

Tea Life, Tea Mind

Soshitsu Sen XV

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Soshitsu Sen XV : Tea Life, Tea Mind before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tea Life, Tea Mind:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Meditative readBy CustomerI stumbled onto this book while sitting in the library of a Japanese Tea Ceremony. I was waiting to attend a tea demonstration so I didn't expect to fall in love with this book when I started to read it. It an easy and quick read, that's well written. It feels modern and approachable like anyone could pick this up and get into it. There is very interesting information about how Tea ceremony works, the history, and the perspective from the life of a Tea master. You do not have to be in to Tea Ceremony to get into this book. Maybe it's how it's written but this book is odly meditative and relaxing to read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent explanation of tea and the philosophy behind it.By Tom SilverThis slim volume provides as concise an explanation of the philosophy behind the famed Japanese Tea Ceremony as a Westerner is likely to get. The writer is a descendent of the great tea master Sen Rikyu, who lived, taught, and practiced the Way of Tea almost 500 years ago. A disciple of Rikyu once asked what are the most important things that must be understood at a tea gathering. When Rikyu answered, make a delicious bowl of tea, arrange the charcoal and flowers properly, prepare for the possibility of rain, and a few similar suggestions - the disciple replied that he already knew those answers. Rikyu shot back: "Then if you can host a tea gathering without deviating from any of the rules I have just stated, I will become your disciple." Read this incisive book and find out why.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Rare and beautifulBy Neale PoveyNowhere is there a more profound recording of the liturgy of tea as

practiced in the Japanese culture. The author is immanently qualified, being the 'Grand Teamaster of Japan' following more than a score of others in his lineage. The technical aspects are overshadowed by the personal involvement -- bonding -- with the practice. A wonder for me, an American, to participate vicariously in the deepest reflection of the virtues of Japanese culture. A bonus is the calligraphy that graces this little book -- full pages, stunning. This book inspired me to become the Teamaster of a Sangha.

Soshitsu Sen XV, a retired grand master of the Urasenke School of Tea, explains the history, ceremony and spiritual philosophy of the tea ceremony. He spent his life travelling around the world after WWII, spreading peace through a cup of tea. He was born in 1923. (Sshitsu is the name of the head, or iemoto, of the Urasenke School of the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Sen is the family name and Sshitsu is the hereditary name assumed by the successor upon becoming iemoto.) In this volume he describes how he mastered Chado, "The Way of Tea". This book was originally written by the 15th Grand Tea master in the lineage of Sen Rikyu (born in Japan 1522-1591) a Japanese tea master who perfected the tea ceremony and raised it to the level of an art.