



ALAN WATTS

BIOGRAPHY

Alan Watts was a British philosopher, writer and speaker who is best known for the introduction of Eastern philosophy to Western audiences.

Watts was born in London in 1915 and baptised a Christian, but became fascinated at an early age with the Far East and Buddhism. He became a member of the London Buddhist Lodge and his first book on Zen, titled "An Outline of Zen Buddhism", was released in 1932.

After leaving school, Alan Watts moved to the US to receive training under a Zen master, but he left before being ordained a Zen monk. Instead, he turned his focus back to Christianity, eventually working as an Episcopal priest in Chicago for six years.

Upon leaving the Church, he decided to move to San Francisco to pursue an academic career at the American Academy of Asian Studies, where he later became Dean. At about the same time he also published his bestselling book, "The Way of Zen", and started giving lectures to share his interpretation of Eastern philosophy. His reputation as a lecturer and philosopher quickly spread and he became a counter-

culture celebrity with a loyal following, who travelling widely to give talks across the US and Europe.

Alan Watts wrote 25 books on Eastern philosophy, Vedanta, Buddhism, Taoism and Zen. Almost 50 years after his death, Alan Watts continues to inspire, and his books are constantly re-discovered by new generations of readers.

Many of Alan Watts' lectures were recorded. His audio library comprises more than 400 talks. Today, he has a huge following with podcast and YouTube components approaching ten million downloads.

Alan Watts's legacy is managed by his son, Mark Watts. The Alan Watts Mountain Center is currently under construction in a rural area near the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, north of San Francisco. The center will produce educational programs, and facilitate and complete Alan Watts' digital archive.

For more information, visit:
www.alanwatts.org
www.alanwattscenter.org
www.alanwattspodcast.com