



# **Cyber Zen: Imagining Authentic Buddhist Identity, Community, and Practices in the Virtual World of Second Life (Media, Religion and Culture)**

*Gregory Price Grieve*

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*Cyber Zen* ethnographically explores Buddhist practices in the online virtual world of Second Life. Does typing at a keyboard and moving avatars around the screen, however, count as real Buddhism? If authentic practices must mimic the actual world, then Second Life Buddhism does not. In fact, a critical investigation reveals that online Buddhist practices have at best only a family resemblance to canonical Asian traditions and owe much of their methods to the late twentieth-century field of cybernetics. If, however, they are judged existentially, by how they enable users to respond to the suffering generated by living in a highly mediated consumer society, then Second Life Buddhism consists of authentic spiritual practices.

*Cyber Zen* explores how Second Life Buddhist enthusiasts form communities, identities, locations, and practices that are both products of and authentic responses to contemporary Network Consumer Society. Gregory Price Grieve illustrates that to some extent all religion has always been virtual and gives a glimpse of possible future alternative forms of religion.

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#### **Richard Russell:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got college students? We believe that that question was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. And also you know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update with regards to something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is

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