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## About Our Contributors

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# About Our Contributors

**Robert Aitken** is one of the foremost leaders of the Zen Buddhist movement in the West. Born in Pennsylvania, he moved to Honolulu as a small child and attended public schools and the University of Hawai'i, where he took a master's degree in Japanese literature. During World War II, the author was interned in Japan. Discussions with R. H. Blyth, fellow internee and writer, led to an interest in Zen Buddhism. After the war, Aitken Rōshi studied with the Zen monk Nyogen Senzaki in Los Angeles, then with Nakagawa Sōen Rōshi, Yasutani Haku'un Rōshi, and Yamada Kōun Rōshi in Japan. He established the Diamond Sangha in Honolulu with Anne Aitken and subsequently established centers in North and South America, Australasia, and Europe. He received full transmission as an independent teacher of Zen Buddhism from Yamada Rōshi in 1985. Now a widower at 81, Aitken Rōshi is living in retirement in the district of Puna on the Big Island of Hawai'i. A prolific writer and scholar, he has published nine books on Zen Buddhism: *A Zen Wave: Bashō's Haiku and Zen* (1978); *Taking the Path of Zen* (1982); *The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics* (1984); *The Gateless Barrier: The Wu-men Kuan (Mumonkan)* (1990); *The Dragon Who Never Sleeps: Verses for Zen Buddhist Practice* (1992); *Encouraging Words: Zen Buddhist Teachings for Western Students* (1993); *The Ground We Share: Everyday Practice, Buddhist and Christian* (with David Stendl-Rast, 1994); *The Practice of Perfection: The Pāramitās from a Zen Buddhist Perspective* (1994); and *Original Dwelling Place: Zen Buddhist Essays* (1996).

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**Apiēh Claybrook** is a student in the Global Master's Program at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California. She received

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**Allan Combs, Ph.D.**, is a neuropsychologist and systems theorist at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and the Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco. Author of over fifty articles, chapters, and books on consciousness and the brain, he is cofounder of *The Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology*, and a member of *The General Evolution Research Group* and *The Club of Budapest*. His books include *Synchronicity: Science, Myth, and the Trickster* (with Mark Holland); *Chaos Theory in Psychology and the Life Sciences* (edited with Robin Robertson); *Nonlinear Dynamics in Human Behavior* (edited with William Sulis); *Changing Visions: Human Cognitive Maps; Past, Present, and Future* (with Ervin Laszlo, Vilmos Csanyi, and Robert Artigiani); and *The Radiance of Being: Complexity, Chaos, and the Evolution of Consciousness*, which won the 1996 best book award of the *Scientific and Medical Network* of the U.K. The author is currently completing *The Enchanted Loom: A Course on the Brain and the Mind*. Combs has degrees in psychology from the Ohio State University and the University of Florida and a doctorate in biopsychology from the University of Georgia.

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**Don Diespecker**, Ph.D., is a semiretired recluse skulking in northern NSW. He survived a Big Wet that flooded the Bellinger River, felled trees at Earthrise, and produced a landslide above his house—which he contemplates with interest while he moodily sips Shiraz and considers his response. A master of avoidance, he frequently escapes in his canoe seeking wall-building stones that once were mountains, and to see riverlife, which calms him. He recently wrote a quirky spy-thriller set in 1900 and is now writing another set at home in 2100, to balance himself in the now, and hopes publishers and literary agents are reading this. He trains psychotherapists to delay approaching madness. Surviving friends include polymaths: a beautiful mothering heroine, a boxing missionary artist, a wicked linguist spy; their ribald laughter may sometimes be heard at sunset on the riverbank.

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**James Fadiman**, Ph.D., despite degrees from Harvard University and Stanford University, helped to establish the field of transpersonal psychology, including being an associate editor of the *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, president of the Association for Transpersonal Psychology, and cofounder of the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. He has also been a consultant to management and taught at Brandeis University, San Francisco State University, and Stanford University. Fadiman is an author or editor of three textbooks and one self-help book. His most recent book (with Robert Frager) is *Essential Sufism*. Fadiman is currently devoting time to writing fiction.

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**Stanley Krippner**, Ph.D., received his doctorate in educational psychology from Northwestern University. He is now Professor of Psychology at the Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco. Known internationally for his pioneering work in the scientific investigation of human consciousness, he has authored or edited over 500 articles and books, including: eight volumes of *Advances in Parapsychological Research*; *Personal*

*Mythology*; *Spiritual Dimensions of Healing*; *Dreamtime and Dreamwork*; and *Broken Images, Broken Selves: Dissociative Narratives in Clinical Practice*. Krippner is past director of the Dream Laboratory of the Maimonides Medical Center in New York and the Child Study Center at Kent State University. He has served as president of the *Association for Humanistic Psychology*, the *Parapsychological Association*, the *Association for the Study of Dreams*, and two divisions of the *American Psychological Association* (Humanistic Psychology; Psychological Hypnosis). He is also a member of *The Club of Budapest*.

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**Vladimir Maikov**, Ph.D., completed his doctorate in 1988 on the topic of the unity of knowledge and value in consciousness. He is a founding member and vice-president of the Association of Humanistic Psychology in Russia (1991–92), and from 1990–97, he was senior research associate at the Institute of Philosophy of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Maikov is founder and director of both the Transpersonal Institute (Moscow) and the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (Moscow), and is dedicated to spreading the transpersonal vision through workshops, conferences, and publishing. He is a certified Holotropic Breathwork facilitator and Dzogchen practitioner. Currently, he is editing a large series of books in an international publishing project, “Texts on Transpersonal Psychology.” In his papers, he is developing a new synthesis of modern psychology and living traditions of Russian spirituality and the New Sciences.

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**Anthony J. Marsella**, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawai'i, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1970. He earned his doctorate in clinical psychology, with minors in cultural anthropology and history and philosophy of science, from the Pennsylvania State University in 1968. He subsequently

completed two post-doctoral training programs as a Fulbright Scholar in the Philippines and as a Research Fellow in the National Institute of Mental Health Culture and Mental Health Program at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i. He has received numerous research grants to study cultural aspects of psychopathology, therapy, and service delivery. Marsella is an internationally recognized authority in cross-cultural psychology and psychiatry, and has published ten books and more than 125 book chapters, journal articles, and technical reports. Among his international activities, Marsella is Director of the United Nations World Health Organization Field Psychiatric Research Center. In 1996, Marsella received the American Psychological Association Distinguished Award for the International Advancement of Psychology.

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**S. I. Shapiro**, Ph.D., has advanced degrees in philosophy and psychology. He teaches at the University of Hawai'i where he offers a wide variety of courses on the psychology of knowledge and wisdom, especially from Asian perspectives. The author is currently at work on an essay entitled "Entry Into the Inconceivable," has completed a coauthored book on the Tao of photography, and is helping to edit English translations of two books by the late Professor V. V. Nalimov, Russia's most widely known transpersonal writer.

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**Tõnu R. Soidla**, Ph.D., D.Sc., was born in the small town of Rakvere in Estonia. He graduated from Tartu State University in 1963, received his doctorate in biology (genetics) from Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) State University in 1969, and his D.Sc. in biology (genetics) from Leningrad State University in 1991. He has conducted research in molecular genetics of yeast and nucleotide sequence analysis in silico. Soidla has authored more than 80 scientific publications

devoted to these areas and (since 1992) also to transpersonal studies. He has given presentations at a variety of international conferences and serves as an editorial board member for the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* and as an assessing editor of the *Journal of Mind and Behavior*. He is a member of the *European Society for the Study of Science and Theology*. His standpoint in the field of transpersonalism can be best summarized by the title of his tripartite autobiography "Open Mouth, Open Mind." Soidla was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Hawai'i in the spring of 1999, where he taught (with S. I. Shapiro) a graduate seminar entitled "Spontaneity of Being: Transpersonalism in Russia."

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**Dave Thorne** has been drawing and selling his funny drawings for more years than he cares to count. He made his first sale while in the ninth grade and has been pursuing his love of the art ever since. He served the State of Hawai'i Department of Education as an art teacher and specialist in designing and producing educational materials and giving various media and graphic workshops to educational personnel. He has also given workshops in Micronesia, Samoa, and on the mainland USA. Since 1977, he has also been teaching cartooning at the University of Hawai'i Outreach College. Thorne did a comic strip, albeit short-lived, called "BeBop Duck" for a color comic supplement for newspapers in the Pacific Rim. Currently, he is doing a series of short comic stories for iKaboom! Studio in Mexico City. He is also part of a Hawai'i group of cartoonists starting a series of gag cartoons for a daily newspaper in the Islands. Thorne prefers to do humorous kinds of cartoons along with stories that have positive, educational, and helpful themes. In his spare time, he has taken up playing jazz piano, sculpting, and acting, and he is active in the deaf community.

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**Henri Volohonsky** was born in the year 5696 at the Northern Capital of the Last Empire. Much of his life has been devoted to studying the sense of nonsense and he has written a body of poems on the same subject, one of which is "The Drunken Deity." In his earlier life in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), Russia, he studied at the Institute of Chemistry and Pharmacy, and later pursued graduate work at the Institute of Internal Fisheries. While in Russia, he worked in various institutions and took part in expeditions to numerous seas, lakes, and rivers. Later on, Volohonsky moved to Israel, where he worked at the Kinneret Limnological Laboratory, then to Munich, Germany, where he worked at Radio Liberty. Volohonsky has authored several books of poetry and prose, and comments on *St. John's Revelation*. He has also translated parts of the book of *Zohar* and has written several works devoted to the topic of symmetry and harmony.

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Photo by Philippe L. Gross

*There is a period of life when  
we go backwards as we advance.*

—Jean Jacques Rousseau