

Divine Stories Divyavadana

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According to the Divyavadana Shared Characters in Jain, Buddhist and Hindu

Narrative The Woman Who Raised the Buddha Nagarjuna's Precious Garland

The Pacific World Encyclopaedia of Buddhism: fasc. 1. Causality Hungry

Ghosts Encyclopaedia of Buddhism Studies in Sikhism and Comparative

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the divyavadana is an enormous compendium of indian buddhist narratives written in sanskrit from the early centuries of the common era whose stories have since spread throughout asia as both narrative and narrative art leaving an indelible mark on buddhist thought and practice the stories in the collection were frequently used in the education of both monastics and laity in premodern asia exerting a powerful

influence as moral exempla and legal precedent and they were considered by many to be the word of the buddha himself these stories were likewise canonical in their influence on buddhist art representations of these stories can be found across asia from kizil in china to sanchi in india to borobudur in indonesia it is not hyperbole to say that these are some of the most influential stories in the history of buddhism the stories presented here among the first texts to be inscribed by buddhists highlight the moral economy of karma illustrating how gestures of faith especially offerings can bring the reward of future happiness and ultimately liberation

explore this second volume of translations in vivid prose from one of the most celebrated collections of ancient buddhist stories actions never come to naught even after hundreds of millions of years when the right conditions gather and the time is right then they will have their effect on embodied beings ancient buddhist literature is filled with tales of past lives the buddha surrounded by his followers is asked how it came to be that a certain person has met a particular fate with his omniscience the buddha looks into eons past and uncovers the events that led to the present outcome and foretells the future as well with stories of wicked wives patricidal princes and shape shifting serpents divine stories offers a fascinating illustration of the law of karma the truth that the power of good and bad deeds is never lost these are some of the oldest buddhist tales ever committed to writing illuminating the culture of northern india in the early centuries of the common era and bringing to life the buddhist values of generosity and faith andy rotman s evocative translation combines accuracy with readability with detailed editorial notes comparing readings in various sanskrit pali and tibetan sources divine stories is a major contribution to indian and buddhist studies

divine stories is the inaugural volume in a landmark translation series devoted to making the wealth of classical indian buddhism accessible to modern readers the stories here among the first texts to be inscribed by buddhists highlight the moral economy of karma illustrating how gestures of faith especially offerings can bring the reward of future happiness and ultimate liberation originally contained in the divyavadana an enormous compendium of sanskrit buddhist narratives from the early common era the stories in this collection express the moral and ethical impulses of indian buddhist thought and are a testament to the historical and social power of narrative long believed by followers to be the actual words of the buddha himself these divine stories are without a doubt some of the most influential stories in the history of buddhism

taking a comparative approach which considers characters that are shared across the narrative traditions of early indian religions brahmanical hinduism jainism and

buddhism shared characters in jain buddhist and hindu narrative explores key religious and social ideals as well as points of contact dialogue and contention between different worldviews the book focuses on three types of character gods heroes and kings that are of particular importance to early south asian narrative traditions because of their relevance to the concerns of the day such as the role of deities the qualities of a true hero or good ruler and the tension between worldly responsibilities and the pursuit of liberation characters including character roles and lineages of characters that are shared between traditions reveal both a common narrative heritage and important differences in worldview and ideology that are developed in interaction with other worldviews and ideologies of the day as such this study sheds light on an important period of indian religious history and will be essential reading for scholars and postgraduate students working on early south asian religious or narrative traditions jain buddhist and hindu as well as being of interest more widely in the fields of religious studies classical indology asian studies and literary studies

nautilus book award winner the first full biography of mahaprajapati gautami the woman who raised the buddha examining her life through stories and canonical records mahaprajapati was the only mother the buddha ever knew his birth mother maya died shortly after childbirth and her sister mahaprajapati took the infant to her breast nurturing and raising him into adulthood while there is a lot of ambiguity overall in the buddha's biography this detail remains consistent across all buddhist traditions and literature in this first full biography of mahaprajapati the woman who raised the buddha presents her life story with attention to her early years as sister queen matriarch and mother as well as her later years as a nun drawing from story fragments and canonical records wendy garling reveals just how exceptional mahaprajapati's role was as leader of the first generation of buddhist women helping the buddha establish an equal community of lay and monastic women and men mother to the buddha mother to early buddhist women mother to the buddhist faith mahaprajapati's journey is finally presented as one interwoven with the founding of buddhism

discover the eloquence and insight of the philosopher nagarjuna held by tradition to be a second buddha in this concise instruction for a king that is considered a masterpiece of buddhist literature in this profound work of five hundred verses we encounter a presentation of buddhism that integrates both the worldly and the transcendent the clear and sagacious advice laid out on every page serves as a road map to one's highest goal whether that goal is a better life here called the dharma of ascendance or the ultimate one of spiritual freedom the dharma of the highest good the verses written for an unnamed ruler touch on questions of statecraft but their

broader themes speak to us today because they tackle the difficulty of integrating one's spiritual journey with the social and political demands of daily life. Nagarjuna was an Indian Buddhist teacher probably of the second century CE who was renowned for his astute articulation of the philosophy of the Middle Way. *Madhyamaka* his thoroughgoing critique of all forms of essentialism became a touchstone for Mahayana Buddhism in India, Tibet and throughout East Asia and his importance for the development of the Mahayana tradition can scarcely be exaggerated. The translators here first rendered Nagarjuna's letter for the Dalai Lama's teachings on the work in Los Angeles in 1997 while that commemorative edition was translated from the Tibetan the present volume prioritizes the surviving Sanskrit verses along with the only known Indian commentary by the eleventh century scholar Ajitamitra. This is the first complete translation in English of the *Precious Garland* that takes the Indian text and commentary as its primary authorities. In addition the translators provide rigorous working editions of the Sanskrit and Tibetan verses they translate this elegant and precise rendering of Nagarjuna's work is certain to become the touchstone translation of this celebrated Buddhist text.

preface introduction *mātsarya* and the malignancy of meanness hungry ghosts through images technical notes translation *avadānaśataka* stories 41–50 1 sugar mill 41 *guḍasālā* 2 food 42 bhaktam 3 drinking water 43 *pāṇīyam* 4 a pot of shit 44 *varcaghaṭaḥ* 5 maudgalyāyana 45 maudgalyāyanāḥ 6 *uttara* 46 *uttaraḥ* 7 blind from birth 47 *jātyandhā* 8 the merchant 48 Śreṣṭhī 9 sons 49 *putrāḥ* 10 *jāmbāla* 50 *jāmbālaḥ* glossary notes bibliography index about the author

Although Buddhism is often depicted as a religion of meditators and philosophers some of the earliest writings extant in India offer a very different portrait of the Buddhist practitioner. In Indian Buddhist narratives from the early centuries of the common era most lay religious practice consists not of reading, praying or meditating but of visually engaging with certain kinds of objects. These visual practices moreover are represented as the primary means of cultivating faith a necessary precondition for proceeding along the Buddhist spiritual path. In *Thus Have I Seen* Visualizing Faith in Early Indian Buddhism Andy Rotman examines these visual practices and how they function as a kind of skeleton key for opening up Buddhist conceptualizations about the world and the ways it should be navigated. Rotman's analysis is based primarily on stories from the *Divyavadana* Divine Stories one of the most important collections of ancient Buddhist narratives from India. Though discourses of the Buddha are well known for their opening words thus have I heard for Buddhist teachings were first preserved and transmitted orally the *Divyavadana* presents a very different model for disseminating the Buddhist dharma. Devotees are enjoined to look not just hear and visual legacies and lineages are shown to trump their oral counterparts as Rotman

makes clear this configuration of the visual fundamentally transforms the world of the buddhist practitioner changing what one sees what one believes and what one does

in this edited volume richard davis and his colleagues examine how religious images are understood by practitioners in asia and what social cultural and political aspects are connected to the mira

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