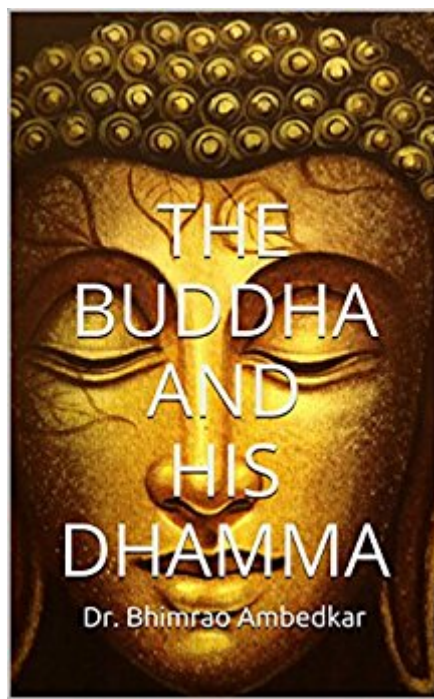


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THE BUDDHA AND HIS DHAMMA



Synopsis

The Buddha and His Dhamma, a treatise on Buddha's life and Buddhism, was the last work of Indian statesman and scholar B. R. Ambedkar. The book is treated as a holy text by Indian Buddhists. It was first published in 1957 after Ambedkar's death on 6 December 1956. It was again published in 1979 by the Education Department of the Government of Maharashtra as the eleventh volume of Ambedkar's collected writings and speeches, with a list of sources and an index. Written in English, the book has been translated to many languages including Hindi, Gujarati, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Malayalam, and Kannada. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar mentioned that it is one of the three books which will form a set for the proper understanding of Buddhism. The other books are: (i) Buddha and Karl Marx; and (ii) Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Ancient India.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is regarded as the holy text in Indian Buddhist community. Written by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the author of several hundred books and father of the constitution of India, this book is simply a piece of work. It details the time before Buddha's birth, the king system that was followed in those days, then how his birth was predicted by some elderly and educated rishi (a Hindu monk), etc. In

intricate details Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was able to go into day-to-day details of Buddha's life while he was growing up now knowing he was going to the Buddha one day. He proves to be the kindest while growing up with his cousins. He gets married to a beautiful princess Yashodhara and then gives birth to a child. This book uses another approach, another reasoning for him to leave the life of a king and be an ascetic. Usually people read the story of his locked in the palace and suddenly getting exposed to newborn, aged, sick and death scenarios which makes him very reluctant to be in kingly life. But in this book Dr. Ambedkar uses a very practical approach with the historical proofs behind the events that took place and led Siddhartha to renounce his kingdom and be an ascetic. It becomes even more interesting, when Dr. Ambedkar describes Buddha's attempts with several teachers who promise him the ultimate truths, but turn out to be kind of insufficient for him. Finally, he decides to work himself to find for the ultimate reasons for suffering. After attaining enlightenment, he has travelled throughout the north India, spreading his teachings and love. Book lists hundreds of events (angulimala, looters, hindu monks, lay people, kings, soldiers, etc) when he guides people for the truth inside rather than outside oneself. I can write another 2 pages on it, but I guess reading it would be a great experience for you.

I don't know where they get off selling this book for over \$200, but it is available through Buddhist Temples for free. It is analogous to getting a Christian Bible at a church for free. My copy of it has the EXACT SAME front cover, except at the bottom there are no dates. The back of my copy reads: Reprinted and donated for free distribution by the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation 11F., 55 Hang chow South Road Sec 1, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C. Tel 886-2-23951198, FAX 886-2-23913415.

Helps understand what are Buddha's teaching and how it has nothing do with Hindu system. It is wrongly spread that Buddha was incarnation of Vishnu. Buddha's teachings go against most of the basics of Hindu. Buddha's teaching are truly based on logic, common sense, and science. He does not believe in god, rebirth, and soul. Or do not think these thing are important for mankind.

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