


The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics

Robert Aitken

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics

Robert Aitken

The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics Robert Aitken

In *Taking the Path of Zen*, Robert Aitken provided a concise guide to zazen (Zen meditation) and other aspects of the practice of Zen. In *The Mind of Clover* he addresses the world beyond the zazen cushions, illuminating issues of appropriate personal and social action through an exploration of the philosophical complexities of Zen ethics.

Aitken's approach is clear and sure as he shows how our minds can be as nurturing as clover, which enriches the soil and benefits the environment as it grows. The opening chapters discuss the Ten Grave Precepts of Zen, which, Aitken points out, are "not commandments etched in stone but expressions of inspiration written in something more fluid than water." Aitken approaches these precepts, the core of Zen ethics, from several perspectives, offering many layers of interpretation. Like ripples in a pond, the circles of his interpretation increasingly widen, and he expands his focus to confront corporate theft and oppression, the role of women in Zen and society, abortion, nuclear war, pollution of the environment, and other concerns.

The Mind of Clover champions the cause of personal responsibility in modern society, encouraging nonviolent activism based on clear convictions. It is a guide that engages, that invites us to realize our own potential for confident and responsible action.

The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics Details

Date : Published January 1st 1982 by North Point Press

ISBN : 9780865471580

Author : Robert Aitken

Format : Paperback 202 pages

Genre : Religion, Buddhism, Zen, Philosophy, Nonfiction, Spirituality

 [Download The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics Robert Aitken

From Reader Review The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics for online ebook

Annette says

One of the best books of Zen.

Manny says

Very deep. I got a lot out of it, but I knew I'd be re-reading it right after I finishing. I'd recommend this to anyone interested in morality,/ethics, or their place in the world.

Jan van Leent says

“The Mind of Clover – Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics” starts with chapters on the ten precepts for Buddhist.

In the chapter on the second precept "Not Stealing", Robert Aitken cites Unto Tahtinen:

"There are two ways of avoiding war: one way is to satisfy everyone's desire, the other way is to content oneself with the good. The former is not possible due to the limitations of the world and therefore there remains this second alternative of contentment"

And then he cites Mahatma Gandhi:

"In India we have many millions of people who have to be satisfied with only one meal a day. This meal consists of a chapati containing no fat and a pinch of salt. You and I have no right to anything until these millions of people are better fed and clothed. You and I ought to know better and adjust our wants, and even undergo voluntarily starvation in order that they may be nursed, fed and clothed."

So true in our contemporary Western world full of abundance.

This small books continues with essays on the Mind, and Robert Aitken cites from the Diamond Sutra:

“Don’t dwell upon colours to bring forth the Mind, don’t dwell upon phenomena of sound, smell, taste or touch to bring forth the Mind; dwell nowhere and bring forth that Mind”.

So true: Always at home, nowhere lost.

Highly recommended.

Kasey Jueds says

It took me so long to finish this because I read it so slowly... so much to absorb, in the best way.

Compassionate, wise, moving, down-to-earth.

Mike says

Just the ticket.

Vicki Dotson says

It provides a good discussion of the Buddhist precepts.

Walter Burton says

Good source of how to interpret and apply Buddha's Precept in our daily life.

Sophia Dunn says

A book to be read over and over; to read in small chunks and spend time reflecting. This book is simply, clearly inspirational. It will encourage and inspire your practice at its core.
