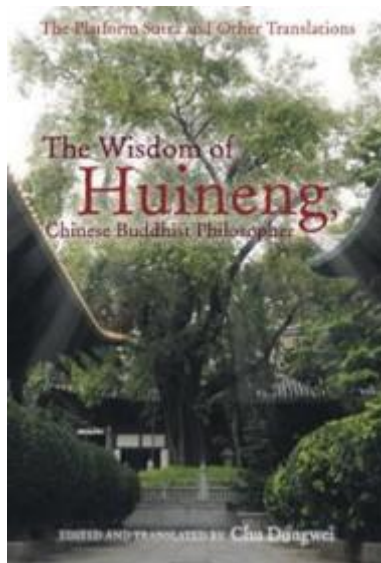


“一个重要佛学文献的详细的、标志性的英译本”  
— 褚东伟英文编译作品《慧能的智慧》海外书评三则



《慧能的智慧：〈六祖坛经〉英译及其他》

## 第一则：Kirkus Reviews

### TITLE INFORMATION

THE WISDOM OF HUINENG, CHINESE BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHER

iUniverse (296 pp.)

\$19.76 paperback

ISBN: 978-1-4917-5190-9; January 2, 2015

### BOOK REVIEW

A new, scholarly translation of the *Platform Sutra* of seventh-century Buddhist philosopher Huineng, among other works.

This book focuses on a famous sutra that “puts the Buddhist essence in a nutshell and directly points to the mind for the world to see,” according to Song Dynasty Buddhist master Qisong. It gives readers, he said, “the mountain top perspective, from which the world becomes dots, strokes and sketches.” Qisong’s analysis, from his “Hymn to *The Sixth Grand Master’s Platform-of-the-Gems-of-the-Dharma Sutra*,” is only one of the many secondary documents that Dongwei uses to flesh out his remarkable, valuable work of annotated translation. In it, he gives the seminal *Platform Sutra* by Buddhist Chan master Huineng (638-713) a highly readable English rendering that translates the master’s many pronouncements into simple, accessible idiom: “If one does not understand the purport of the Dharma, he makes mistakes, which is no big deal. The problem is that such a person misleads others.” The verses and meditations, denouncing

greed, vanity, and the tyranny of material possessions, will fascinate readers familiar with Buddhism and newcomers seeking to learn more about the philosophy's historical roots. As Dongwei points out, that history is revolutionary in its ramifications: anyone who seeks Huineng's concept of enlightenment can achieve it, regardless of their social status or even literacy. But the book's most intriguing feature is its concentration on the foremost student of Huineng, Shenhui (668-760); according to Dongwei, he's "very much responsible for Huineng's teachings becoming the officially sanctified orthodox Buddhist teachings in China." Here, Shenhui's biography and writings are given fresh new English-language translations, which help clarify his motives for promoting the teachings of a then-forgotten master. Dongwei does an excellent job throughout of placing all of this complex material in its proper historical context. It's a masterful performance and highly recommended.

A comprehensive, landmark English translation of a key Buddhist text.

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## 第二则：Foreword Clarion Reviews

### Clarion Review

#### RELIGION

*The Wisdom of Huineng, Chinese Buddhist Philosopher: The Platform Sutra and Other Translations*

Chu Dongwei

iUniverse

978-1-4917-5190-9

Five Stars (out of Five)

This graceful and flowing translation of an ancient Zen Buddhist text feels revolutionary, even in the twenty-first century.

Western Buddhists and others who wish to deepen their understanding of the history of Buddhism and its early practitioners and teachers will find Chu Dongwei's *The Wisdom of Huineng, Chinese Buddhist Philosopher: The Platform Sutra and Other Translations* inviting, informative, and satisfying.

Huineng (638 - 713) is a major Chinese sage known as the Sixth (and Last) Patriarch of Chan ("Zen" in Japanese) Buddhism. His "Platform Sutra," so called because it purports to consist of a series of sermons delivered by Huineng from a high seat, or platform, in a temple lecture hall, is one of the most influential texts in all of Chinese Buddhism for its ability to open the door to understanding the nature of reality and the ground of being. Dongwei's masterful handling of the difficulties inherent in translating a complex text rooted in a vastly different time and culture has resulted in a lucid and sensitive work that brings the teachings, and the teacher, to life for a western, English-speaking audience. He has managed to transmit not just Huineng's words, but the intent behind them, not just the master's thought, but his heart. The book also includes the sermons of Shenhui, the disciple who popularized Huineng's teachings, as well as epitaphs and

biographies rarely found in English.

Complementing the thoughtful and fluent translation, the front cover art and layout are appealing, and the back cover matter invitingly describes the content of the text. The brief bio of the author lends credibility to his efforts. The design and layout of the book's interiors are pleasing to the eye, making reading a pleasure. Grammar, syntax, and punctuation are basically error-free, and helpful footnotes are included to further clarify the text when necessary.

Primary in the Platform Sutra is the exhortation to see into one's own nature and awaken, here and now. "The moment your own original nature is lost, you become an average worldling. The moment your own original nature is awakened, you become a Buddha," the sutra declares. Dongwei writes that this "mind-blowing" statement is not about Buddhism; instead, he calls it "a wonderful philosophy of life," affirming that "the Buddha is not a deity; it is just you and me in our sober moments." His graceful and flowing translation of a text that seems revolutionary, even in the twenty-first century, is a welcome and inspiring contribution to the literature.

Dongwei is an associate professor at the School of Interpreting and Translation Studies at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. He is the author of many books, translator of numerous English-to-Chinese and Chinese-to-English works, and editor-in-chief of the online and print journal, *Chinese Literature and Culture*.

*Kristine Morris*

### 第三则：BlueInk Reviews

#### *The Wisdom of Huineng: Chinese Buddhist Philosopher*

Chu Dongwei, Editor and Translator

Publisher: iUniverse Pages: 272 Price: (paperback) \$21.96 ISBN: 9781491751909 Reviewed: July, 2015 Author Website: [Visit »](#)

This translation with commentary of *The Platform Sutra* and other works associated with the great Chan (Zen) Buddhist master Huineng (638-713) both informs and inspires. It serves a dual purpose: presenting an insider's view of the translator's craft, and imparting a new perspective on a classic treatise that opens doors to understanding Chinese religion, history and culture.

Huineng was a Chinese peasant who, despite his lack of religious training, became enlightened in the presence of Hongren, the Fifth Grand Master. Because of Huineng's humble origins and the possible jealousies among his established following, the master kept his enlightenment a secret, but eventually Huineng claimed the robe of his office to become the Sixth Grand Master. He composed an autobiographical and spiritual work, *The Platform Sutra*. Shenhui, his primary disciple, carried on his teachings after his death.

This book comprises Huineng's story along with writings associated with Huineng and Shenhui but not always included by other translators, such as some short biographies and epitaphs. Associate Professor Chu Dongwei, who edits the online journal *Chinese Literature and Culture*, took on the challenge of translating Huineng's texts after attending a Buddhist conference years ago. Though not a Buddhist, he found in the writings of Huineng "a democratic vision of the world."

In the Foreword, he describes his steps in translating one of Huineng's profound "gathas" or poems. Readers of *The Wisdom of Huineng* will find his grasp of English exceptional and his explication of his approach to translating helpful. And as he so aptly observes, though Huineng's work has been rendered into English before, "one more translation does no harm," a sentiment that mirrors the philosophy of Huineng himself, who observed, "My teaching of Dharma is a timely rain to everyone on this planet."

Huineng's life and philosophy are thoughtfully rendered in modern language here, and the volume offers a new inroad to understanding Chan Buddhism. Details of Dongwei's translation method provide secondary rewards.

Also available as an ebook.