

THIS book of woodcuts based on brush drawings, with an illuminating introduction and commentaries on each print by Frederic Spiegelberg, is a rare and beautiful expression of the Zen style in the visual arts.

The author traces the Zen spirit from its beginnings in the commingling of Buddhism and Taoism in China between twelve hundred and fourteen hundred years ago and uses it as a key to the understanding of pictures which not only represent nature but point to the Tao.

Dr. Spiegelberg describes how man, in his search for the ultimate reality, is led by Zen to "the path of the razor's edge," where the Meaning of all meanings, the Essence of all essences, is revealed in common everyday existence, the Here and Now; where the world of eternity is to be found in the world of time.

Thus, the Zen painter shunned the grandiose and used his disciplined brush to depict a rock, the rippling surface of water, rain slanting down on a lonely cottage, each in its own "suchness."

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禪
石
水

FREDERIC SPIEGELBERG

Zen, Rocks, and Waters

INTRODUCTION BY SIR HERBERT READ

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Sixteen exquisite examples of these subjects have been chosen by Dr. Spiegelberg to illustrate his book, many of which are taken from the classical Chinese work, *The Mustard-Seed Garden*.

Frederic Spiegelberg was born in Germany. He has had a distinguished academic career in the fields of comparative religion and Far Eastern civilization in universities abroad and in the United States, and is now a professor in the Department of Asiatic Studies at Stanford University.

Dr. Spiegelberg is also the author of many books and articles. In his present work, he combines the contagious intensity of his feeling for his subject matter with an attendant understanding of its history and thus provides a stimulating, fascinating, and immediate avenue of approach to Zen and its way of experiencing and seeing.