

Dogen on Meditation And Thinking: A Reflection on His View of Zen

By Hee-Jin Kim

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Thirty years after the publication of his classic work *Dōgen Kigen--Mystical Realist*, Hee-Jin Kim reframes and recasts his understanding of Dōgen's Zen methodology in this new book. Through meticulous textual analyses of and critical reflections on key passages primarily from Dōgen's *Shōbōgenzō*, Kim explicates hitherto underappreciated aspects of Dōgen's religion, such as the ambiguity of delusion and also of enlightenment, intricacies of negotiating the Way, the dynamic functions of emptiness, the realizational view of language, nonthinking as the essence of meditation, and a multifaceted conception of reason. Kim also responds to many recent developments in Zen studies that have arisen in both Asia and the West, especially Critical Buddhism. He brings Dōgen the meditator and Dōgen the thinker into relief. Kim's study clearly demonstrates that language, thinking, and reason constitute the essence of Dōgen's proposed Zen praxis, and that such a Zen opens up new possibilities for dialogue between Zen and contemporary thought. This fresh assessment of Dōgen's Zen represents a radical shift in our understanding of its place in the history of Buddhism.

Dogen on Meditation And Thinking: A Reflection on His View of Zen By Hee-Jin Kim Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Kim has been very successful in providing novel, innovative means of interpreting Dogen's approach to such seminal issues as meditative thinking, nonduality, illusion, language, logical thinking, and realization. A new generation of readers will be eager to learn from the 'grand master' of the field and will benefit from his insightful analysis of key passages from Dogen's collected works. This book will take its place among other prominent philosophical studies of Dogen by Masao Abe, Joan Stambaugh, and Gereon Kopf." -- Steven Heine, author of *Dogen and the Koan Tradition: A Tale of Two Shobogenzo Texts*

Kim makes sense of Dogen's puzzling grammar in lucid prose. Kim's scholarship and delivery are impeccable. *Original Mind*

By offering a creative approach to reflections about Zen through philosophical musings and weaving a path that ties together diverse themes and outlooks, Kim provides a new generation of readers who are eager to learn from the grand master of the field an insightful analysis of key passages from Dogen's collected works.

Journal of Religion

Kim's sophisticated forays into Dogen's enigmatic texts convey the sense of closing in on the essence of this thought. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*

Kim spells out his thinking with such clarity that any reader interested in making a serious effort to understand Dogen's thought will find Kim's insights indispensable. *Buddhadharma*

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From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Hee-Jin Kim is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the University of Oregon and the author of *Dogen Kigen--Mystical Realist*.

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