
The Saga of Zen History & the Power of Legend

“With a few notable exceptions, until now books on the history of Zen have generally been one of two types. On the one hand, there are “insider” hagiographic narratives written by and for Zen practitioners who strive to emulate the Ancestors of the Zen tradition. On the other hand, there are “outsider” critical histories written by scholars who aim to debunk those traditional narratives as fabrications based on ulterior motives such as desire for political power and institutional prestige. John Maraldo has provided us with a meticulously researched and philosophically astute book that opens up a middle way. In making a compelling case for treating Zen lore as a compilation of liberating legends rather than as literalistic assertions of historical facts, this book has the potential to inaugurate a paradigm shift toward a both serious and sincere—rather than either naïve or cynical—study of Zen history.”

— Bret W. Davis
Loyola University Maryland

“This book exudes a clarity of mind that comes from thoughtful historical and philosophical study propelled by profound existential interests. In setting that example, *The Saga of Zen History and the Power of Legend* constitutes an important challenge to those of us who take Zen seriously in our study and/or our practice—a challenge to deepen the self-understanding that shapes what we do and how we do it.”

— Dale Wright
Professor emeritus, Occidental College

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JOHN MARALDO is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of North Florida. He was a visiting professor at Kyoto University and the Catholic University of Leuven, and held the Roche Chair in Interreligious Research at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture from 2008 to 2009. His works include *Der hermeneutische Zirkel*, *The Piety of Thinking* (a co-translation and study of Heidegger), the co-edited collections *Rude Awakenings: Zen, the Kyoto School, & the Question of Nationalism* and *Japanese Philosophy: A Sourcebook*, and *Japanese Philosophy in the Making* vols. 1 and 2.

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Maraldo ◦ THE SAGA OF ZEN HISTORY & THE POWER OF LEGEND



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John C. Maraldo

禪史の物語

