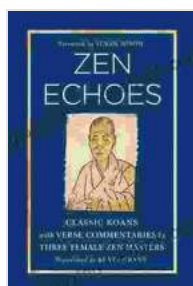


Classic Koans With Verse Commentaries By Three Female Chan Masters: A Journey into Wisdom and Enlightenment

Koans are enigmatic stories or questions used in Zen Buddhism to challenge the mind and lead to enlightenment. They are often paradoxical or nonsensical, and they can be incredibly difficult to understand. However, when approached with an open mind and a willingness to let go of preconceived notions, koans can offer profound insights into the nature of reality and the path to liberation.



Zen Echoes: Classic Koans with Verse Commentaries by Three Female Chan Masters by Beata Grant

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
File size	: 2775 KB
Screen Reader	: Supported
Print length	: 165 pages



The three female Chan masters featured in this book—Miaodao, Yulin, and Chiyuan—were all accomplished teachers who used koans extensively in their teachings. Their verse commentaries on these koans are lucid, insightful, and often quite humorous. They offer a unique perspective on

the koan tradition and provide valuable guidance for those who seek to fathom their depths.

Miaodao

Miaodao (752-850) was a Chinese Zen master who lived during the Tang dynasty. She was one of the first female Chan masters, and she is known for her sharp wit and her ability to cut through the Gordian knot of koans.

One of her most famous koans is "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" This koan is often used to challenge the idea of duality. When we clap our hands, we make two sounds. But what if we only clap one hand? Is there still a sound?

Miaodao's verse commentary on this koan is as follows:

One hand claps, No sound at all. The sound of one hand clapping, Is the sound of no sound.

Miaodao's commentary suggests that the sound of one hand clapping is not a physical sound, but a mental sound. It is the sound of our own minds letting go of the illusion of duality.

Yulin

Yulin (1215-1296) was a Chinese Zen master who lived during the Song dynasty. She was one of the most influential female Chan masters of her time, and she was known for her wisdom and her compassion.

One of her most famous koans is "Who is carrying the water jar?" This koan is often used to challenge the idea of self. Who is carrying the water

jar? Is it the person who is physically carrying it, or is it the person who is thirsty and depends on it for survival?

Yulin's verse commentary on this koan is as follows:

Who carries the water jar? The one who is thirsty. The one who is not thirsty, Carries no water jar.

Yulin's commentary suggests that the water jar is a metaphor for our own ego. We carry it with us wherever we go, and it weighs us down. But if we can let go of our ego, we will be free.

Chiyuan

Chiyuan (1154-1232) was a Chinese Zen master who lived during the Song dynasty. She was one of the most respected female Chan masters of her time, and she was known for her wisdom and her kindness.

One of her most famous koans is "What is the Buddha?" This koan is often used to challenge the idea of enlightenment. What is the Buddha? Is it a person? A state of mind? Or something else entirely?

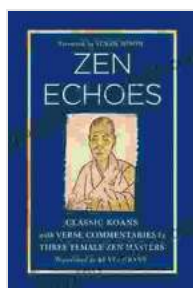
Chiyuan's verse commentary on this koan is as follows:

What is the Buddha? Not mind, not body. Not form, not emptiness. The Buddha is the Buddha.

Chiyuan's commentary suggests that the Buddha is not something that can be defined or explained. The Buddha is simply the Buddha.

The koans and verse commentaries of these three female Chan masters are a valuable resource for anyone who seeks to explore the nature of reality and the path to enlightenment. They offer a unique perspective on the koan tradition and provide valuable guidance for those who seek to fathom their depths.

If you are interested in learning more about koans and Zen Buddhism, I encourage you to read this book. It is a rich and rewarding resource that will help you to deepen your understanding of this ancient tradition.



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