



# Zen Words for the Heart: Hakuin's Commentary on the Heart Sutra

*Norman Waddell*

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## **Zen Words for the Heart: Hakuin's Commentary on the Heart Sutra** Norman Waddell

Hakuin Zenji (1689-1769) was one of the most important of all Japanese Zen masters. His commentary on the *Heart Sutra* is a Zen classic that reflects his dynamic teaching style, with its balance of scathing wit and poetic illumination of the text. Hakuin's sarcasm, irony, and invective are ultimately guided by a compassion that seeks to dislodge students' false assumptions and free them to realize the profound meaning of the *Heart Sutra* for themselves. The text is illustrated with Hakuin's own calligraphy and brush drawings.

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