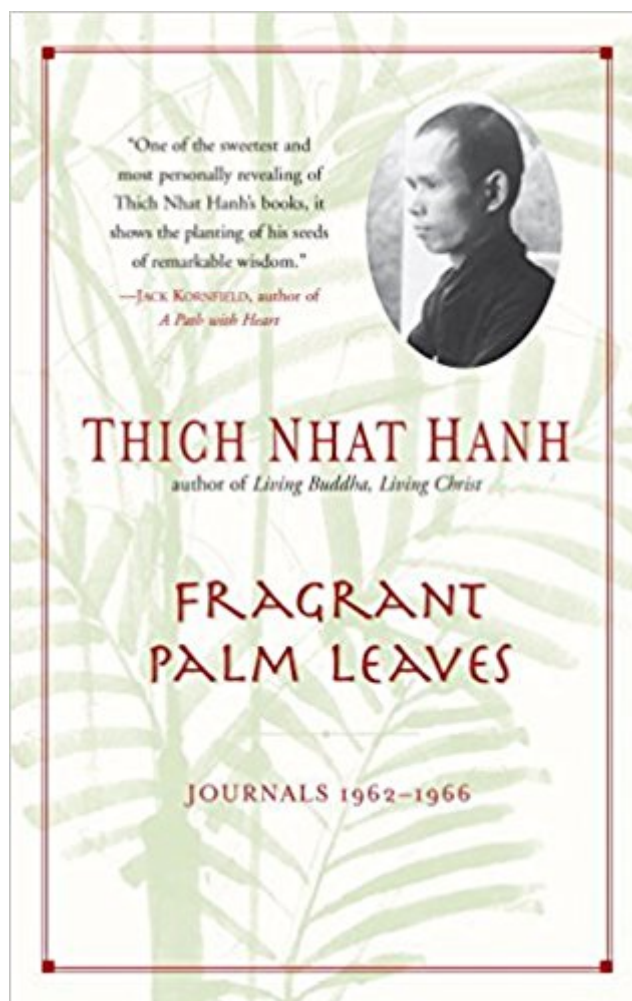


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Fragrant Palm Leaves: Journals, 1962-1966



Synopsis

Best known for his Buddhist teachings, Thich Nhat Hanh has lived in exile from his native Vietnam since 1966. These remarkable early journals reveal not only an exquisite portrait of the Zen master as a young man, but the emergence of a great poet and literary voice of Vietnam. From his years as a student and teaching assistant at Princeton and Columbia, to his efforts to negotiate peace and a better life for the Vietnamese, *Fragrant Palm Leaves* offers an elegant and profound glimpse into the heart and mind of one of the world's most beloved spiritual teachers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To many of his readers, Thich Nhat Hanh is a great inspiration, a model of both spiritual maturity and social responsibility. But his personal life has been a closed book--until now. *Fragrant Palm Leaves* is the first publication of Thich Nhat Hanh's journals, in this case, those centering around the most decisive period in his life. A young monk in a Zen Buddhist lineage, Nhat Hanh had aspirations of developing a Buddhism that was meaningful in the lives of everyday Vietnamese. The chaos of the Vietnam War ironically offered him the chance to move beyond the strictures of the conservative Buddhist establishment and initiate experimental villages as well as a university, but the same war also forced him from his homeland. In entries written in both Vietnam and America, we see an already seasoned Nhat Hanh thinking through the politics of his tradition, his close friendships and alliances, the future of Buddhism, and the way to bring peace to a war-ravaged time. We also witness his glimmerings of enlightenment and are treated to lyrical passages on the interbeing of all things. *Fragrant Palm Leaves* is a rare glimpse at a great human being in the making. --Brian Bruya

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Informative and inspiring". -- Publishers Weekly

My two favorite books by TNH are this one, and "My Master's Robe". They each give a clear picture of Thay's early life as a monk. This book, written in New Jersey, gives an account of how TNH split off from the main Buddhist church in the pursuit of a more active and unified Buddhism. It also tells the story of how the government sought to silence Buddhist activists during the Vietnam War. It is written with gentleness. Thay's joys and disappointments spring from the story. In *Fragrant Palm Leaves* he tells of the boys at a camp near the cabin where he was staying during August of 1962 -- in Medford, NJ. I wonder where those boys are now? And do they remember this young monk who played their games with them and told them about the life of a Buddhist monk?

This is my second copy of the book as I gave the first to my mother. This is much different than Thay's other works in that it is simply a compilation of journal entries that he wrote (most likely only for himself). They humanize Thay in a way that his other writings cannot and for this reason I highly recommend it to all of his readers.

Clear, transparent, open; with some passages beautiful beyond comment. The true source of Thay's humanity and Buddha-nature shines for us to see and rings as a bell of awakening for all to hear, in this small and deeply rich journal.

I agree with every word of the review written by the Jerusalem reviewer found on this page! This slender volume contains much that could save the world, indeed the profound beauty that emanates from the soul of this revered teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh, is such that one is transformed by it fundamentally each time one soaks up its light. These journals, covering especially those periods of his life that manifested for him tremendous human strengths within himself, and from which he has conscientiously built a kind of life-giving ark for the rest of us, are a joy to read, and read again. Everything Nhat Hanh writes is essential. Nothing is wasted, or wastefully passive. Interior action is his watchword, and his own life's example. The milieu of violence and war that so influenced his early adult life he has transformed into a life-giving teaching for humankind. The mark of the poet is everywhere in these pages- slaying the mediocre, lifting up the discarded, transforming the lost. One really cannot praise adequately this unique and gentle volume. If you seek to understand the

nature of suffering, its true character, the inevitability of its power to redeem, and are unafraid of confronting the chagrin of your own wastefulness and fearfulness, read this book. It can only leave you freer.

This wonderful book is based on the journals of a young Thich Nhat Hanh when he discovers so many of the truths which we have come to learn from him over the years. LOVE IT.

Best. Book. Ever. A delightful read, a page turner and an inspiring tonic for the soul!

A book to savor!

A wonderful book!

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