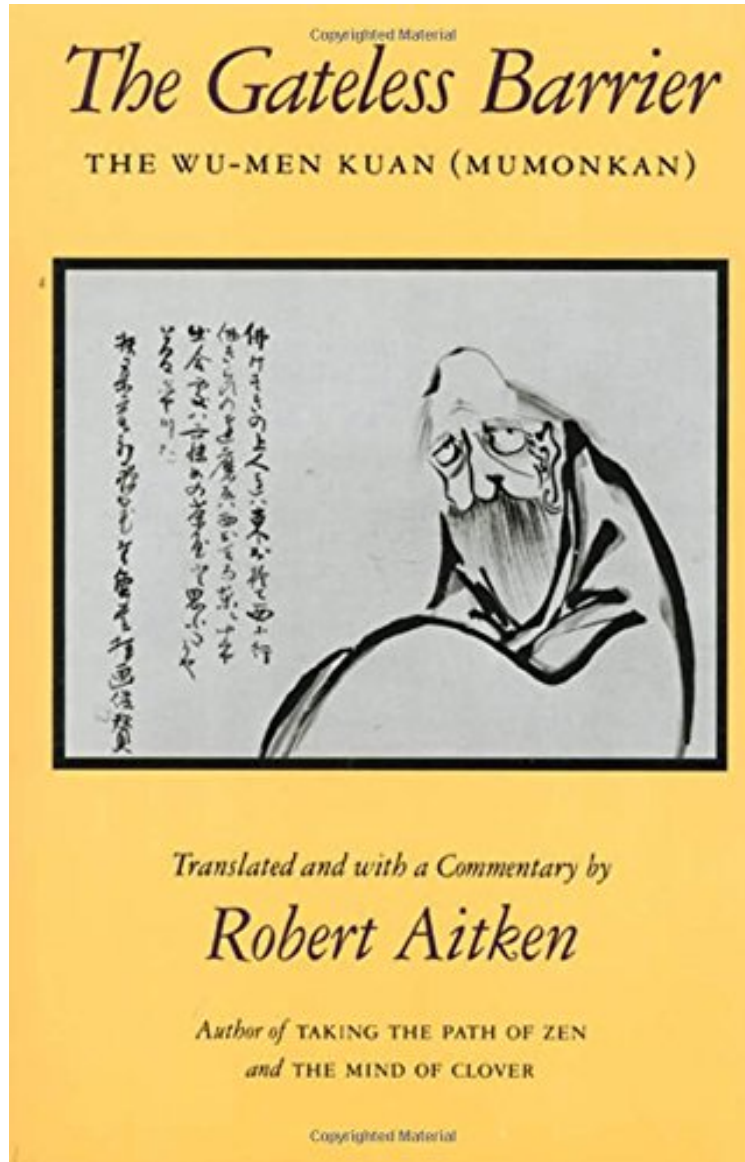


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## The Gateless Barrier: The Wu-Men Kuan (Mumonkan)

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**From Brand: North Point Press : The Gateless Barrier: The Wu-Men Kuan (Mumonkan)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gateless Barrier: The Wu-Men Kuan (Mumonkan):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An absolutely wonderful book for Zen practitioners who are working on koans By Middle aged reader An absolutely wonderful book for Zen practitioners who are working on koans. It probably is a bit too specific for a reader just wanting to get introduced to Zen and koans, but I'd say it's

virtually essential reading for those who are practicing Zen and working on koans. I will read and re-read this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love the bookBy CustomerI love the book, I should say. However, this otherwise new copy had a cover that was badly cut - uneven and hanging over...It's my first book purchase, and I did not realize they were selling "seconds".0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Mike Scron-LeeEverything was great! Super service!

The Gateless Barrier is generally acknowledged to be the fundamental koan collection in the literature of Zen. Gathered together by Wu-men (Mumon), a thirteenth-century master of the Lin-chi (Rinzai) school, it is composed of forty-eight koans, or cases, each accompanied by a brief comment and poem by Wu-men. Robert Aitken, one of the premier American Zen masters, has translated Wu-men's text, supplementing the original with his own commentary -- the first such commentary by a Western master -- making the profound truths of Zen Buddhism accessible to serious contemporary students and relevant to current social concerns.

From Library JournalThe Mumonkan is a classic Zen text consisting of 48 koans collected by Wu-men, a Chinese master who lived in the 13th century. This fresh translation and commentary by Aitken, a prominent American Zen master, is striking in its evidence of careful scholarship and attention to the problems of translation. In contrast to Zenkei Shibayama's Zen Comments on the Mumonkan ( LJ 4/15/74), Aitken's commentaries more carefully maintain a feeling of Zen "non" sense in addressing the content of the cases, yet his historical explications nicely place the text in perspective for the uninitiated reader. This translation belongs alongside other editions in collections with a particular interest in Zen. For those with a more marginal interest, this would only be appropriate as an enhancement to more basic works on the subject.- Mark Woodhouse, Gan nett-Tripp Lib., Elmira Coll., N.Y. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. Aitken Roshi poses these koans in a manner accessible to Westerners through his depiction of his personal struggles with them (as a student) and his approach to them as a teacher. His commentary allows the transformative power of this traditional koan collection to come alive for modern students. Joko Beck, author of Everyday Zen[Aiken] has cultivated the moon of Zen for over half a century. I trust the rich and juicy harvest . The Gateless Barrier will be the door to open the Treasure House which has neither inside nor outside. Hakuyu Taizan Maezumi, Abbot, Zen Center of Los AngelesLanguage NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese