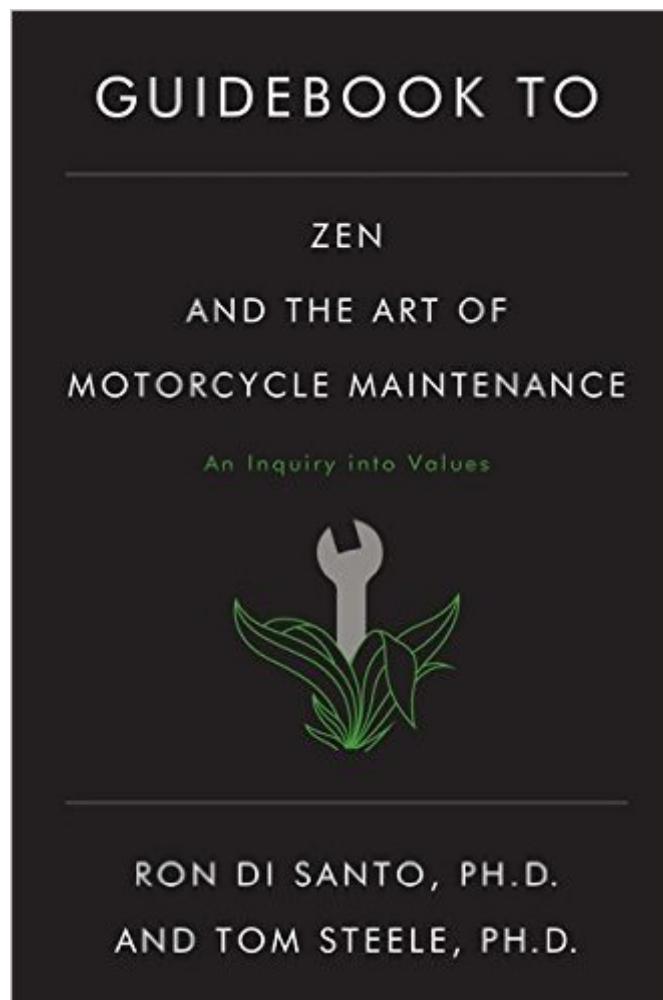


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# Guidebook To Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance



## Synopsis

When Robert Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance was first published in 1974, it caused a literary sensation. An entire generation was profoundly affected by the story of the narrator, his son, Chris, and their month-long motorcycle odyssey from Minnesota to California. A combination of philosophical speculation and psychological tension, the book is a complex story of relationships, values, madness, and, eventually, enlightenment. Ron Di Santo and Tom Steele have spent years investigating the background and underlying symbolism of Pirsig's work. Together, and with the approval of Robert Pirsig, they have written a fascinating reference/companion to the original. Guidebook to Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance serves as a metaphorical backpack of supplies for the reader's journey through the original work. With the background material, insights, and perspectives the authors provide, Guidebook to Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance is destined to become required reading for new fans of the book as well as those who have returned to it over the years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Additional background material, both philosophical and historical, really illuminates the original Pirsig book. The bonus is sometimes startling insights, and new questions (often unanswered for the reader to work out). Think of it as an informal but well-written textbook by teachers who care both about the material and the student. It lures the reader into further self-study in epistemology, metaphysics, aesthetics, and ethics. Contains valuable passages that were edited out of the original

Pirsig book.

For fans of ZMM, this is an incredible book that summarizes various aspects of the ZMM book. First and foremost, it gives you the necessary background on philosophy to get a better understanding of where the Pirsig is coming from. Secondly, it is great studying material for those of us who're interested in getting deeper into the issues that Pirsig gets to in the ZMM. Particularly, I liked the section in this book that relates Quality with Taoist principles. A must have! It can be read without reading ZMM, BTW.

The inclusion of edited material from ZAMM was welcome. I found I was distracted when I was actually reading ZAMM and referencing the guidebook. My suggestion - read ZAMM completely then refer to the guidebook to explore a section more deeply. The reviews of ZAMM were of passing interest, from the early reviews published after the book's release to later ones and their criticism. I'm not a deeply devout person of any given persuasion, so the religious comparisons and references were of lesser importance. I think they would be helpful if one were looking to delve deeper into Buddhism or other philosophy. This Guidebook DID ADD to my overall understanding and enjoyment of ZAMM.

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Provides some interesting insights into the Philosophy of the ZAMM. I wish there was more info concerning locations though. There is a map but it's a two page map but you cannot view it properly due to book design. Would have been better to break map up and keep smaller portions on one page. Thankfully there are some really informative websites now dedicated to the book, as well as videos and podcasts. Google is your friend.

This book opens up a lot of insights that were in ZMM. It gave me a fuller understanding of what ZMM was all about. Like another reviewer said, I'd read ZMM first, then read this book. It further

explains the Eastern religions and Western philosophies that Pirsig talks about, or alluded to. Fans of ZMM will not be disappointed with this book.

I love the book Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. It was one of those books that I tried to read years ago but was simply not ready for it. After a recent conversation with a friend that mentioned the book, I decided to pick up a copy and read it. This time I was ready. After my second reading of ZMM, I decided to purchase Guidebook to Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. My hope was to deepen my understanding. I gave up on reading Guidebook to Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance about half way through Section 8 (Critical Reviews). This book seems obviously written by intellectuals for intellectuals. Maybe it will be one of those books I will pick up again when I'm ready. For now, I'm not ready.

This book was very helpful in understanding Robert Pirsig's book, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance". The book looks at Pirsig's work from several perspectives. It starts with an introduction to both Eastern and Western philosophies and thematically attempts to explain each and how they are part of ZAAMM. It also walks you through the book chapter by chapter explaining how the topics covered relate to the philosophies explained. It also tells a lot about the author and how the book ZAAMM is sort of a fictional tale, but it is also biographical, so it's hard to determine if there really is much fiction in the book at all. I suppose some philosophies could be considered fictional, but it covers philosophical topics. I learned a lot from this guidebook and I think the authors did a commendable job in shedding new light on this classic work. I'm just trying to figure out how to make a movie out of ZAAMM.

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