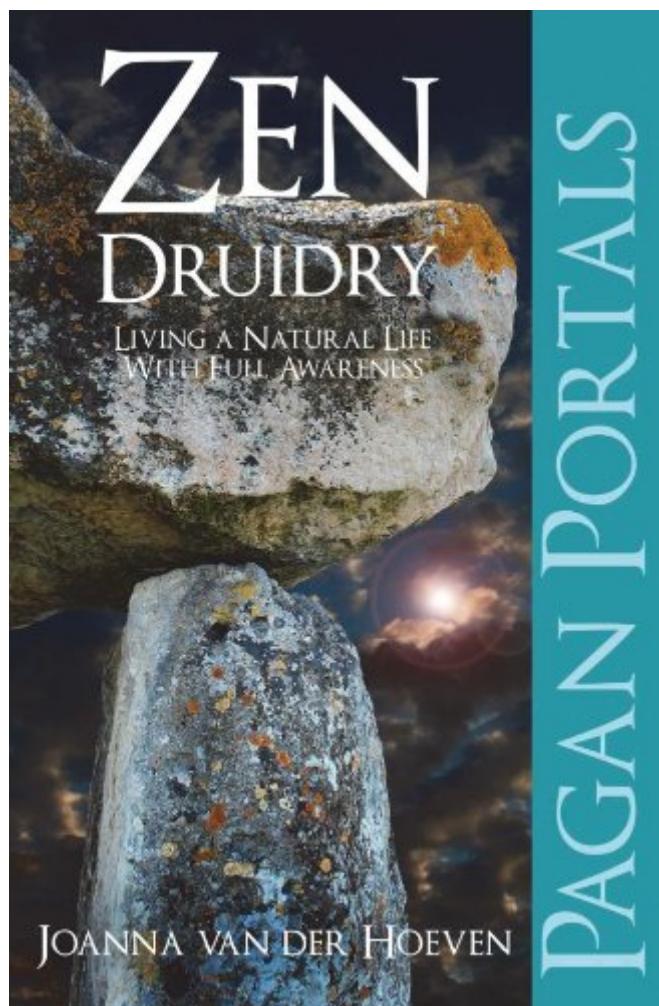


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# Pagan Portal-Zen Druidry: Living A Natural Life, With Full Awareness (Pagan Portals)



## **Synopsis**

Taking both Zen and Druidry and embracing them into your life can be a wonderful and ongoing process of discovery, not only of the self but of the entire world around you. The aim of this text is to show how Zen teachings and Druidry can combine to create a peaceful life path that is completely and utterly dedicated to the here and now, to the earth and her rhythms, and to the flow that is life itself.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is a real quick read, and it very nicely summarizes both Druidry and Zen, then goes over some ways they combine. It's a nice intro to some topics that the reader will want to learn more about after reading this. It is only intended as a brief intro, and it does the job well. I really enjoyed reading the majority of this book. However..."It takes much more energy and resources to raise animals for food than it does to plant in the same amount of land a sustainable, organic crop for food. In giving up animal meat we are caring more for our environment. At the same time, we sacrifice our ignorance of the weighty issues behind such matters to become fully aware. We must

accept responsibility for our part."I admit, I resent the inference that those who eat meat care less about their environment than those who do not, and its been bugging me since I read it. Maybe it bugs me more than it should, maybe I should shrug and move on. But the fact is, I don't like being called ignorant or callous on the basis of a false assumption - that those who eat meat lack compassion and misuse resources that would be better applied to growing crops.Accepting responsibility goes for everyone who eats anything. Millions of mice die each year as a result of farming grains, fruit and vegetables. Huge areas of land are stripped of their bio-diversity to make room for soil-destroying monocultures. Even some organic farms still use "natural" pesticides - as in, chemicals designed to kill "pests", such as insects and rodents. Avoiding meat doesn't mean avoiding death. The claim above also falsely assumes that most land can be used efficiently for crop growth, thus requiring fewer resources to maintain than raising animals. You try growing soybeans and wheat on dry, eroding hillsides and let me know how much food you get for the energy and resources you put in. Try explaining how bio-regions that DEPEND on grazing (by animals!) would fare better if clear-cut and replaced with rows of corn. Animals raised for food should be treated with dignity and compassion - I absolutely do not support conventional farming practices that are basically concentration camps for animals.Life feeds on life - animals still die so you can live even if you don't eat them. I know this was a short book, but if the author had time to give dietary advice she had the obligation to discuss other views without dismissing them as uncaring. I realize she wasn't trying to claim that all Zen Druids feel as she does, but I think a more balanced presentation would have been more responsible, even if that meant discussing views she doesn't share.

I continue to be impressed with Joanna van der Hoeven's work. ZEN DRUIDRY is a little more informal (in tone, anyway) than THE AWEN ALONE, but both are full of information and--perhaps more importantly--experience. Rather than stifling the reader with exercises or recipes or whatever (which amounts to distraction) van der Hoeven gives the reader very clear, very useful information in forming or shaping their own spiritual experience. Many pagan authors seek to merge two or more traditions, but very few, I have seen, have tried to do so with Eastern practices. Van der Hoeven shows the utmost respect for both Zen and Druidry, which gives her an authenticity that I really appreciate.I cannot recommend this book enough for those seeking to establish a workable spiritual practice.

I enjoyed this read as a studying pagan and I believe that others that are fond of Earth based

religions. Joanna van der Hoeven dives into the realm between Druidry and Eastern practices while illustrating their similarities. I think many people can see the appeal of this comparison as daily rituals and affirmations are a part of both practices. A light read and a good, although not too in depth, analysis of both.

At LEAST 15% of this book is word for word from the authors previous work. The rest is a poorly written summary about Zen Buddhism. Do not waste your money

Love this book! If you're looking to create more peace with your current faith, this is the book to read!!

I picked this up from 's Kindle bookstore, thinking that the small 74-page size, and the relatively low-cost of the book would make it something close to a pamphlet rather than a book. Was I ever wrong. While the 74-page size made for some really quick reading, the material is extremely deep and powerfully full of meaning. The start of the book steps into the concepts of Zen and then walks the reader through the concepts of Druidry. Neither are extremely detailed, but rather very well thought out introduction into the concepts. Once past this point, Joanna spends time showing how Zen and Druidry integrate quite well, mapping out how the five Noble Precepts can be utilized within the framework of Druidry. One of the most powerful parts that I came away with from this book was the idea of "living in the moment" - embracing that each moment in life is unique within the ever-changing, ever-shifting environment that we live in. Many of the meditation techniques that she detailed here, I had already been utilizing in my own personal belief structure and druidry exercises in my Bardic Grade for the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids. While the terminology was a little strange to me, the concepts were the same familiar ones that I have been embracing and utilizing for years. Not only am I happy to have this particular book in my library, I whole heartedly recommend it to others looking for new Paths to explore in their own personal spirituality. It may be 74 pages in length (and as such is the only qualm I have with the book), but it will certainly open up new ways to view your spirituality, yourself, and the world around you.

i love it, and read it at the right moment. simple reminders of the principles of zen and the focus of druidry. easy to read and to the point...

Good read

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