

[PDF] Road To Heaven: Encounters With Chinese Hermits

Red Pine - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Road to Heaven: Encounters wi
Author: Red Pine
Released: 2009-09-29
Language:
Pages: 220
ISBN: 1582435235
ISBN13: 978-1582435237
ASIN: 1582435235

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Description:

From 1966 to 1976 the malevolent rage of the Chinese Cultural Revolution struck a devastating blow to all religions in China, destroying countless temples and shrines that had stood for centuries and forcibly returning thousands of monks and nuns to lay life. Bill Porter had been told that the venerable hermetic tradition in China had also succumbed, but he went looking anyway. What he found, Taoist and Buddhist monks and nuns living in huts and caves deep in the mountains of central China, is more than a revelation, it is a glimmer of hope for the future of religion in China. --This text

refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Publishers Weekly Porter, a Hong Kong-based writer whose previous books were published under the pen name Red Pine (*The Zen Teaching of Bodhidharma*), lived in a Taiwanese monastery for three years in the 1970s and later translated works of some Chinese hermits long admired for their virtue. When travel to China opened up in the late 1980s, Porter began to search for hermits who might have survived under years of communism. His story is unusual, but his "encounters"--actually, brief interviews--produce not subtle observations but statements of gnomic profundity: ". . . the Tao is empty. It can't be explained." Still, Porter showed undeniable bravery as he trekked through the Chungnan Mountains in central China to interview more than 20 male and female hermits. Some hermits are circumspect about politics, having suffered under the Cultural Revolution, while others, like an 85-year-old monk who had lived in a cave for 50 years, are oblivious to the political changes. Porter's historical and literary reflections show sensitivity to his subject, but this book seems aimed only at those interested in such spiritual quests. Some of the photographs are starkly spectacular.

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