



## A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku and Zen

*Matsuo Basho*

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## **A Zen Wave: Basho's Haiku and Zen** Matsuo Basho

Zen Buddhism distinguishes itself by brilliant flashes of insight and its terseness of expression. The haiku verse form is a superb means of studying Zen modes of thought and expression, for its seventeen syllables impose a rigorous limitation that confines the poet to vital experience. Here haiku by Bashō are translated by Robert Aitken, with commentary that provides a new and far deeper understanding of Bashō's work than ever before.

In presenting themes from the haiku and from Zen literature that open the doors both to the poems and to Zen itself, Aitken has produced the first book about the relationship between Zen and haiku. His readers are certain to find it invaluable for the remarkable revelations it offers.

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