

THE LIFE & WORKS OF

RUTH FULLER SASAKI



*Pioneer*

by ISABEL STIRLING

FOREWORD BY GARY SNYDER

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# Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki

Isabel Stirling

Ruth Fuller Sasaki, who died in 1967, was once a pivotal determine within the emergence and improvement of Zen Buddhism within the United States. She is the single Westerner—and the one woman—to be made a clergyman of a Daitoku-ji temple and was once mentor to Burton Watson, Philip Yampolsky, Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki and Gary Snyder, and spouse's mother of Alan Watts. this can be the 1st biography of her striking life. Few dedicated their lives to Zen Buddhism as Ruth Fuller did. As a senior pupil of Sokei-an Sasaki in New York, Ruth helped him advance the infrastructure of what could finally Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki turn into the 1st Zen Institute in long island City. She married Sasaki in 1944, and it was once her venture to take care of the 1st Zen Institute and Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki later, to set up the 1st Zen Institute of the United States Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki in Japan. Her legacy continues to be at the present time within the Zen amenities she helped construct in big apple and in a foreign country and within the many texts she observed via translation, released from the Fifties to the 1970s. For the 1st time in publication form, 3 of her writings are incorporated here—Zen: Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki A Religion, Zen: a style for non secular Awakening, and Rinzaï Zen learn for Foreigners in Japan.

an excellent biography of a major determine in Zen studies On Ruth Fuller's first journey to Japan in 1930, she was once brought to D. T. Suzuki via a mutual good friend from Chicago. Suzuki taught the society matron approximately Zen, giving her a replica of his groundbreaking Essays in Zen Buddhism as a primer. years later, Fuller used to be receiving guideline in zazen meditation from Nanshinken Roshi at Nanzen-ji. After a few initial training, she was once allowed to wait the summer time sesshin with the clergymen in Nanzen-ji's meditation hall. At first, she chanced on the routine tiring and painful. yet she made great growth and shortly received over these within the staff who were at the beginning antagonistic to the assumption of getting a girl within the zendo. It used to be a top event for Fuller, and she or he by no means appeared back. Zen used to be what either she and the West Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki wanted and he or she may do her top to unfold this new religion in America. The center element of Isabel Stirling's biography takes up Fuller Sasaki's efforts to firmly determine Zen reports in ny City. There have been a fledging association headed through Sasaki Sokei-an referred to as the Buddhist Society of the USA in the course of the 1930s. throughout the years 1941-1948, Fuller Sasaki positioned her substantial skills and her wealth into consolidating the efforts of Sasaki Sokei-an and others right into a doable organization. in the direction of this end, she acquired and renovated a five-story brownstone on East sixty fifth road in 1941. The Buddhist Society (later, the 1st Zen Institute of America) was once to have the 1st floors; Sasaki Sokei-an, the 3rd floor; and Ruth and her relatives the pinnacle floors. however the struggle quickly pressured them to noticeably regulate their plans. Sasaki Sokei-an was once incarcerated at castle Meade foreign Camp and Fuller needed to spend the higher a part of a yr extricating him. The couple married after he used to be released. yet Sasaki Sokei-an died quickly afterwards, leaving Fuller Sasaki widowed back and the newly shaped First Zen Institute of the United States and not using a teacher. The ultimate a part of the ebook records

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the Kyoto years (1949-1967), a interval of wonderful productiveness for either Ruth Fuller Sasaki and the 1st Zen Institute. even if Sasaki was once nonetheless seriously concerned with the goings on of the 1st Zen Institute of the US in ny City, she shifted her time and her power to constructing the 1st Zen Institute of the US in Japan in Kyoto. It was once in the course of those years that Sasaki obtained using Ryosen-an in the Daitoku-ji complicated as her administrative center, rebuilt the most condominium and built a library and a zendo. This job used to be by way of an both prodigious learn application that ended in a sequence of very prime quality books and pamphlets on Zen (Three via Sasaki are reprinted within the Stirling biography). In 1957, the learn staff at Ryosen-an integrated Iriya Yoshitaka, Yanagida Seizan, Kanaseki Hisao, Burton Watson, Philip Yampolsky, and Gary Snyder. even if this center crew later disbanded because of a misunderstanding, the paintings endured below Sasaki's editorship. the 1st Zen Institute released a translation by way of Gary Snyder known as wood Fish in 1961, Zen Koan in 1965, and Zen dirt in 1966. All of those are actually thought of classics of Zen thought. Ruth Fuller Sasaki died at Ryosen-an in 1967 on the age of 74. different books; The Recorded Sayings of Layman P'ang (1971) and The Recorded Sayings of Ch'an grasp Lin-chi Hui-chao of Chen Prefecture (1975) have been released posthumously.

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