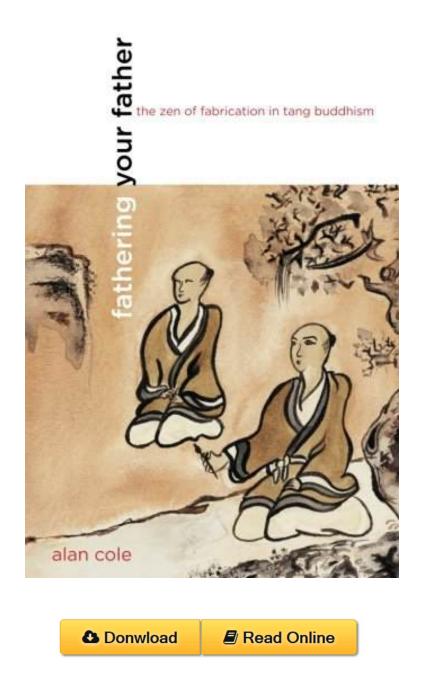
Fathering Your Father: The Zen of Fabrication in Tang Buddhism

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By Alan Cole : Fathering Your Father: The Zen of Fabrication in Tang Buddhism Fathering Your Father: The Zen of Fabrication in Tang Buddhism:

6 of 6 review helpful Challenging and Delightful By Dae An This book is a must read for anyone interested in the true

origins of Zen Buddhism With a scholar s attention to detail and a revolutionary s urge to dismantle sacred cows Cole takes on the traditional romantic view of the birth of Zen He makes the case that the genealogies of transmission which are so sacred to Zen were a self consious fabrication designed to This book offers a provocative rereading of the early history of Chan Buddhism Zen Working from a history of religions point of view that asks how and why certain literary tropes were chosen to depict the essence of the Buddhist tradition to Chinese readers this analysis focuses on the narrative logics of the early Chan genealogies mdash the seventh and eighth century lineage texts that claimed that certain high profile Chinese men were descendents of Bodhidharm It is rare to review a book that successfully overturns many of the assumptions held in an area of study This book achieves this revolution for Chan studies and deserves to be read closely by all researchers in the field

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