

# Ordination, Love, and Monastic Zen in Japan: An Intimate Exploration of a Hidden World



## Bow First, Ask Questions Later: Ordination, Love, and Monastic Zen in Japan by Gesshin Claire Greenwood

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2254 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 232 pages



Ordination, Love, and Monastic Zen in Japan is a groundbreaking work that provides an intimate look into the hidden world of Zen monasticism in Japan. It offers a comprehensive exploration of the ordination process, the lives of monastics, and the rituals and ceremonies that shape their spiritual practice. Through detailed descriptions and personal narratives, this book brings readers into the heart of Zen Buddhist monasteries, revealing the profound spiritual journey that unfolds within their sacred walls.

## The Ordination Process: A Journey of Transformation



Ordination is a sacred ritual that marks the beginning of a monastic's spiritual journey. In Japan, ordination is a complex and rigorous process that involves multiple stages and ceremonies. Ordination, Love, and Monastic Zen in Japan provides a step-by-step account of the ordination process, from the initial inquiry to the final vows and robes.

The book explores the motivations that lead people to choose the monastic path, the challenges they face during their training, and the profound transformation they undergo as they embrace the monastic life. Through interviews with Zen masters and monastics, the book offers a unique

perspective on the inner workings of the ordination process and its significance in the lives of those who undertake it.

## **The Monastic Life: A Path of Devotion and Discipline**



The monastic life is a path of devotion, discipline, and spiritual growth. *Ordination, Love, and Monastic Zen in Japan* provides a detailed account of the daily life of Zen monastics, from their morning rituals to their evening meditation sessions. The book explores the practices that shape their spiritual development, including meditation, chanting, and sutra study.

It also examines the challenges and rewards of living in a monastic community, the relationships between monastics, and the role of the Zen master in guiding and supporting their spiritual journey. Through personal

narratives and observations, the book offers a nuanced understanding of the monastic life and its impact on the individual and the community.

## **Love and Relationships in the Monastic World**



One of the most striking aspects of *Ordination, Love, and Monastic Zen in Japan* is its exploration of love and relationships in the monastic world. Traditionally, Zen monasteries have been seen as places of celibacy and

renunciation. However, the book reveals a more complex and nuanced reality, where love and compassion play a vital role in the lives of monastics.

The book explores the different forms of love that exist within the monastic community, from the deep affection between 師匠 (shijo, Zen master) and 弟子 (deshi, disciple) to the bonds of friendship and support among sesama monastics. It also examines the challenges and opportunities that arise when monastics navigate their relationships with the outside world, including their families and loved ones.



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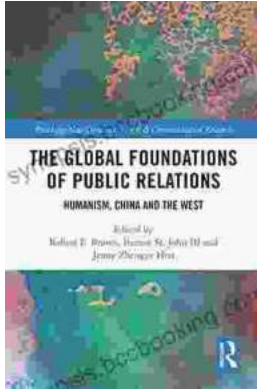
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