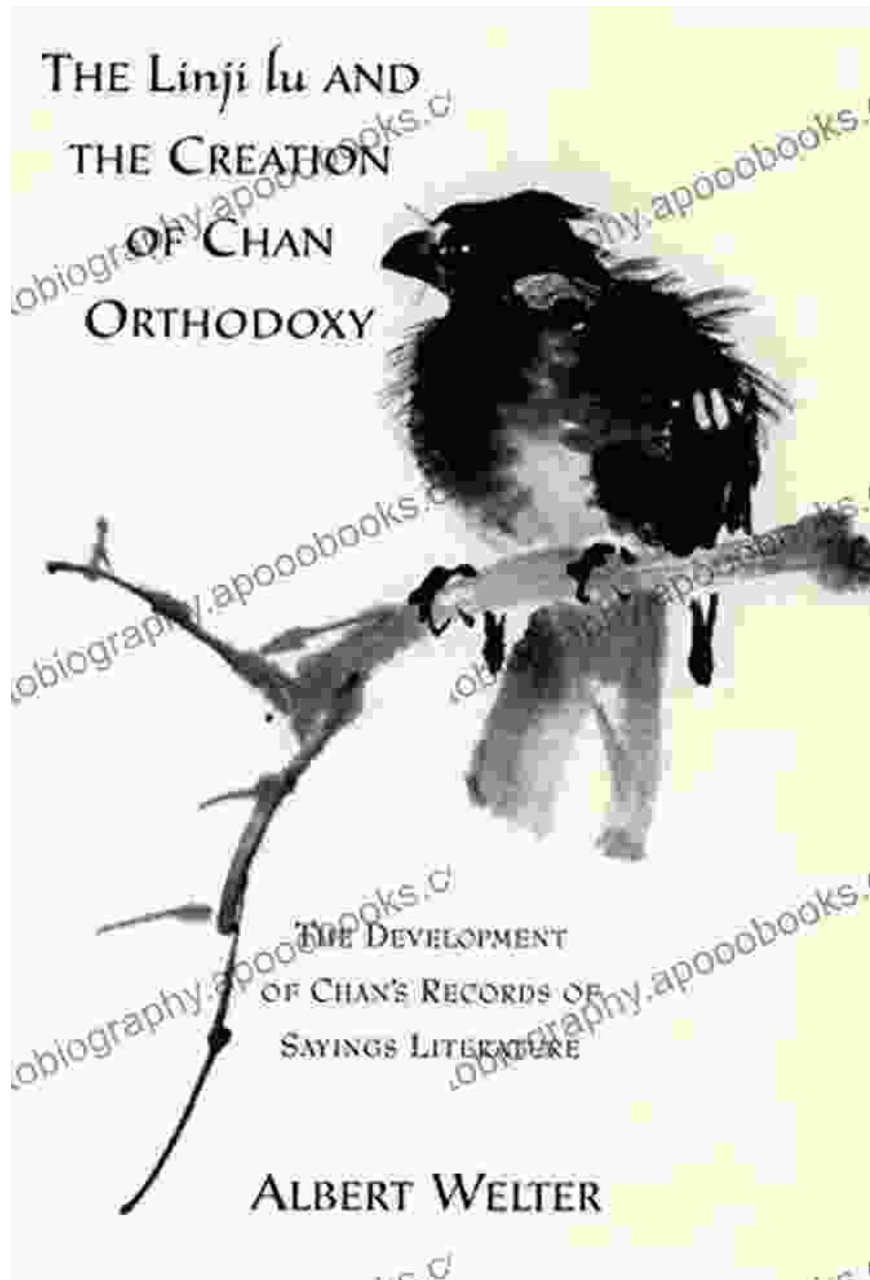
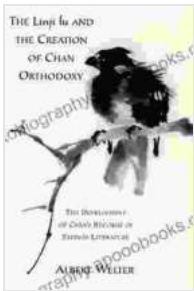


# Unveiling the Profound Wisdom of The Linji Lu: The Creation of Chan Orthodoxy



In the vast tapestry of Buddhism, the Linji Lu (Record of Linji) stands as a beacon of wisdom that has profoundly shaped the development of Chan (Zen) Buddhism. This seminal text, attributed to the enigmatic master Linji

Yixuan (810-866), encapsulates the essence of Chan teachings and provides a glimpse into the vibrant spiritual landscape of medieval China.



## 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



### Historical Context

The Linji Lu emerged during a transformative period in Chinese history. The Tang dynasty (618-907) witnessed a flourishing of Buddhism, with numerous schools and masters competing for followers. Amidst this diversity, Linji Yixuan emerged as a charismatic figure whose teachings resonated deeply with the seekers of his time.

### Linji Yixuan and His Teachings

Linji Yixuan was known for his unconventional and provocative approach. He rejected the rigid doctrines and rituals of established Buddhist sects, emphasizing instead the need for direct and intuitive awakening. His teachings were often expressed through enigmatic parables and koans, designed to shatter the conceptual framework of his disciples.

One of Linji's most famous sayings was, "Meet the Buddha, kill the Buddha; meet the patriarch, kill the patriarch." This exhortation urged practitioners to transcend the limitations of external authority and seek truth within themselves.

## **The Linji Lu: A Collection of Teachings**

The Linji Lu, compiled by Linji's disciples after his death, is a collection of his recorded sermons and dialogues. It provides a rich and multifaceted account of his teachings, covering topics such as:

\* The nature of Buddhahood \* The importance of immediate awakening \*  
The role of doubt and negation \* The cultivation of virtue and compassion

## **The Significance of Doubt**

Linji placed great emphasis on the role of doubt in spiritual practice. He believed that by challenging our assumptions and beliefs, we could cultivate a state of open-mindedness and receptivity that was conducive to sudden enlightenment.

One of Linji's most famous koans asks, "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" This question is seemingly paradoxical, as clapping typically involves two hands. However, by pondering this koan, practitioners are invited to question the very nature of reality and to break free from conventional modes of thinking.

## **The Creation of Chan Orthodoxy**

The Linji Lu played a pivotal role in the creation of Chan orthodoxy. Linji's teachings, with their emphasis on direct awakening, self-reliance, and doubt, became the foundation of a distinct lineage within Chan Buddhism.

Subsequent generations of Chan masters, such as Dahui Zonggao (1089-1163) and Yuanwu Keqin (1063-1135), further developed and refined Linji's teachings. They established a set of principles and guidelines that became the hallmarks of Chan orthodoxy.

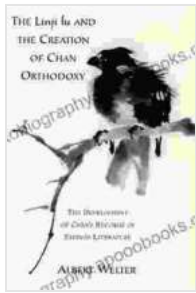
The Linji Lu remains an essential text for Chan practitioners today. It offers a timeless source of wisdom and inspiration, guiding seekers towards the realization of their true nature.

### **Contemporary Relevance**

The teachings of the Linji Lu continue to resonate with seekers in the modern world. Its emphasis on self-reliance, the importance of doubt, and the cultivation of a compassionate heart offers valuable lessons for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Whether you are a seasoned practitioner of Buddhism or simply curious about the profound wisdom of Chan, the Linji Lu is a treasure trove of invaluable insights. Its teachings can empower us to question our assumptions, cultivate open-mindedness, and strive for a life lived in the present moment.

The Linji Lu is an indispensable text that has shaped the course of Chan Buddhism for centuries. Through its enigmatic parables, koans, and teachings on doubt and self-reliance, it offers a path to direct awakening and the realization of our true potential. As we delve into the depths of the Linji Lu, we discover a timeless source of wisdom that continues to inspire and guide seekers on their spiritual journeys.

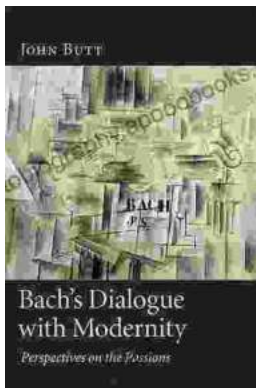


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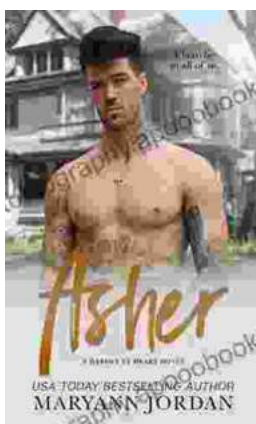
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