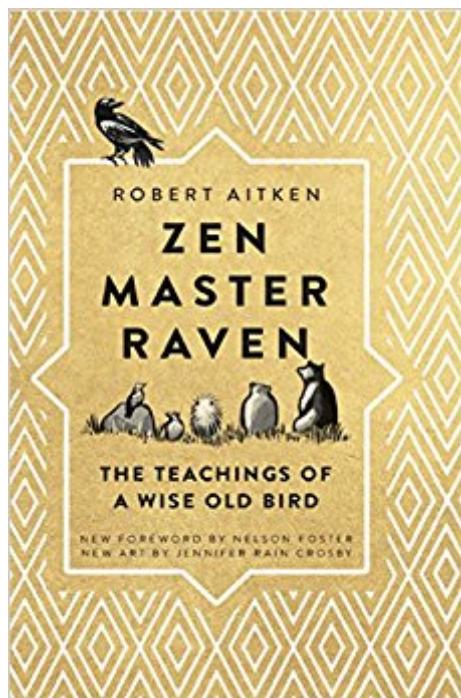


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# Zen Master Raven: The Teachings Of A Wise Old Bird



## Synopsis

A uniquely playful and incisive collection of Zen teaching stories from a beloved American master. A modern classic, now in a new expanded edition. In the tradition of the great koan collections and the records of ancient masters, Robert Aitken distills a lifetime of teaching down to its essence.

Intriguing and deceptively simple, *Zen Master Raven* is a brilliant encapsulation of Zen in over a hundred koan-like encounters alongside many charming illustrations. Featuring curious beginners like Mallard and Mole and profound teachers like Brown Bear, Moose Roshi, and Zen Master Raven himself, this classic of contemporary Zen will inspire seekers for generations to come.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• A new koan anthology that reflects the distinct flavor of American Zen Buddhist practice. This is a beautiful and worthy final teaching from Aitken. (Publishers Weekly) These verses are a brilliant contribution to American Zen. They honor the wit and wisdom of so many Chan and Zen masters before while staying accessible and relevant for us right now. Sublime, funny, simple, profound. (Jaimal Yogis, author of Saltwater Buddha) A Western Zen classic. These stories will be repeated for as long as there is a Western Zen. (James Ishmael Ford, author of If You're Lucky, Your Heart Will Break) In the transmission of Zen to the West, Aitken Roshi's writings and teachings hold a unique place. This book is one of the clearest demonstrations of his capacity for integrating an authentic Zen spirit with American myths and dreams. The depth of his Zen heart and the lightness of his wit are equally revealed here, and will

inspire generations of Zen practitioners well into the future.â • (Melissa Myozen Blacker, coediter of The Book of Mu)â œReading Aitken's Zen Master Raven is a bombardment of dazzling bursts of lightâ "like sitting watching stars born in the night sky, one after another. A treasure.â • (Kathleen Dowling Singh, author of The Grace in Aging and The Grace in Living)â œHow wonderful that such a gem of a book is being brought back to print in this new editionâ "Zen students everywhere should rejoice!â • (Robert Rosenbaum, author of Walking the Way)â œWonderful and profound.â •â (Deborah Schoberlein David, author of Living Mindfully)â œMarvelous.â •â (Gerry Shishin Wick, author of The Book of Equanimity)â œMasterful.â •â (Barbara Bonner, author of Inspiring Generosity and Inspiring Courage)â œAmusing, delightful, terrifically readableâ "and filled with deceptive simplicities. Zen Master Raven is American Zen at its best. It will gently draw in the Zen beginner while at the same time taking the old hand for unexpected leaps. This book has fully earned its place in all Zen libraries.â •â (Dick Allen, author of Zen Master Poems)â œForget the heavier tomes, here is a playful shortcut to the awakened heart of the Buddha!â • (Kerry Lee MacLean, author of Moody Cow Meditates)â œWith this new Wisdom edition of Zen Master Raven, Robert Aitken Roshi comes back to life in these witty exchanges between sentient beings of various shapes,â sizes and colors. As you flip through the pages, you can almost see the Wise Old Bird in your mindâ ™s eye with a half-smile, playfully winking at you.â •â (Ruben L.F. Habito, author of Living Zen, Loving God)â œMay the caw of this raven resonate far and wide!â •â (David Loy, author of A New Buddhist Path)â œThese stories are marked by both charm and depth of insight.â •â (Jack Turner, author of The Abstract Wild)â œTotally unconventional and remarkably successful. Many of these stories will certainly be incorporated into anthologies of home-grown American koans.â •â (Hee-jin Kim, author of Eihei Dogen: Mystical Realist)

Robert AitkenÂ was one of the mostÂ influentialÂ and highly esteemed Zen masters of the twentieth century. He was of seminal importance in shaping the expression of modern American Zen and wasas one of the original founders of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, as well as a leading social activist advocating for social justice of all varieties. He is the author of numerous books on Zen Buddhism, includingÂ Taking the Path of Zen,Â Mind of Clover,Â The Practice of Perfection,Â andÂ Original Dwelling Place. He died in 2010. Jennifer Rain CrosbyÂ has illustrated 2 books,Â Seeking FaustÂ andÂ Zen Master Raven, numerous event posters, business logos and grass-root political campaign parafinalia and recently completed 12 giant tapestry designs for the San Juan Ridge Tapestry Project. She lives in the Sierra Foothills of California, Â cultivating multiple muses and walking in the woods whenever possible.

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