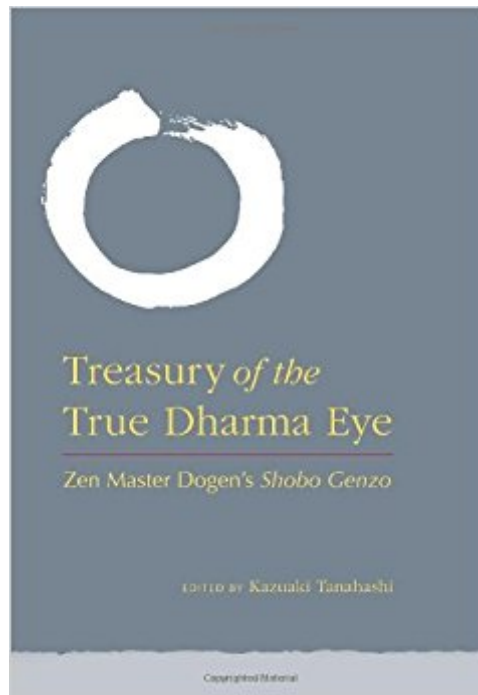




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Treasury Of The True Dharma Eye: Zen Master Dogen's Shobo Genzo



Synopsis

This monumental work is considered to be one of the most profound expressions of Zen wisdom ever put on paper, and also the outstanding literary and philosophical work of Japan. It is a collection of essays by Eihei Dogen (1200–1253), founder of Zen's Soto school. Kazuaki Tanahashi and a team of translators that represent a Who's Who of American Zen have produced a translation of the great work that combines accuracy with a deep understanding of Dogen's voice and literary gifts. This volume includes a wealth of materials to aid understanding, including maps, lineage charts, a bibliography, and an exhaustive glossary of names and terms and, as a bonus, the most renowned of all Dogen's essays, "Recommending Zazen to All People."

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Customer Reviews

"A vast, beautiful translation of the master work of the Japanese genius Dogen Zenji.

English-speaking practitioners will be indebted to Kaz Tanahashi and his associates for this truly magnificent teaching, an indispensable contribution to Zen letters."

Peter Matthiessen (Muryo Roshi) "A deeply considered and deeply relevant text.

Shambhala's publication of Kazuaki Tanahashi's translation of the complete text of Eihei Dogen's Shobo Genzo marks a watershed moment for Western Buddhism. With the Tanahashi version, it appears we now have an edition that will receive the sort of attention this great work deserves. Tanahashi's effort to preserve the particular Japanese difficulty of

Dogen's poetic prose, aided by the excellent work of the poet and Zen teacher Peter Levitt, emphasizes the text's ambiguity, multiplicity, and resonance of meaning more effectively than other versions.

•Norman Fischer, *Tricycle* "Kaz Tanahashi, a renowned translator of Dogen and noted artist, has put together an outstanding team of co-translators to create a complete rendering of Dogen's magnum opus, the *Shobo Genzo*. This publication, which will be in great demand by all scholars, students, and practitioners of Zen Buddhism and Eastern thought more generally, is both accurate and accessible in following the original text literally while capturing the spirit of Dogen's poetic genius. Although there are numerous versions of the work available in English, this new edition is sure to be the one turned to and cited consistently by knowledgeable readers."

•Steven Heine, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Asian Studies, Florida International University, author of *Zen Skin*, *Zen Marrow* and *Opening a Mountain: Koans of the Zen Masters* "Reading over *Treasury of the True Dharma Eye: Zen Master Dogen's Shobo Genzo*, I am astonished first by the incredible range and variety of Dogen's writings, and second by the immense task that has been done to translate this major text. With the possible exception of Hakuin's complete writings, there is nothing in Japanese Zen to equal the immense breadth and depth of Dogen's work, which ranges from direct instructions in simple language to the most complex and profound teachings that use words to go far beyond words. I am convinced that Zen students will find this text especially valuable to contemplate, study, and absorb over the entire course of their lifetimes."

•Stephen Addiss, author of *The Art of Zen* "At long last! A discerning, poetic, and, intimate rendering of Dogen's true expression of the dharma. Dogen's devotees have long awaited Tanahashi's complete translation of the *Shobogenzo* into a contemporary and deeply profound version. Those new to the wisdom of this great teacher as well as those who treasure him will delight in the extraordinary work by our foremost translator and interpreter of Dogen's masterpiece."

•Pat Enkyo O'Hara, Abbot, Village Zendo, New York, New York "For adventuresome Dharma students of any tradition . . . Dogen's writings offer the possibility of a profound exploration into the nature of practice, words, intimacy. This complete and splendid translation, the work of translators deeply immersed in Dharma and three languages—medieval Japanese, modern Japanese, and English—is a new atlas for such adventurers."

•Inquiring Mind

DOGEN (1200–1253) is known as the founder of the Japanese Soto Zen sect. Translator

KAZ TANAHASHI is one of the most renowned Zen calligraphers at work today, and one of the most prominent teachers of that art. He is also a Zen practitioner of many years in the lineage of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (author of *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*), and thus is himself in the lineage of Zen Master Dogen. He has published three previous translations of Dogen, as well as *Brush Mind*, a book about approaching Zen through the practice of art.

Kazuaki Tanahashi has spent most of the last fifty years translating Eihei Dogen Zenji's (1200-1253) masterwork *SHOBOGENZO (THE TREASURY OF THE TRUE DHARMA EYE)* into English. But even before then he spent time bringing Dogen's medieval Japanese into modern idiom. Dogen is considered the seminal thinker in Soto Zen Buddhism. It is difficult to get far into practice without coming face-to-face with Dogen, whose writings mark him out not only as one of humanity's original thinkers but as a brilliant stylist. Dogen was born into an affluent family, but lost his parents and whatever wealth they'd had before he reached the age of thirteen. He was born into a Japan undergoing social and political upheavals. In order to more completely understand the impermanence that defined his life and times he became a monk in his early teens. Eventually he traveled to China, the home of Ch'an (Zen) returning, he once said, after he had discovered that his nose was vertical and his eyes were horizontal. Not long after he arrived back in Japan, he wrote *FUKANZAZENGI (INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF SITTING MEDITATION)*. He also began writing the first of the 95 (or more) fascicles (essays or chapters) that make up the *SHOBOGENZO*. Anyone can learn from Dogen, so direct are his words. Yet, the *SHOBOGENZO* is truly profound, whether Dogen is addressing such mundane topics as cooking or such esoterica as the nature of space-time. It is interesting to discover that many of Dogen's intuitions match Einstein's equations. At the same time, Dogen's Zen is first and foremost a Zen for Humanity, devoid of priestly trappings and temple pieties and material wealth. Dogen clearly wants his students to thrive, survive and be enlightened by the ten thousand things even in the deepest of dark nights of the soul, and even when all the world is backlit by the flames of war, disruption and unrest. In a book/collection of such a broad range, it should be unsurprising that so much of what Dogen wrote is complex and subtle. Kaz's true brilliance (aided by a team of translators) is that he was able to translate Dogen's poetical, idiomatic and epigrammatic 13th century Japanese into modern English and to do it so well. Although portions of Dogen have been translated from time to time this translation has been and still is a lifelong labor of intensively intellectual spontaneous love. This boxed set with its heavy binding, thick ecru pages, clear print, and excellent presentation, reflects all of that. Although this translation costs a pricey \$150.00 it is well worth the investment.

This is a book you will be reading every day for the rest of your long life.

For those whose first exposure to Buddhism was Shunryu Suzuki's short gem, "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind," upon perusing this text of Dogen one is quickly struck by the depth of the tradition upon which Suzuki drew. Many times in length, but page after page as fresh and as rich. It is easily understandable how Dogen's work sent ripples spanning centuries and continents. Dogen was the founder of the Soto school in Zen Buddhism, the school of, "just sitting." Is meditation a mere instrument to enlightenment? For Dogen this is a bit like asking-- Is life itself a tool? Is everything a mere means to an end? To what end? No doubt his writings have much to say to the followers of any religion, as well as of none at all. "Woe to that religious, who does not retain in his heart the good things, which the Lord shows him, and does not show them to others through work, but who in view of some wage desires rather to show them to men with words." (St. Francis of Assisi) "For the transmission of the Buddha dharma, the teacher should be a person who has merged with realization. Scholars concerned with words and letters cannot do it; this would be like the blind leading the blind...Reaching one thing is reaching myriad things...An ancient Buddha said, 'A painting of a rice cake does not satisfy hunger'...A rice cake is the wholeness of body and mind actualized...Since this is so, there is no remedy for satisfying hunger other than a painted rice cake." (Dogen) I'm not Buddhist; I see it as a profound philosophy with many truths as well as a noble religion. Yet I do see this text as a must have for any serious study of world religions. If I had access to a time machine, set to the far distant future--and I could only bring with me three books--I think this might be one of the three books I would bring. I am very grateful to Shambhala Publications, as well as to Kazuaki Tanahashi, for this new edition.

I'm grateful to finally have all Dogen's writings in one book and especially pleased to find that Kazuaki's writing is so clear and understandable but then I've found this to be true of Kazuaki Tanahashi's book which have also prepared me to tackle this truly remarkable and hefty tome. It definitely is not for the new to Zen student and even a challenge, though pleasant one, for a 41 year student of Zen and follower of Dogen. The glossary is generous and a true asset and one really has all the essentials for study and practice in one magnificent book. Many thanks to all the fine teachers who have labored for years to ready this masterpiece for publication. Many hours and years went into the making of this epic masterpiece of Zen teachings. Dogen would be pleased. I am seriously considering purchasing an Ebook edition so I can underline and read anywhere though I would not recommend purchasing just as an Ebook. I believe that an Ebook would be an asset to

serious study but the book itself is essential initially. I might suggest that one starting on this book, or any student of Zen to watch the magnificent DVD "ZEN" which follows Dogen's life and beautifully done. I recently purchased and can't praise it enough. My only complaint with this book is the paper which it is published on. The paper is so thin that's it's just steps up from tissue paper and I'm concerned about damage with all the years of use this book is going to be getting as it's definitely not going to be sitting on a shelf. I do understand the possible reason for the thin paper as a thicker paper would noticeably increase the size of this already hefty tome. I am aware that the original release was on quality paper and in two volumes. I understand the need the ultra thin paper which is why it still gets 5 stars. In this case it's definitely the quality of the book that rules.

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