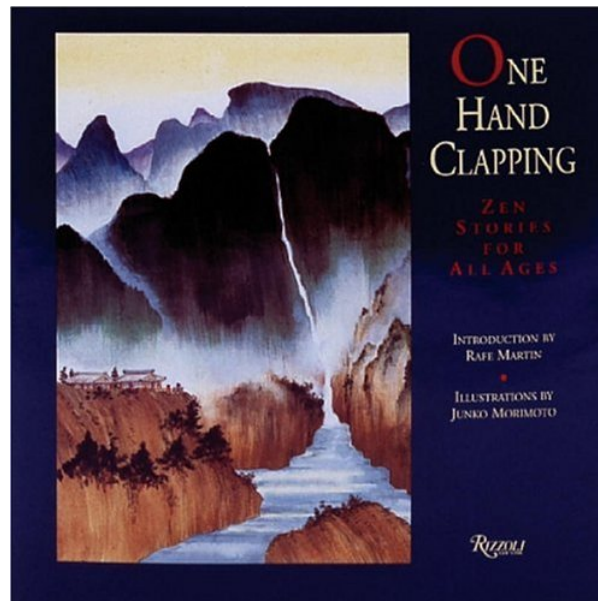


ONE HAND CLAPPING: ZEN STORIES FOR ALL AGES BY RAFE MARTIN



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From Publishers Weekly

This thought-provoking collection, designed ``for the tender heart that children and adults naturally share," provides a window onto the contemplative nature of Buddhism. The selections offer many layers of meaning for different levels of interest. Whether they concern a baby fish asking a wise old fish to explain the sea ("When you swim you reveal its presence. It's just because it's so close to you that it's very hard to see") or a would-be swordsman who must first learn patience before he learns his desired skill, the stories all illumine, stimulate, instruct and ultimately hint at ageless truths. Like beads on a necklace, the stories are strung together and unified by Morimoto's (My Hiroshima) agile illustrations. Her diverse styles range from watercolors to pen-and-ink, from charcoals to cartoons. Gracefully compiled and beautifully designed, this is a one-of-a-kind book. All ages.

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Review

"A fragrant bouquet of Zen flowers that do not talk but say so much, adapted and retold by that masterful storyteller Rafe Martin. One Hand Clapping is a book parents and children are going to enjoy sharing."-- Philip Kapleau (author, Three Pillars of Zen)

"Gentle lessons in fun stories with amusing illustrations-- this is a book that will appeal to the young of all ages."--Robert Aitken (author, The Gateless Barrier)

About the Author

Rafe Martin is an internationally known, award-winning author and storyteller. A long-time student of Zen, Rafe travels worldwide as a speaker and storyteller. His children's books include *The Boy Who Lived with the Seals* and *The Rough-face Girl*. He holds a master's degree in English Literature from the University of Toronto, and lives in Rochester, New York.

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When is a tiger not a tiger?
When is a mountain more than a mountain?
What is the sound of one hand clapping?

The stories of this collection come from the Zen Buddhist tradition-- from tales told by the Buddha himself to anecdotes from the lives of the Zen masters of China and Japan who helped pass on the Buddha's teachings. These stories reflect the wisdom, directness, and spontaneity of which Zen is known.

Zen stories delight as they challenge, enchant as they point towards a different way of seeing things. In the simple language of stories passed down over hundreds of years, this collection can point us toward our own natural Mind of wisdom, insight, peace, and compassion. They help us see past our seeming differences into what is the same for all of us.

Rafe Martin, a student of Zen for over 25 years, introduces these tales, providing both background and insight into the collection. Junko Morimoto's beautiful illustrations reflect the tranquility, wit, and power of these stories.

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- Binding: Hardcover
- 48 pages

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful, Simple & Touching Book

By chrisjr

I read this book while sitting in a book store one day after not being able to put it down. It is a compilation of simplified tales and fables from the Zen perspective. Though this is a book intended for children I think many adults would appreciate this book to and this would make a great book to read to a child. The tales are very simple yet hold a lot of deep meaning and one could think about them a long time while gleaning new insights. The illustrations are neat too. Over all a very gentle and beautiful book which I would highly recommend. I am getting a copy for my mom for Christmas!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great stories of zen.

By Ozmo Piedmont

Beautiful stories. I use them to illustrate zen teachings.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Simplest wisdom

By Hope Daly

Sometimes it's so obvious we can't see it. Coming from a Christian background, when I first bought this book, it was impossible to see the simple threads that run all through these stories: patience of the little child awaiting a persimmon, the nun being turned away and then beholding the splendor of nature itself. The stories are simple, easy to read, and deeply profound. The artwork is insightfully accomplished. Most of us have had experiences which parallel the stories, and therein lies the power of this wonderful book!

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