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Brad Warner

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Brad Warner : Don't Be a Jerk: And Other Practical Advice from Dogen, Japan's Greatest Zen Master before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Don't Be a Jerk: And Other Practical Advice from Dogen, Japan's Greatest Zen Master:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I like most of Brad's stuffBy CustomerI like most of Brad's stuff, but

have criticised one or two of his books before. But this is a great book. Like others that have reviewed it, I have tried to read Dogen before and given up. This book was a godsend. I'm glad it has sold well so Brad will be able to write the other 3 he plans on writing about Dogen's works. Now if he would do a translation like this of the Lankavatara Sutra...15 of 17 people found the following review helpful. ShoboGONZO By Jundo Cohen I am pretty impressed and tickled by the whole thing. This book is just a brilliant interpretation. As he says, it is not meant as a line by line rewriting, and more of a quick thumb nail glimpse with a good bit of humor and fairly free interpretation. Nonetheless, Brad manages to convey the heart and sense of each passage. Just wonderful, a takes a kind of genius to pull this off. I think what he has done is just a blast and really funny too, while still being poignant and amazing. I think it still helps that I am already pretty familiar with the standard English translations that he is playing off though, so It may still be a little hard to follow for folks not so familiar with Dogen pretty well (and hard to follow anyway even if you are because, well, Dogen is Dogen even when Bradicized). However, this book may still be one of the best first introductions to Dogen I can think of. I think the book is suited to anyone interested in Dogen, and easy reading overall, funny, insightful and amazing. He did his historical homework too and did a masterful job. Parts are hilarious, including how he took all of Dogen's classical style poetry and made em cheezy rhymes! Gassho, Jundo 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Modern Dogen By Thomas R Leitke I appreciate this book. It acts as a gateway to liking Dogen as a contemporary. I used to like him as a mystic poet and infathomable paradox, which he may not have even been. The historical Dogen seems much more pragmatic and sincere with his intent to educate us and help us grow than the mystical poet of my imagination. This book helps to do to Shobogenzo what Richard Feynman did to physics; if you can't explain it in a way that a normal person can understand, then you probably don't really understand it. I think Warner has a well lived understanding of Dogen's ideas and the attitude of zen from his teacher(s) and it help to ground me in practice and understanding as well. Thanks to Brad and enjoy to those of you looking for a fresh way to practice reading Shobogenzo.

A Radical but Reverent Paraphrasing of Dogens Treasury of the True Dharma Eye Even if the whole universe is nothing but a bunch of jerks doing all kinds of jerk-type things, there is still liberation in simply not being a jerk. Eihei Dogen (1200-1253 CE) The Shobogenzo (The Treasury of the True Dharma Eye) is a revered eight-hundred-year-old Zen Buddhism classic written by the Japanese monk Eihei Dogen. Despite the timeless wisdom of his teachings, many consider the book difficult to understand and daunting to read. In *Dont Be a Jerk*, Zen priest and bestselling author Brad Warner, through accessible paraphrasing and incisive commentary, applies Dogens teachings to modern times. While entertaining and sometimes irreverent, Warner is also an astute scholar who sees in Dogen very modern psychological concepts, as well as insights on such topics as feminism and reincarnation. Warner even shows that Dogen offered a Middle Way in the currently raging debate between science and religion. For curious readers worried that Dogens teachings are too philosophically opaque, *Dont Be a Jerk* is hilarious, understandable, and wise.

A delightful blend of irreverent everydayness, precise scholarship, and heartfelt commitment to practice, *Dont Be a Jerk* is just the kind of book to stub your toe on. Stephen Batchelor, author of *After Buddhism* Warner renders the esoteric [Shobogenzo] into a fun, readable text, conveying its spirit with humor and deep respect. Publishers Weekly "What's clear in reading Warner's book is his deep respect and lifelong engagement with Dogen. I have spent decades of my own life trying to unpack this 800-year-old voice from medieval Japan because, behind all the paradox and poetry, something powerful seems to shine through. So while Warner's approach to Dogen may be unorthodox, its freshness might be exactly what the doctor ordered for anyone wanting a way in to the old monk's still fresh perspective." Adam Frank, 13.7 blog, NPR.org Each chapter opens with a passage from the original, which is then carefully and often humorously unpacked. The book provides plenty of resources in case readers want to subsequently dive into the original work, and Warner clearly explains why he chose some words over others. His tone is direct and engaging, and his paraphrases bring Dogens thoughts to life for a modern audience. Although the tone may be irreverent and humorous, the book shows the utmost respect for the monk, who has influenced so many over the centuries. Booklist You couldnt ask for a better guide through *The Treasury of the Right Dharma Eye*. A most warmly recommended read! Nexus Magazine, Germany