



# Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up

By Stanley Bing

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## Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up By Stanley Bing

Sit down. Breathe deep. This is the last business book you will ever need. For in these pages, Stanley Bing solves the ultimate problem of your working life: How to manage the boss.

The technique is simple . . . as simple as throwing an elephant. All it takes is the proper state of mind, a step-by-step plan, and a great leap of faith. This humble guide provides all these and more. It is Zen that enables one to take an object of enormous weight and size and mold it in one's grasp like a ball of Silly Putty. For senior management, in truth, is the silliest putty of them all.

This comprehensive course walks budding business bodhisattvas through basic skills needed to provide the simple elephant handling that makes everyday life possible, including but not limited to the primary task of following along after the elephant with a little broom and dustpan. Serious students will then move to intermediate steps, from Polishing the Elephant's Tusks to Hiding from the Elephant When It Has Been Drinking and Feels Quite Nasty. Beyond this level lies the land of the practiced Zen masters, culminating in the ability to leverage and then throw the now-weightless elephant--and even play catch with it at corporate retreats.

If *What Would Machiavelli Would Do?* was the meanest business book since the Renaissance, *Throwing the Elephant* provides the yang to that yin. Because sometimes you've got to be selfless, compassionate, and completely empty to get the job done.

Stanley Bing is a columnist for *Fortune* magazine and the author of *What Would Machiavelli Do?* and *Lloyd: What Happened*, a novel. By day, he works for a gigantic multinational conglomerate whose identity is one of the worst-kept secrets in business.

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## Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up By Stanley Bing Bibliography

- Rank: #451855 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-03-17
- Released on: 2009-03-17
- Format: Kindle eBook

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Stanley Bing's *Throwing the Elephant*, subtitled *Zen and the Art of Managing Up*, is a wise and hilarious--mostly hilarious--antidote to the extensive library of works by grim, clenched-fisted business gurus. Bing posits that power strategies cannot be "managed through rational means." Real success--corporate-niche enlightenment--comes only by embracing religion, specifically Zen Buddhism. This enables one to take "an object of enormous weight and size" (i.e. the elephantine boss) and "mold it ... like a ball of Silly Putty." In truth, he continues, senior management is "the silliest putty of them all." Bing doles out his thoughts in dozens of pithy chapters ("Playing Golf with the Elephant," "Getting Drunk with the Elephant"). He also includes many visual aids (some of which nearly make sense) and adds a sprinkling of the wisdom of others--from Martha Stewart and Jimmy Hoffa to the rock band the Doors--to make his wickedly entertaining points. --H. O'Billovitch

#### From Publishers Weekly

In a spoof of just about every career advice and management-by-metaphor book ever created, Bing (*What Would Machiavelli Do?*) delivers a Zen-like guide to managing your boss. The premise? Here's what Buddha would tell you if he were your personal career coach. A book juxtaposing faux-Zen advice with embarrassing corporate situations (e.g., how to handle a drunken boss) is almost guaranteed to be funny. Bing, "an ultra-senior officer at an elephantine corporation," has plenty of firsthand anecdotes to tell, and he supplements them with stories about some of the notoriously toughest bosses on the planet, like Martha Stewart and Citigroup's Sandy Weill. There are chapters on critiquing your boss ("any bitter pill of criticism one offers an elephant must be buried within a vast tub of cream cheese") and "facing the angry elephant" (when you're to blame for your boss's anger, "breathe deeply. Breath is life"). Despite the amusing anecdotes, though, Bing's narrative can become a bit wearying if one reads more than a couple of chapters in one sitting. However, if an employee only breaks out Bing's book when the elephant is having a particularly bad couple of weeks, enlightenment is certain.

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#### From Library Journal

Bing (*What Would Machiavelli Do?*) has written a clever book on how to manage elephants, a.k.a. bosses. According to the author, "only the power of Zen contemplation will result in a happy business life for the subordinate who yearns for understanding, control, and enlightenment. It is the practice of Business Zen that will enable you, in the end, after much trial and failure, to throw the elephant who is your boss." Through case studies and guidelines, Bing discusses steps to achieving control over the elephant, with such practical chapters as "Greeting the Elephant," "Rejoicing with the Elephant," and "Getting a Leash on the Elephant." Here, for instance, Bing's advice on greetings: "A quick handshake and formal greeting in an elevator is appropriate. A gushing invocation of lifelong admiration for the elephant is not." Witty and thought-provoking, this imaginative and unique work is recommended for public libraries and practitioners and students of business. Lucy Heckman, St. John's Univ. Lib., Jamaica, NY

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**Roberto Reyes:**

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Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up, you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

**Gary Askew:**

Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up but doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into new stage of crucial considering.

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