

Zen Resources That Have Been Key

By Kevin A. Sensenig

Draft 1.08

2019 December 28 – 2020 August 16

The following books have been key to my Zen development, as study, insight, material, and realization, along with zazen, the everyday realization and practice of Zen, and just this world. Zazen was important, essential, and a very real space itself.

The Gateless Barrier: Zen Comments On The Mumonkan by Zenkei Shibayama.

Zen Training: Methods And Philosophy by Katsuki Sekida.

Two Zen Classics by Katsuki Sekida.

Shobogenzo by Dogen translated by Nishijima and Cross. (I've read select essays.) Now available on Amazon at www.amazon.com; it appears they bought the original publisher, and all four books are now again in print, in the same format.

A Study Of Dogen: His Philosophy And Religion by Masao Abe. (I haven't completed this.)

Fundamental Wisdom Of The Middle Way by Nagarjuna translated by Nishijima. (I haven't completed this.)

The Diamond Sutra And The Sutra Of Hui-neng translated by A. F. Price and Wong Mou-lam. (I've now studied the Diamond Sutra with some attention, and worked with and reflected on it – and diamond-penetrating it is. I continue to work with it.)

The Lankavatara Sutra translated by D. T. Suzuki. (The full length version. This is available on the web. The full length version enunciates some things more clearly that I needed, particularly discriminating mind and its factors and antidote, that Goddard's epitomized version doesn't, in the same way at least. Goddard's version, nevertheless, has been significant in its own way, and is important. I haven't yet finished the D. T. Suzuki translation.)

Early on I worked with *Zen Flesh Zen Bones* compiled by Reys and Senzaki, and this with zazen was to me black steel plate; but I needed to penetrate the matter with these other resources, and zazen, and the everyday, as part of an unfolding practice. Included also was/is The Four Noble Truths, and the Eightfold Noble Path (right understanding or view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right awareness, right concentration).

I now feel that I 1) have realized a significant amount, and penetrated the matter to this or that degree; and 2) can penetrate the matter much more deeply; and 3) have been probing and can now really probe, am in a position to probe more deeply, Zen, and this very world – but that is just a continuation of the

Zen Resources That Have Been Key

Page 1 of 3

path I've been on. And that includes society and the social-relational, and the natural. But to realize "This whole world is Suchness." for instance was useful. And then I was able to further work with The Diamond Sutra. And, 'Being-Time' (Uji) by Dogen; and other of Dogen's work. Etc. It just unfolds, even in mind and awareness now!

I'm now paying particular attention to the Diamond Sutra and Dogen, with others also part of the picture. But these above are my key resources.

It is through working primarily from a Rinzai stance that I can now appreciate Dogen, and Masao Abe's comments! And I can appreciate Rinzai Zen even more, over time, too.

And this had some useful and key material:

The Logic Of Faith: A Buddhist Approach To Finding Certainty Beyond Belief And Doubt by Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel.

The following is becoming a key book:

Moon By The Window by Shodo Harada.

This seems to be another exceptional translation of The Diamond Sutra; it includes extensive commentary and Buddhist principles:

The Diamond Sutra translated and with commentary by Red Pine.

The following is key:

The Flower Ornament Scripture: A Translation Of The Avatamsaka Sutra translated by Thomas Cleary.

The Book Of Rinzai: The Recorded Sayings Of Zen Master Rinzai translated by Eido Shimano.
Available at <https://zenstudies.org/teachings/our-books/> and other places.

For the Tao Te Ching:

Tao Te Ching by Lao-Tzu translated by Stephen Mitchell.

Tao Te Ching by Lao-Tzu translated by Ursula K. Le Guin.

Tao Te Ching by Lao-Tzu translated by James Legge.

Specific essays by Dogen that I've worked with somewhat, and to great value:

Shobogenzo Uji (Being-Time) translated by Eido Shimano Roshi (Charles Vacher translated this into French, in parallel, in the same book).

Shobogenzo Zenki translated by Nishijima and Cross. "All Functions".

Shobogenzo Bendowa translated by Nishijima and Cross. "A Talk About Pursuing The Truth".

Shobogenzo Maka-Hannya-Haramitsu translated by Nishijima and Cross. The Heart Sutra of the Maha-Prajna-Paramita.

This has useful material:

The Buddha's Teaching On Social And Communal Harmony edited by Bhikkhu Bodhi.

The following might be an interesting book, too, dunno:

The Zen Of You And Me: How To Get Along With Just About Anyone by Diane Musho Hamilton.