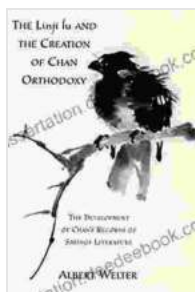


# The Linji Lu and the Creation of Chan Orthodoxy

The Linji Lu is a collection of teachings and sayings attributed to the Chinese Zen master Linji Yixuan. It is considered one of the most important texts in the development of Chan (Zen) Buddhism, and its influence can be seen in many Zen traditions today.

Linji Yixuan was a prominent Zen master who lived in the late Tang dynasty (8th-9th centuries). He was known for his unconventional and often paradoxical teachings, which challenged the established norms of Buddhism. Linji's teachings were highly influential, and he is considered one of the founders of the Linji school of Chan Buddhism.



## The Linji Lu and the Creation of Chan Orthodoxy: The Development of Chan's Records of Sayings Literature

by Albert Welter

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7949 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 250 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The Linji Lu is a collection of Linji's teachings and sayings that was compiled by his disciples after his death. The text is divided into two parts:

the main text, which contains Linji's teachings on the nature of enlightenment and the practice of Chan; and the supplementary text, which contains stories and anecdotes about Linji's life and teachings.

The Linji Lu is a valuable resource for understanding the development of Chan Buddhism. It provides insights into Linji's teachings on the nature of enlightenment, the practice of Chan, and the relationship between teacher and student. The text also contains a wealth of stories and anecdotes about Linji's life and teachings, which help to bring his teachings to life.

### **Linji's Teachings on the Nature of Enlightenment**

Linji's teachings on the nature of enlightenment are based on the idea that enlightenment is not something that can be achieved through gradual practice or intellectual understanding. Rather, enlightenment is a sudden and spontaneous awakening that occurs when the mind is completely free from all attachments and delusions.

According to Linji, the mind is like a mirror that is constantly being clouded by attachments and delusions. These attachments and delusions prevent us from seeing the true nature of reality. In order to achieve enlightenment, we must first polish the mirror of the mind until it is completely clear and free from all obscurations.

Linji's teachings on the nature of enlightenment are often expressed in paradoxical terms. For example, he says that "the Buddha is a shit-smear stick" and that "the Dharma is nothing but a fart." These paradoxical statements are meant to shock the student into seeing the true nature of reality, which is beyond all conceptualizations and descriptions.

## **Linji's Teachings on the Practice of Chan**

Linji's teachings on the practice of Chan are based on the idea that the best way to achieve enlightenment is through direct experience. He emphasizes the importance of meditation and other forms of practice that can help to calm the mind and open the heart.

Linji also stresses the importance of having a good teacher. A good teacher can help to guide the student on the path to enlightenment and can provide support and encouragement along the way.

Linji's teachings on the practice of Chan are often expressed in practical terms. For example, he advises students to "just sit" and "just breathe." These simple instructions are meant to help students to focus their minds and to open their hearts to the present moment.

## **The Influence of the Linji Lu on Chan Orthodoxy**

The Linji Lu has had a profound influence on the development of Chan (Zen) Buddhism. Its teachings on the nature of enlightenment and the practice of Chan have been adopted by many Zen traditions, and it is considered one of the most important texts in the Zen canon.

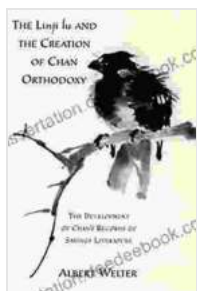
The Linji Lu has also been influential in the development of Chan orthodoxy. Chan orthodoxy is a set of beliefs and practices that are considered to be the "correct" way to practice Chan. These beliefs and practices are based on the teachings of Linji Yixuan and other early Chan masters.

Chan orthodoxy has been criticized by some for being too rigid and dogmatic. However, it has also been credited with helping to preserve the

core teachings of Chan Buddhism and to prevent it from becoming diluted or distorted over time.

The Linji Lu is a valuable resource for understanding the development of Chan (Zen) Buddhism. It provides insights into the teachings of Linji Yixuan, one of the most influential Chan masters in history. The text also contains a wealth of stories and anecdotes about Linji's life and teachings, which help to bring his teachings to life.

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