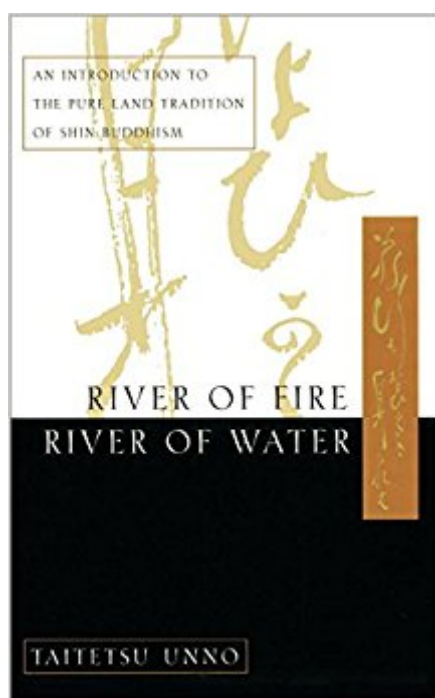


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River Of Fire, River Of Water: An Introduction To The Pure Land Tradition Of Shin Buddhism



Synopsis

With great spiritual insight and unparalleled scholarship, Dr. Taitetsu Unno--the foremost authority in the United States on Shin or Pure Land Buddhism--introduces us to the most popular form of Buddhism in Japan. Unique among the various practices of Buddhism, this "new" form of spiritual practice is certain to enrich the growing practice of Buddhism in the United States, which is already quite familiar with Zen and Tibetan traditions. *River of Fire, River of Water* is the first introduction to the practice of Pure Land Buddhism from a trade publisher and is written for readers with or without prior experience with it. The Pure Land tradition dates back to the sixth century c.e., when Buddhism was first introduced in Japan. Unlike Zen, its counterpart which flourished in remote monasteries, the Pure Land tradition was the form of Buddhism practiced by common people. Consequently, its practice is harmonious with the workings of daily life, making it easily adaptable for seekers today. Despite the difference in method, though, the goal of Pure Land is the same as other schools--the awakening of the true self. Certain to take its place alongside great works such as *Three Pillars of Zen*, *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, and *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*--*River of Fire, River of Water* is an important step forward for American Buddhism.

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Customer Reviews

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With spiritual insight and unparalleled scholarship, Dr. Taitetsu Unno - one of the foremost authorities on Shin, or Pure Land, Buddhism - introduces us to the most popular form of Buddhism in Japan. The introduction of this unique form of spiritual practice is certain to enrich the growing practice of Buddhism in the United States, which is already well familiar with Zen and Tibetan traditions. River of Fire, River of Water is the first introduction to its practice from a trade publisher and is written for readers with or without prior knowledge of Buddhism. The Japanese Pure Land and tradition dates back to the sixth century, when Buddhism was first introduced in Japan. Unlike Zen, its counterpart, which flourished in remote monasteries, Pure Land was the form of Buddhism practiced by common people. Consequently, its practice is harmonious with the workings of daily life, making it easily adaptable for seekers today. Despite differences in method, however, the goal of Pure Land is the same as that of other schools - the awakening of the true self.

I am re-reading this wonderful book. I read it through quickly the first time, excited to have found Shin Buddhism explained in a style that I could relate to. The book is written in short chapters which made the concepts seem more focused and clear. The author uses simple analogy and straightforward language to explain the deeper concepts. I read each chapter now as a prompt for sitting meditation practice. The concepts and tenets of Shin Buddhism are beautifully contained in this small and unpretentious book. It has been pivotal to my journey. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in understanding Shin Buddhism.

This book is no doubt a super interesting read, but the practice of nembutsu is never fully explained. The actual saying of namu amidha butsu and its benefits.

A wonderful introduction to Shin Buddhism. The book is very insightful.

great quality

Beautiful. The author reveals how Shin Nembutsu recitation connects one to the Reality beyond the ordinary perspectives of the mind. That Other Power will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. This is a Way of salvation through faith.

This book by far is the best in explaining Shin Buddhism and the Pure Land tradition. Also what really makes this book really nice is it isn't too complicated and has personal experience throughout it. No longer do I carry misconceptions about this wonderful tradition. This gets 5 stars and has changed a Zen Buddhist's (that's me) ideas on once thought of as lazy chanting group.

superior jodo book, one of the best. the author has intuitive insights that can only come from amida butsu (other power). this book presents a direct line - via your mind - to the reality of amida butsu.

As an American who has come to Buddhism later in life, I've had a hard time understanding and actualizing the concept of Compassion within a Buddhist context on a visceral level. Unlike other Zen and Theravada texts that I've read, Unno describes how Compassion works by using his own real-life experiences as an example. I find Unno's point-of-view to be refreshing and moreover, the basic Shin concepts that he describes, applicable to my own practice.

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