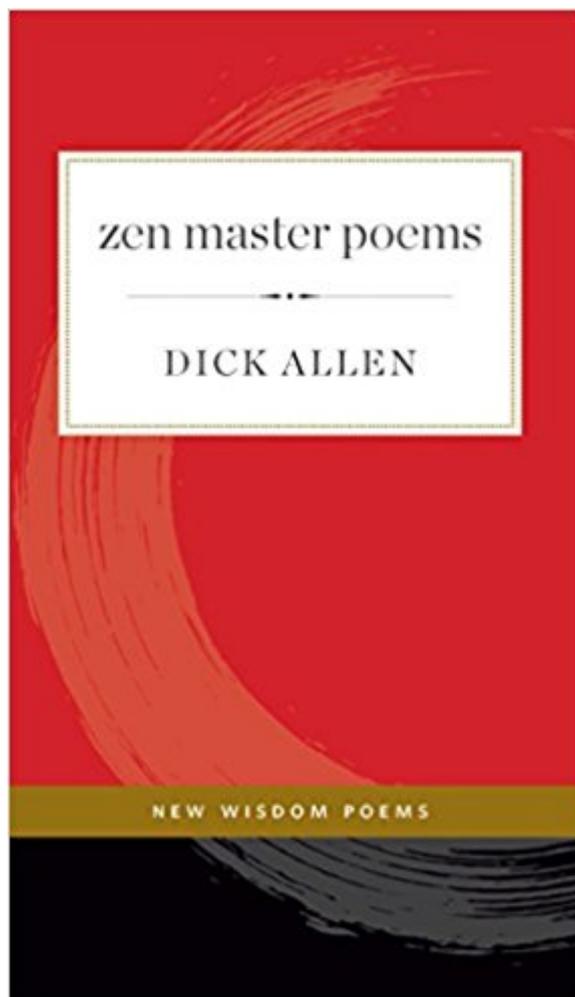


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Zen Master Poems (New Wisdom Poems)



Synopsis

A unique voice in American poetry evocative of Han Shan's Zen verses, Pablo Neruda's Book of Questions, and the writings of Jack Kerouac. What a long conversation we never had! All those rivers? we never crossed together. You so busy with your own life, I so busy with mine. Dick Allen, one of the founders of the Expansive Poetry movement, has won the Robert Frost Prize, the Hart Crane Poetry Prize, and the Pushcart Prize "among others. His work has been anthologized five times in the Best American Poetry volumes, and has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, Tricycle, The Buddhist Poetry Review, and The American Poetry Review, as well as numerous other publications. He's a former fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts, and a former Poet Laureate for the state of Connecticut, where he lives and writes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dick Allen is one with the legendary Crazy Zen masters (Hakuin, Han-Shan, Ikkyu, Basho, Ryokan) radical masters who speak in koan puzzles in order to share what is in and beyond words. His goal, that of all Buddhism, is to help us awaken and so ask with him, "how does one live calmly and with perspective in an America of media blitz and cell phone insistence? How does one lean back in a computer chair and hear temple bells ring in South Dakota?" In the poem "Not Why, but What" he opens the door to Zen. Not why, but what, that's the secret of Zen. Not because, but is: the famous cherry blossom blossoming. The meaning here is not encoded nor based on a

symbolism. A Zen poem simply means what it is. And here he leans toward a Taoist directness in pointing the way. Dismissing judgment and cause and effect, all wisdom lies in being alive to the momentary image, â œthe famous cherry blossom/ blossoming.â •He declares his hope for his own poems: â œMay a Zen Master poem here or there cause you to pause or smile or sit beside a evening lake or walk a small meandering ways down a quiet road.â •His own poetry is both spare and clear, a gift of his reading and writing for five decades in various forms. It has that ring of the ancient Zen poets who often used the letter poem to deal with relationships, as in â œWhat a Long Conversationâ •What a long conversationwe never had!All those riverswe never crossed together.You so busy with your own life,I so busy with mine.The ease and craft with which Allen deals with friendship here speaks for itself. His poems are ones you want to mark and come back to for their quiet form and comfort.

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