



# **Cyber Zen: Imagining Authentic Buddhist Identity, Community and Practices in the Virtual World of Second Life (Media, Religion and Culture)**

*Gregory Price Grieve*

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*Digital Zen* argues that, on a pragmatic level, digital religious practice in virtual worlds such as Second Life affords isolated and solitary practitioners a Buddhist community, if only a virtual one. It argues that much contemporary popular religious practice is a creative protest against, and also a product of, the suffering produced by the desires of living in late capitalism and an intensification of the free market, globalization, and consumerism. Examining Anglo-Buddhism's conceptions of self, practice, and community, *Digital Zen* makes the case that participants in this virtual world have developed a form of religion that allows them to flourish in a late capitalistic society.

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