

150 Zen Saying from The Grapes of Wrath

メタデータ	言語: eng 出版者: 公開日: 2015-06-04 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: Shigematsu, Soiku メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	https://doi.org/10.14945/00008660

150 Zen Sayings from *The Grapes of Wrath*

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I have picked out 150 Zen expressions from John Steinbeck's masterpiece, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and capped each of them with a Zen saying chosen from my book, *A Zen Forest: Sayings of the Masters* (New York & Tokyo: Weatherhill, 1981), an English translation of the capping-phrase book called the *Zenrin Kushū*, which was compiled in the late fifteenth century by a Japanese Zen master, Tōyō Eichō. To explain and to clarify, however, the Zen viewpoint in each quotation from the Steinbeck's work, I have often tried to pick one with the same or a similar connotation.

The number put at the end of each quotation indicates that of the page in the Viking edition of *The Grapes of Wrath* (The Viking Critical Library, 1972) I have used for this work, and I have arranged the quotations in page order. To some of them I have added one or more quotations of the same kind from elsewhere in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Those capping phrases which have an italicized number at the end are from *A Zen Forest* and refer to the phrase numbers there, while those without numbers are from my forthcoming translation of secular Zen sayings.

To make each extract an independent saying, I have not always followed the strictly academic system of quotation; but, needless to say, I have left the wording as it is, even the slangy and ungrammatical expressions being untouched.

For further detailed information regarding the *Zenrin Kushū*, Zen sayings, and capping phrases, see my introduction to *A Zen Forest*,

where I have explained these in detail.

This piece of work follows my earlier "100 Zen Sayings from *The Old Man and the Sea*" as part of my research into "Zen in American Literature" and has been carried out with the assistance of a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, to which I would like to express my deepest gratitude.