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This modern classic. "The Book of Tea", is essentially an apology for Eastern traditions and feelings to the Western world- not in passionate, oversentimental terms, but with a charm and underlying toughness which clearly indicate some of the enduring differences between the Eastern and Western mind. Okakura exhibits the distinctive "personality" of the East through the philosophy of Teaism and the ancient Japanese tea ceremony. This ceremony is particularly revelatory of a conservative strain in Japanese culture; its ideals of aesthetic tranquillity and submission to the ways of the past find no parallel in the major cultural motifs of the West.