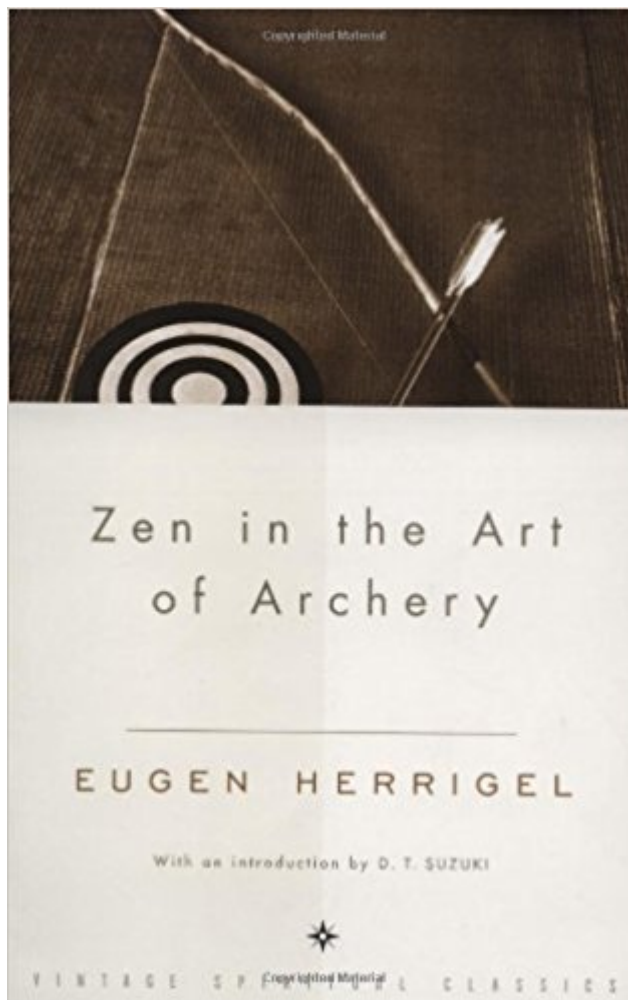


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# Zen In The Art Of Archery



## Synopsis

A classic work on Eastern philosophy, *Zen in the Art of Archery* is a charming and deeply illuminating story of one man's experience with Zen. Eugen Herrigel, a German professor of Philosophy in Tokyo, took up the study of archery as a step toward an understanding of Zen Buddhism. This book is the account of the six years he spent as a student of one of Japan's great kyudo (archery) masters, and of how he gradually overcame his initial inhibitions and began to feel his way toward new truths and ways of seeing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So many books have been written about the meditation side of Zen and the everyday, chop wood/carry water side of Zen. But few books have approached Zen the way that most Japanese actually do--through ritualized arts of discipline and beauty--and perhaps that is why Eugen Herrigel's *Zen in the Art of Archery* is still popular so long after its first publication in 1953. Herrigel, a philosophy professor, spent six years studying archery and flower-arranging in Japan, practicing every day, and struggling with foreign notions such as "eyes that hear and ears that see." In a short, pithy narrative, he brings the heart of Zen to perfect clarity--intuition, imitation, practice, practice, practice, then, boom, wondrous spontaneity fusing self and art, mind, body, and spirit. Herrigel writes with an attention to subtle profundity and relates it with a simple artistry that itself carries the signature of Zen. --Brian Bruya --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In this wonderful . . . and illuminating account . . . the Western reader will find a more

familiar manner of dealing with what very often must seem to be a strange and somewhat unapproachable Eastern experience. — from the introduction by Daisetz T. Suzuki

This is a beautiful older book, written in the 1950's about a scholar's experience learning archery from a Zen master. It is a beautifully written book, and documents the scholar's growing understanding of a philosophy that can not be taught in words, but only through experience. I am a beginning archer, and I found the book very beautiful. It reminded me how the learning is all part of the experience. If you like this book, take a look at Zen archery masters on YouTube; it's almost supernatural.

If you have any pursuits leaning towards the practice and improvement of physical activities... sports, martial arts, archery or a multitude of other things you should read this book. It is not just about the author's experience in Japan but how our minds can so effectively be trained just like our bodies can be to perform at high level. Like Morpheus speaks of Neo "There is a difference between knowing the path and walking the path". This is very quick read that is both insightful and practical in aligning what you know you can do and doing it every time it needs to be done.

The idea and thought is wonderful - for anyone curious about beyond what it is immediately presented as daily life. But the translation is horrible - for such a small book, the precise and succinct wording is of utter importance - the translation failed to do that and more. The book in itself is worthy the while - you just have to bear through the layered and often erroneous text to get to the jewel.

Eugen Herrigel is one of the few Zen students that actually received his enlightenment, which is the spiritual catastrophe. He wrote about this in his other work, the method of Zen, which goes even deeper than this work.

It's a good book but be a good reader. The prose is in the style of mid-century European. Add to that the difficulty in understanding some of the dialog between the two main characters. However if you can get through it then you'll have great insight into Zen, one of the elements of the Buddhists eightfold path. And when you are done you can ponder how a man like Herrigel, so passionate about a basic tenet of Buddhist thought, could end up a devoted Nazi. Buy it.

I was reading a book about motorcycle riding and in the book was a mention of this book, so I was

curious to read this book. I enjoyed the information in the reading.

A classic book, this is one of my favorite graduation gifts for high school students. I should read it more often myself!

This is a very thought-provoking and poetic book. I am an observant Jew, and a classically trained violinist, and found that looking at my art from a very different perspective (through Buddhism and archery) has really expanded my view of many concepts associated with classical music, and even life in general. Definitely a great read for deep thinkers! Favorite quote: “For them [Japanese Masters] the contest consists in the archer aiming at himself - and yet not at himself, in hitting himself and yet not himself, and thus becoming simultaneously the aimer and the aim, the hitter and the hit.” (5) ~Aviva, 19

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