

D.T. Suzuki

Zen

and Japanese
culture

Zen and Japanese Culture

by Daisetz T. Suzuki

The influence of Zen Buddhism on Japanese culture and character is examined in the present work by the leading exponent and interpreter of Zen in the Western world. After a brief explanation of the development and implications of the school of Zen, Dr. Suzuki considers in detail a number of aspects of Japanese art and life which it has affected. In extended essays he explains the cult of swordsmanship (a tradition not well known in the West) and the tea ceremony, offering each time a description of techniques as well as an account of the inherent meaning. He discusses the relationship of Zen and Confucianism and the paradox of their influence on each other. *Haiku*, the shortest form of poem in world literature, is examined, and its brevity and significance are seen in relationship to Zen and the Japanese character. An essay is devoted to the Japanese love of nature and another to the role of Zen in the tradition of the Samurai. There is a section on Japanese art, a full bibliography, and an index. The volume is illustrated with sixty-nine collotype plates. It is a much enlarged revision of a work published in a limited edition in Japan in 1938.

Daisetz T. Suzuki, born in Japan in 1870, has written more than a hundred works on Zen and Buddhism both in Japanese and in English, and has taught in leading universities in Japan, Europe, and America. Early in his career he received training as a Buddhist disciple in the great Zen monastery at Kamakura. He first came to America in 1905 with his teacher, the renowned Soyen Shaku.



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AND JAPANESE CULTURE

Daisetz T. Suzuki

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