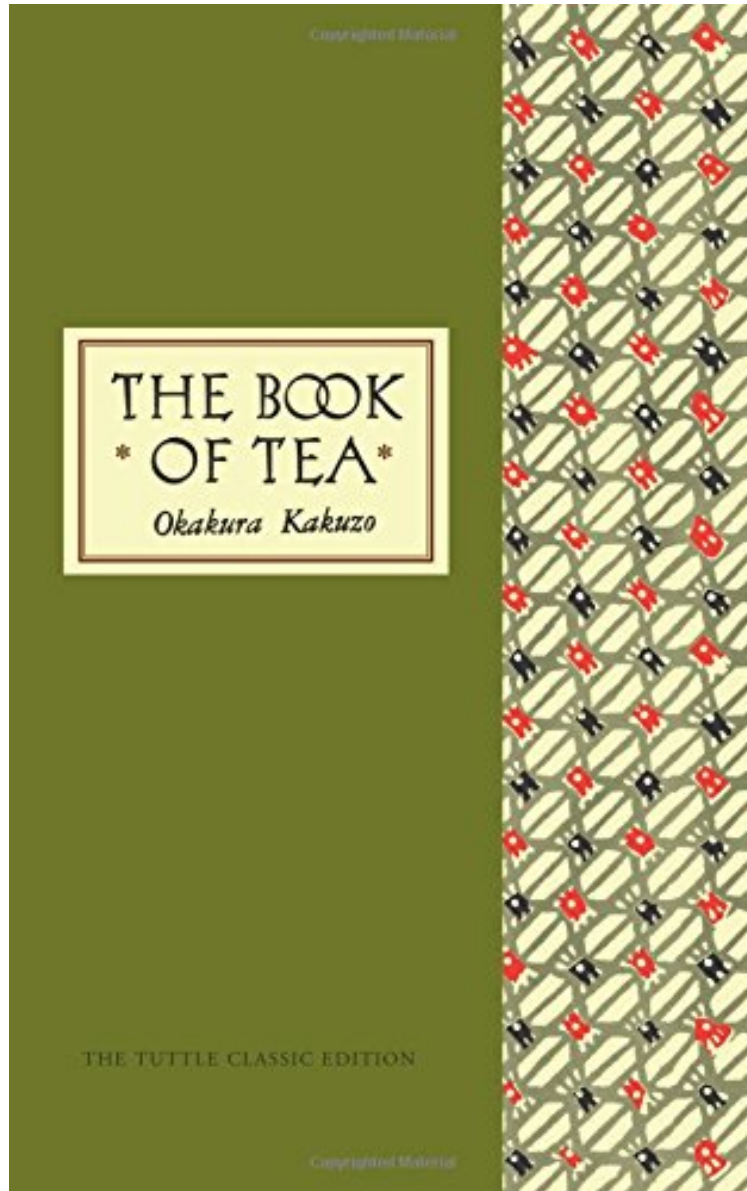


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The Book of Tea Classic Edition

Okakura Kakuzo

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Okakura Kakuzo : The Book of Tea Classic Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Tea Classic Edition:

96 of 97 people found the following review helpful. Philosophy of TeaBy JacobThis books is a quick and informative introduction to the philosophy underpinnig "Teaism". The book outlines how tea masters tried to live their lives according to the simple grace of the Japanese tea ceremony.For those looking for detailed instructions on conducting a

tea ceremony, look elsewhere. But for those who want a handbook on a way of life, read further

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Philosophy, Life, Art, Flowers, Architecture, This Moment... and Tea. Appreciation. By M. DeKalb Published in 1906, Okakuras Book of Tea espouses that tea is the foundation for a system of life, a philosophy, and its associated benefits all conspire to bring together that which is fundamental, holistically and spiritually. From Taoist and Zen upbringings, Teatism (not a typo!) comes with an admixture of the two as a world-philosophy, disposition and mindset. Being in the here and now and as Okakura writes: The whole ideal of Teatism is a result of this Zen conception of greatness in the smallest incidents of life. (308) And beyond the philosophy which is the works pertinence, we are given a glimpse of the importance of the things of everyday life and how they should be approached, also we get both an education in tea-making and architecture. Its a pretty neat, quick, read if you have any interest in Eastern Philosophy / Religion. Broken into brief segments the work includes: 1. The Cup of Humanity. 2. The Schools of Tea. 3. Taoism and Zennism. 4. The Tea Room. 5. Art Appreciation. 6. Flowers. 7. Tea-Masters. The work begins with Okakuras reaction of the end of Japanese Isolationism (mid-1600s to mid-1800s), the bemuddled feeling of the people when theyve realized that their governments xenophobia has led them to all sorts of bizarre conceptions and contrarily, that Westerners also have laid many poor misconceptions upon the Japanese people. However, the binding, humanitarian element throughout the discourse between the east and west, the thing that weaves together our humanity, has been the reverence and esteem toward good tea The white man has scoffed at our religion and our morals, but has accepted the brown beverage without hesitation. (53), since at least 1610 when the Dutch East India Company brought tea first to Europe. The second part of the work deals with the beginnings of tea. It focuses on preparation: boiled (Sang), whipped (Tong) and steeped (Ming) - (100). Okakura acknowledges that the Western world is bereft of the prior two methods because Europe entered the picture at the end of the Ming Dynasty (in China: 1368-1644). He elaborates on the preparation methods, detailing them finely and with the care one would expect of a teaist. The third segment of the book brings about a discussion regarding Taoism and its component philosophies as they relate to both enhancing characteristics of Zen and Confucianism, the major players in, then, Eastern philosophy / religion. The major tenants include: present-mindedness, laughter at absurdity, an easy demeanor and path, way, means, mode of being, existing, in the world. The fourth section puts on display the tea-room and it introduces the tea ceremony. Much time is given the architectural process and much thought put into criticizing Western architecture for using oft repeated styles and this is usually coupled with, upon strolling the inside, a lack of modesty so great as it regards material matter, that one is stricken by its indecency. Whereas the tea-room was a small, non-descript, humility begging structure, which may have one or two decorations and seat no more than usually 5 at a time. A very intimate gathering, and one full of custom as Okakura goes on to explain in the sixth section during his analysis of the use of flowers during the tea ceremony. Sections 5 and 6 are brief and deal mainly with what truly appreciating the respective titles means (art, flowers) and their usefulness and symbolism in Japanese culture, and specifically as it may relate to the tea rooms. Here is learned a snippet of some of Japans earliest competitive decorative florists: the Ikenobos (Formalistic School)! But Okakura finds that to be a topic which would be too long discussed and probably insubstantiate a work about tea. The work concludes with a summary of how a tea-master lives his life and directs his abilities. There is found here much accreditation, justly due, to the inventions of Japans tea-masters. Quotes: Teatism is a cult founded on the adoration of the beautiful among the sordid facts of everyday existence. (3) scarcely any attention has been drawn to Teatism, which represents so much of our Art of Life. (24) Teatism is the art of concealing beauty that you may discover it, of suggesting what you dare not reveal. (78) Teatism was Taoism in disguise. (192) People are not taught to be really virtuous, but to behave properly. We are wicked because we are frightfully self-conscious. (229) How can one be serious with the world when the world itself is so ridiculous! (231) But, after all, we see only our own image in the universe, - our particular idiosyncrasies dictate the mode of our perceptions. (505) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book about beauty of the moment By Abigail Holmes I love this book! It is not only a guide through history of tea, but a guide through the history of humanity, history of the relation between East and West and its values. The way it is written is poetic but it is still showing what the main differences between East and West are and how we are unable to understand the beauty of the moment, the beauty of present time, which is in the center of the tea ceremony. Western people are so determined to stick to their past and trying so hard to conquer their future that they forget to enjoy the only time they really can feel, the only time in which they can do something: the present time.

Now available in a gorgeous hardcover slipcase edition, this "object d'art" will be sure to add grace and elegance to tea shelves, coffee tables and bookshelves. A keepsake enjoyed by tea lovers for over a hundred years, The Book of Tea Classic Edition will enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the seemingly simple act of making and drinking tea. In 1906 in turn-of-the-century Boston, a small, esoteric book about tea was written with the intention of being read aloud in the famous salon of Isabella Gardner, Boston's most famous socialite. It was authored by Okakura Kakuzo, a Japanese philosopher, art expert, and curator. Little known at the time, Kakuzo would emerge as one of the great thinkers of the early 20th century, a genius who was insightful, witty and greatly responsible for bridging Western and Eastern cultures. Okakura had been taught at a young age to speak English and was more than capable of expressing to

Westerners the nuances of tea and the Japanese Tea Ceremony. In *The Book of Tea Classic Edition* he discusses such topics as Zen and Taoism, but also the secular aspects of tea and Japanese life. The book emphasizes how Teism taught the Japanese many things; most importantly, simplicity. Kakuzo argues that tea-induced simplicity affected the culture, art and architecture of Japan. Nearly a century later, Kakuzo's *The Book of Tea Classic Edition* is still beloved the world over, making it an essential part of any tea enthusiast's collection. Interwoven with a rich history of Japanese tea and its place in Japanese society is poignant commentary on Asian culture and our ongoing fascination with it, as well as illuminating essays on art, spirituality, poetry, and more. *The Book of Tea Classic Edition* is a delightful cup of enlightenment from a man far ahead of his time.

.com That a nation should construct one of its most resonant national ceremonies round a cup of tea will surely strike a chord of sympathy with at least some readers of this review. To many foreigners, nothing is so quintessentially Japanese as the tea ceremony--more properly, "the way of tea"--with its austerity, its extravagantly minimalist stylization, and its concentration of extreme subtleties of meaning into the simplest of actions. *The Book of Tea* is something of a curiosity: written in English by a Japanese scholar (and issued here in bilingual form), it was first published in 1906, in the wake of the naval victory over Russia with which Japan asserted its rapidly acquired status as a world-class military power. It was a peak moment of Westernization within Japan. Clearly, behind the publication was an agenda, or at least a mission to explain. Around its account of the ceremony, *The Book of Tea* folds an explication of the philosophy, first Taoist, later Zen Buddhist, that informs its oblique celebration of simplicity and directness--what Okakura calls, in a telling phrase, "moral geometry." And the ceremony itself? Its greatest practitioners have always been philosophers, but also artists, connoisseurs, collectors, gardeners, calligraphers, gourmets, flower arrangers. The greatest of them, Sen Rikyu, left a teasingly, maddeningly simple set of rules: Make a delicious bowl of tea; lay the charcoal so that it heats the water; arrange the flowers as they are in the field; in summer suggest coolness; in winter, warmth; do everything ahead of time; prepare for rain; and give those with whom you find yourself every consideration. A disciple remarked that this seemed elementary. Rikyu replied, "Then if you can host a tea gathering without deviating from any of the rules I have just stated, I will become your disciple." A Zen reply. Fascinating. --Robin Davidson, .co.uk "In some ways, times haven't changed much in the 99 years since Kakuzo Okakura, the Japanese aesthete, gifted the local elite of Boston with his now-legendary explication of the beauties of the tea ceremony, *The Book of Tea*." Elle Decor "Originally written to be read aloud by the author at Isabella Stewart Gardner's famous salon in 1906, the book focuses on the culture that has engendered the mind of tea and on the Masters who embody this spirit." Gourmet Retailer From the Inside Flap This modern classic invites the reader to discover a unique tradition that has come to symbolize the wisdom, beauty, and the elegant simplicity of Asian culture. The author celebrates the Way of Tea from its ancient origins in Chinese Taoism to its culmination in the Zen discipline known as the Japanese tea ceremony?an enchanting practice bringing together such arts as architecture, pottery, and flower arranging to create an experience that delights the senses, calms the mind, and refreshes the spirit. Tea was first used as a medicine and an alchemical elixir by the ancient Chinese Taoists, who praised its spiritual powers. Buddhist monks made drinking tea part of a tradition honoring the founder of Zen; this ritual was later refined in the performance of the Japanese tea ceremony as a meditative practice. *The Book of Tea* describes the rich aesthetic of Asian culture through the history, philosophy, and practice of brewing and drinking tea. This edition contains an introduction by Sam Hamill that provides historical insight into the significance of the tea ceremony within Zen Buddhism.