

## *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji: The Life of Zen Master Keido Fukushima*



Readers interested in Buddhism and Zen will consider it a rare treat to find a new book that:

- ❖ Offers an intimate look into the life, mind, art, and spirit of a great living Zen master;
- ❖ Reveals the concepts and practices that guide followers of what D.T. Suzuki has called the “true Zen,” which is not the Westernized and adapted Zen of popular fads;
- ❖ Approaches Zen, often thought to be a complex and inscrutable system of ideas, through easily understandable stories, dialogues, and narratives; and
- ❖ Involves us in a compelling story of one man’s spiritual development, in which we can share in his abundant love, laughter, and boundless respect for life’s deepest meanings.

Roshi Keido Fukushima is recognized as a master *koan* trainer and calligrapher. His penetrating insight has awakened many disciples to an awareness of Zen. The Roshi is the current Abbot of Tofukuji temple-monastery in Kyoto, Japan. (*Koans* are questions that are an important part of training the mind in Rinzai Zen.) Combining the central teachings of Roshi Fukushima’s Zen with illuminating biographical details, this book serves both as a wonderfully fresh introduction to Zen for Western readers and a compelling biography which never fails to convey the radiant spirit of one of the most remarkable spiritual masters of our time. In these pages we see deeply into the Zen tradition and we feel the pulse of the Zen master as a flesh-and-blood human being.

The author, Prof. Ishwar Harris, first came into contact with Fukushima, who was then a Rinzai Zen monk, in 1973. Much of *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji* is an engaging narrative of their long and rich friendship since that time, and a biography of the Roshi’s life. It offers us a very special opportunity to “taste” Zen through the person of a unique human being who embodies its teachings in his every thought and action. Harris’ portrayal is always affectionate but, at the same time, deeply respectful.

*The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji* summarizes the Roshi’s teachings in a manner that is accessible to readers new to Zen as well as to long-time students of this tradition. In the spirit of one of Roshi Fukushima’s calligraphy pieces in English, “Watch, Touch, and Bite,” this new book is an invitation to befriend Fukushima and to taste his brand of Zen.



World Wisdom



“Be a Fool”  
Calligraphy by Roshi  
Keido Fukushima

## What issues are addressed in *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji?*

- ❖ In this book a living Zen master reveals personal details of his life and his journey towards becoming a Buddhist monk and Zen master. While most biographies celebrate the lives of past Zen masters, in this book the reader meets a living Zen master, and is introduced to his teachings, accomplishments, and humor.
- ❖ What are the principles behind authentic, “pristine” Zen, and what is life like for those who follow this path?
- ❖ What is “Zen Mind” and how does it differ from our day-to-day awareness of the world?
- ❖ What does the Zen master mean by “every day is a fine day”? How can Zen help us to better appreciate our lives?

## Which readers will be interested in *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji?*

- ❖ Students of Zen and Buddhism
- ❖ Readers of works on comparative religion and spiritual seekers
- ❖ Those interested in Japanese studies and the personal aspects of Japanese religious life

## Other publication information

- ❖ *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji* contains a foreword by noted Zen scholar, Jeff Shore of Hanazono University, Kyoto, Japan.
- ❖ *The Laughing Buddha* has numerous photographs. Some are of “the laughing Buddha,” Keido Fukushima himself, whilst others are of his predecessors at Tofukuji temple, and of the grounds of the temple itself.
- ❖ The book also reproduces 6 pieces of original calligraphy by Roshi Fukushima. These represent some of his most famous *koan* sayings. (Three examples of the Roshi’s calligraphy can be seen on this, the previous, and following pages.)
- ❖ *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji: The Life of Zen Master Keido Fukushima* has an expected publication date of Summer 2004 and a price of \$16.95.



“Every Day is a  
Fine Day”

## About the Author of

### *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji: The Life of Zen Master Keido Fukushima*

*Ishwar C. Harris*



**ISHWAR C. HARRIS** is Synod Professor of Religious Studies at the College of Wooster, where he has taught since 1981. Dr. Harris received his Bachelor's degree from the Lucknow Christian College in India, his Master's of Divinity from the Howard Divinity School, his S.T.M. from the Pacific School of Religion, and his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School. A specialist in Eastern Religions, he is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Society for Asian Studies, ASIAnetwork, and the Ohio Academy of Religion. Dr. Harris is renowned for his in-depth knowledge of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, and is an acknowledged expert on India's culture and civilization. His publications include: *Gandhians in Contemporary India: The Vision and the Visionaries*, and *Radhakrishnan: Profile of a Universalist*.

Dr. Harris has had extensive personal contact with Keido Fukushima, head abbot of the Tofukuji monastery in Kyoto. In the summer of 1999, he spent five weeks in Japan at the Tofukuji monastery, where he meditated with the monks and observed their lifestyle under Roshi Fukushima. A further three-month trip to the monastery in 2001 allowed him to gather first-hand information from the Roshi and paved the way for his writing of this book.

## About the Author of the Foreword to

### *The Laughing Buddha of Tofukuji:*

*Jeff Shore*



**JEFF SHORE** is a lay Zen practitioner and Professor of International Zen at Hanazono University, Kyoto, Japan, where he has taught since 1987. Professor Shore's writings include "The True Buddha is Formless: Masao Abe's Religious Quest," in *Masao Abe: A Zen Life of Dialogue* (ed. Donald W. Mitchell) and the entries for "Koan" and "Zen and the West," in *Encyclopedia of Monasticism* (ed. William M. Johnston). His translation of the novel *He's Leaving Home: My Young Son Becomes a Zen Monk*, by Kiyohiro Miura, won the prestigious Japanese Akutagawa literary prize in 1988.

He has studied and practiced Zen Buddhism for more than 30 years, spending over 20 years training under Keido Fukushima, head abbot of the Tofukuji training monastery in Kyoto. His annual retreats and lectures worldwide have been supported by grants from the Japanese Ministry of Education and the United States Department of Education.



"Throw it Away"

World Wisdom

