

(Mobile book) The Tea Ceremony: Explore The Ancient Art Of Tea

The Tea Ceremony: Explore The Ancient Art Of Tea

Okakura Kakuzo

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Okakura Kakuzo : The Tea Ceremony: Explore The Ancient Art Of Tea before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tea Ceremony: Explore The Ancient Art Of Tea:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One Star
By Kelley Drabowicz
Did not arrive with any utensils as advertised, do not buy
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Disappointment at Misleading Description
By C. D. Watts
I am very disappointed in this product. It was shown and discussed as an entire kit. I only received the book and would not have ordered it without the supplies for the actual tea ceremony. I am really surprised, because I have been dealing with for many years. This is the first time I have felt so frustrated and disappointed with the service.
34 of 38 people found the following review helpful. horribly disappointing
By K. E. Bechtold
My Japanese tea ceremony instructor bought this kit at the `s gift shop to see what kind of quality would be available from a national museum specializing in Asian art. The answer: horribly disappointing. The only thing decent about it is the included book. The tea bowl is wrong, the incense is wrong, the whisk is quite wrong, and the fukusa is hideously, hideously wrong. The kit seems to be targeted toward clueless hippies.
The tea bowl was the item on which I was least clear what was wrong. It was too heavy for one thing, and it also didn't have glaze on the bottom.
The tines of the chasen, as you may be able to see from the product picture, are waaaaay too thick. The incense is in a stick form, which isn't right. (We haven't yet learned anything about incense or its role in chado, so I didn't know that.)
My instructor didn't even

recognize the included piece of cloth as a fukusa. It was a white satin type of material, single thickness, with frayed edges. It wasn't folded right. This piece of cloth was the low point, the rock bottom, the piegrave;ce de crapitance, of the set. You could arguably criticize the set for lacking a chashaku and natsume and matcha itself (IIRC); it can't claim to have everything you'd need for a tea ceremony. Now that I think about it, tea people could probably debate exactly what elements would constitute "everything you'd need for a tea ceremony," but I can't imagine those wouldn't include a chashaku and natsume. The \$18.90 price should probably be a giveaway. Not that "more expensive" = "higher quality", but it would just be impossible to provide any authenticity in a set that costs that little.

With its emphasis on ritual and aesthetics, the ceremonial presentation of tea provides a fascinating introduction to many aspects of Japanese culture. In the popular classic *The Book of Tea*, Japanese scholar Okakura Kakuzo seeks to explain "the way of tea" to westerners, in the hope that they will understand this insightful ritual as far more than the offering of a mere brewed beverage. His profound, poetic work explores the history of tea as well as the subtler Zen spirituality behind the centuries-old ceremony. This beautifully designed kit contains Kakuzo's *Book of Tea* plus utensils to use in recreating the tea ceremony at home: a traditional bowl and split bamboo whisk. It's a wonderful way to get in touch with life's pure and simple pleasures and to learn to savor a bowl of tea in the most eloquent way.