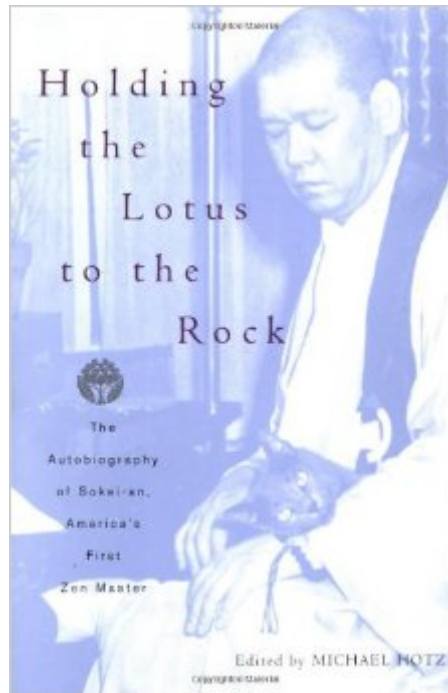


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Holding The Lotus To The Rock: The Autobiography Of Sokei-an, America's First Zen Master



Synopsis

Sokei-an Sasaki (1882-1945), in many respects, was the original Dharma Bum: a sculptor, poet, Zen student, and journalist, whose favorite subject was America. He arrived in San Francisco in 1906 with the mission of bringing Zen to America. After his teacher returned to Japan in 1910, he wandered alone through the American West and lived a wild bohemian life in the Greenwich Village of the Roaring '20s. His accounts of his childhood in Meiji, Japan, his struggle to transform himself through Zen, his experiences teaching Zen to New Yorkers which led to the founding of the First Zen Institute of America his run-in with the FBI, and his internment on Ellis Island are all conveyed with charm and humor in this autobiography of one of the great pioneers who introduced Zen Buddhism to America. Photos are included.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

They say that Sokei-An established the first Zendo in America. This beautifully written book also presents a treasure trove of Zen philosophy: whether it's through legends, parables or life experiences as Sokei-An recounted them; or simply a diary of his impressions of the U.S. (especially SF and NYC) and a look at his inner thought processes on Zen. I especially like the cover photo where it looks like he's meditating with a cat in his lap! Many other photos, as well.

a little dry. more biographical than philosophical. had hoped to get a richer, fuller feel of his influence in US. detainment story shameful for this peaceful man.

...real Woody Guthrie Dharma, the zazen version of "On the Road," a salt-encrusted hatband of a book, seasoned with the dust of the vagabond highway, and as sweet as a bite into the juice of a windfall apple. THIS is the perfect backpack book for the diamond path that leads to the rainbow's end of the mind. Lock eyebrows with this guy. He's the perfect companion for your trailworn copy of "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind."

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