

The Lankavatara Sutra Translation And Commentary

The Lankavatara Sutra Translation And Commentary The Lankavatara Sutra Translation and Commentary The Lankavatara Sutra is one of the most profound and influential texts within Mahayana Buddhism, revered for its deep philosophical insights and emphasis on the nature of mind and consciousness. Its translation and subsequent commentaries have played a pivotal role in shaping Buddhist thought, especially within the Zen and Yogacara traditions. Understanding the nuances of its translation and interpretation not only opens a window into the spiritual teachings of the Buddha but also offers practical guidance on how to realize one's true nature. This article explores the history of the Lankavatara Sutra's translation, the key themes within its commentary, and its significance in contemporary Buddhist practice.

The Origins and Historical Context of the Lankavatara Sutra

Historical Background The Lankavatara Sutra, believed to have been composed in India around the 4th to 5th century CE, is considered one of the core texts of Mahayana Buddhism. Its name derives from the island of Lanka (Sri Lanka), where it was supposedly first taught or where it gained prominence. The sutra is renowned for its unique focus on the primacy of mind (citta) and consciousness, setting it apart from earlier Buddhist texts that emphasized external phenomena or dharma. Originally written in Sanskrit, the Sutra was later translated into Chinese, with the earliest known translation attributed to the monk Guṇabhadra in the 5th century CE. This translation became the foundation for many subsequent Chinese commentaries and interpretations, influencing the development of Chan (Zen) Buddhism.

Key Themes and Philosophical Significance

The Lankavatara Sutra emphasizes several core ideas: – The primacy of mind and consciousness over external reality. – The concept of vikalpa (conceptual thought) as the principal obstacle to enlightenment. – The notion of tathagatagarbha or Buddha-nature inherent in all beings. – The importance of direct experiential realization over doctrinal study. Its philosophical depth has made it both a challenging and inspiring text for practitioners and scholars alike, prompting numerous translations and commentaries over the centuries.

2 Translation of the Lankavatara Sutra

Major Translations and Their Differences

The translation history of the Lankavatara Sutra is marked by several significant efforts, each reflecting different interpretive nuances:

- Guṇabhadra's Chinese Translation:** The earliest and most influential translation, completed in the 5th century, which laid the foundation for Chinese Mahayana thought.
- Xuanzang's Translation:** In the 7th century, the great monk Xuanzang produced a revised translation that clarified some ambiguous passages and incorporated commentarial insights.
- Modern Translations:** In recent times, scholars like Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki and others have provided English translations and commentaries, often drawing from multiple Chinese and Sanskrit sources. Each translation offers a slightly different perspective, emphasizing various aspects of the original text, which

reflects the fluid and interpretive nature of translating profound spiritual literature. Challenges in Translation Translating the Lankavatara Sutra presents several difficulties: – Complex philosophical terminology: Terms like *vijnana*, *tathagatagarbha*, and *vikalpa* lack direct equivalents in many languages. – Poetic and metaphorical language: The sutra employs metaphors and poetic imagery that are difficult to render faithfully. – Cultural context: Concepts rooted in Indian philosophical and religious thought require contextual adaptation for modern or Western readers. Scholars often debate the best translation choices, emphasizing the importance of consulting multiple versions and commentaries to grasp the full depth of the text. Commentary on the Lankavatara Sutra Historical and Modern Commentaries Commentaries on the Lankavatara Sutra have proliferated over the centuries, each offering unique interpretative lenses: Zhiyi's Commentary: The Chinese Tiantai master provided a systematic interpretation, emphasizing the unity of truth and provisional teachings. Dogen's Insights: The founder of Zen Buddhism, Dogen, drew heavily from the sutra, highlighting the immediacy of awakening and the primacy of practice. 3 Contemporary Scholars: Modern commentators like Thich Nhat Hanh and the Dalai Lama have provided accessible explanations, connecting the sutra's teachings to everyday mindfulness and compassion. These commentaries enrich the understanding of the sutra's profound teachings, making them accessible to practitioners at various levels. Key Interpretive Themes The core themes often elaborated upon in commentaries include: – The nature of mind: Understanding that the mind itself is luminous, pure, and the source of all phenomena. – *Vikalpa* and delusion: Recognizing conceptual thought as the main obstacle to enlightenment, with practices aimed at transcending conceptualization. – Self-awareness and realization: Emphasizing direct, experiential insight into one's true nature rather than reliance solely on doctrinal knowledge. – Buddha-nature: The inherent potential for awakening present in all beings, often linked to the concept of *tathagatagarbha*. By exploring these themes, commentaries aim to guide practitioners toward a direct experience of the teachings. The Significance of the Lankavatara Sutra in Buddhist Practice Influence on Zen and Mahayana Traditions The Lankavatara Sutra has been especially influential in the development of Zen Buddhism, where emphasis on direct experience and mind-to-mind transmission aligns closely with its teachings. The sutra's focus on the primacy of consciousness and the importance of awakening through direct realization resonated with Zen masters like Dogen and Linji. Furthermore, the sutra's teachings on *vijnapti-matra* (representation-only consciousness) underpin Yogacara philosophy, which explores the nature of cognition and perception. This has contributed to a rich tradition of meditative practice aimed at transcending conceptual thought. Practical Applications Practitioners draw upon the Lankavatara Sutra's teachings through: – Mindfulness meditation: Cultivating awareness of the present moment and recognizing the luminous nature of mind. – Contemplation on Buddha-nature: Recognizing the inherent potential for awakening within oneself and others. – Transcendence of *vikalpa*: Learning to observe and let go of conceptual thought to experience reality directly. – Integration of wisdom and compassion: Embodying the enlightened qualities emphasized in the sutra. These practices facilitate a direct, experiential understanding of the teachings, leading toward liberation. 4 Contemporary Relevance of the Lankavatara Sutra Modern Interpretations and Applications In today's

context, the Lankavatara Sutra continues to inspire those interested in meditation, philosophy, and spiritual growth. Its teachings align well with contemporary mindfulness and cognitive sciences, emphasizing awareness and the nature of consciousness. Some modern applications include: – Mindfulness-based therapy: Drawing from the sutra's insights into the luminous nature of mind. – Interfaith dialogue: Using the sutra's universal themes of inherent Buddha-nature to foster understanding across spiritual traditions. – Educational initiatives: Teaching the importance of direct experience over dogma. Challenges and Opportunities While the depth of the Lankavatara Sutra can be daunting, it offers opportunities for: – Deepening meditation practices. – Exploring the nature of consciousness. – Engaging in philosophical inquiry about reality and perception. Practitioners and scholars are encouraged to approach the sutra with humility, openness, and a willingness to experience its teachings firsthand. Conclusion The translation and commentary of the Lankavatara Sutra are vital for unlocking its profound teachings on the nature of mind, consciousness, and enlightenment. From its origins in Indian Mahayana tradition to its influence on Chinese, Japanese, and Western Buddhism, the sutra continues to inspire practitioners worldwide. Its emphasis on direct realization, transcending conceptual thought, and recognizing Buddha-nature remains as relevant today as when it was first composed. Whether approached through scholarly study, meditative practice, or philosophical reflection, the Lankavatara Sutra offers a timeless guide toward understanding the true nature of reality and awakening to one's innate wisdom. Embracing its teachings can lead to profound transformation, fostering wisdom, compassion, and liberation in everyday life. Question Answer What is the Lankavatara Sutra and why is its translation significant? The Lankavatara Sutra is a key Mahayana Buddhist text that explores mind-only philosophy and enlightenment. Its translation is significant because it makes complex teachings accessible to a global audience and influences various schools of Buddhist thought. 5 Who are some notable scholars involved in translating the Lankavatara Sutra? Prominent translators include Chinese scholars like Xuanzang, as well as modern scholars such as D.T. Suzuki and Edward Conze, whose commentaries have shaped contemporary understanding of the text. What are the main challenges faced in translating the Lankavatara Sutra? Challenges include rendering complex Sanskrit and Chinese philosophical terminology accurately, capturing nuanced doctrinal meanings, and conveying the text's poetic and symbolic language across different cultures. How does the commentary on the Lankavatara Sutra enhance its teachings? Commentaries provide contextual explanations, interpret difficult passages, and relate teachings to practical meditation and ethical practice, thereby deepening understanding and application. What are some recent trends in the translation and commentary of the Lankavatara Sutra? Recent trends include digital publication of annotated translations, interdisciplinary approaches combining philosophy and psychology, and efforts to make the text accessible to diverse audiences through modern language and commentary. How has the interpretation of the Lankavatara Sutra evolved over time? Interpretations have shifted from traditional monastic exegesis to more inclusive, philosophical, and psychological perspectives, reflecting broader interest in its teachings on consciousness and perception. Where can I find reputable translations and commentaries on the Lankavatara Sutra? Reputable sources include

translations by D.T. Suzuki, Edward Conze, and modern editions published by scholarly presses like Wisdom Publications and the Buddhist Publication Society, often accompanied by detailed commentaries. Lankavatara Sutra Translation and Commentary: An In-Depth Exploration The Lankavatara Sutra translation and commentary represent a significant milestone in the transmission of Mahayana Buddhism, offering profound insights into the nature of mind, consciousness, and enlightenment. As one of the central texts of Yogacara philosophy, this sutra has inspired countless practitioners and scholars alike, serving as both a spiritual guide and a philosophical treatise. Its intricate language and layered meanings challenge readers to delve deeply into the nature of perception and reality, making its translation and commentary a subject of ongoing scholarly interest and spiritual reflection. --- Introduction to the Lankavatara Sutra The Lankavatara Sutra is a Mahayana Buddhist scripture believed to have been composed in India around the 4th to 5th centuries CE. Its name, translating roughly as "Sutra of the Lanka [or Lanka-like] Mountain," references the mythic mountain where the Buddha is said to have delivered teachings. Central to the text is the concept that all phenomena are manifestations of the mind, emphasizing the importance of consciousness in the path to enlightenment. The sutra is particularly renowned for its focus on the nature of mind The Lankavatara Sutra Translation And Commentary 6 (citta), the doctrine of tathāgatagarbha (Buddha-nature), and the importance of direct realization over conceptual elaboration. Its teachings challenge dualistic notions and urge practitioners to recognize the inherent purity and luminosity of consciousness. --- The Significance of Translation and Commentary Translating the Lankavatara Sutra is no trivial task. The original texts are dense with philosophical terminology, poetic metaphors, and subtle nuances that are deeply embedded in the Sanskrit and later Chinese and Tibetan translations. Accurate translation is crucial to preserve the integrity of its teachings, while commentary helps unpack complex ideas, making them accessible to a wider audience. The development of authoritative translations and commentaries has played a vital role in shaping how the sutra is understood across different Buddhist traditions. These works bridge cultural and linguistic gaps, allowing practitioners from diverse backgrounds to grasp the profound messages of the text. --- Historical Context and Key Translators Early Translations The earliest known translation of the Lankavatara Sutra into Chinese is attributed to the monk Guṇabhadra (394–468 CE), who rendered the text during the 5th century. His translation laid the groundwork for subsequent renditions and commentaries, influencing Chinese Buddhist thought profoundly. Later Developments In the 7th century, the Chinese monk Xuanzang further translated and interpreted the sutra, adding commentary and clarifying difficult passages. Tibetan translators, such as Buton Rinchen Drub, also contributed to the transmission, adapting the text into the Tibetan Buddhist canon with their own interpretive nuances. The most influential translations are considered to be: – Guṇabhadra's Chinese translation (5th century) – Xuanzang's Chinese translation (7th century) – Modern translations by scholars such as D.T. Suzuki and Jeffrey Hopkins These translations differ in linguistic style, interpretive emphasis, and contextual framing, each offering unique perspectives. --- Features of Major Translations and Commentaries Guṇabhadra's Chinese Translation – Known for its poetic and somewhat poetic style. – Emphasizes the mystical and doctrinal aspects. – Laid the foundation for later commentaries. The

Lankavatara Sutra Translation And Commentary 7 Xuanzang's Chinese Translation – A more detailed and systematic translation. – Incorporates extensive commentary and annotations. – Focuses on clarifying philosophical concepts. Modern Translations and Commentaries – Scholars like Jeffrey Hopkins and D.T. Suzuki have provided accessible versions. – Incorporate historical context, linguistic analysis, and philosophical interpretation. – Often include extensive footnotes explaining complex terms. Features of these translations include: – Preservation of the original's poetic rhythm. – Clarification of Buddhist technical terms. – Use of contemporary language to make teachings accessible. – Inclusion of historical and doctrinal background. --- Philosophical Themes Explored in the Commentary Mind-Only (Cittamatra) and Yogacara Philosophy The core of the sutra and its commentaries revolves around the Yogacara concept that all phenomena are projections of the mind. This doctrine emphasizes that understanding the nature of consciousness is essential for liberation. Non-Dualism and Emptiness The texts challenge dualistic perceptions of subject and object, encouraging practitioners to see beyond conceptual distinctions. The commentary often explores the notion of emptiness (śūnyatā) as the inherent lack of independent existence in all phenomena. Self-Realization and Direct Knowledge The sutra advocates for direct experiential realization rather than reliance on conceptual understanding. Commentaries elaborate on methods for attaining this insight, such as meditation and mindfulness. Role of the Bodhisattva and Compassion The teachings emphasize compassionate action and the importance of embodying wisdom for the benefit of all beings, aligning with Mahayana ideals. --- Features and Benefits of Different Commentaries – Scholarly Commentaries (e.g., Jeffrey Hopkins): – Provide detailed analysis of philosophical terms. – Include historical and textual context. – Offer practical meditation instructions. – Spiritual and Mystical Commentaries (e.g., D.T. Suzuki): – Focus on the experiential and mystical aspects. – Emphasize the unity of mind and reality. – Use poetic language to evoke insight. – Traditional Monastic Commentaries (e.g., Tibetan texts): – Rooted in lineage and tradition. – Emphasize the importance of practice and initiation. – Incorporate ritual and symbolic interpretation. Pros and Cons of Various Approaches: – Pros: – Depth of understanding through scholarly analysis. – Accessibility for practitioners seeking practical guidance. – Preservation of tradition and lineage. – Cons: – Potential for overly technical language. – Risk of interpretive bias. – Challenges in translating subtle notions accurately. --- Challenges in Translating the Lankavatara Sutra Translating this profound text involves several challenges: – Linguistic Nuance: Sanskrit and Chinese contain words with multiple layers of meaning, making precise translation difficult. – Cultural Context: The metaphors and concepts are rooted in Indian and Chinese cultural paradigms, which may not have direct equivalents. – Philosophical Depth: The abstract nature of the teachings requires careful interpretation to avoid misrepresenting the original intent. – Preservation of Poetic Quality: Maintaining the poetic and aesthetic qualities of the original text can be challenging in translation. --- Impact of the Translations and Commentaries on Practice and Philosophy The various translations and commentaries have significantly influenced both academic understanding and spiritual practice. They have: – Facilitated the dissemination of Mahayana teachings across cultures. – Provided practitioners with tools for direct

realization. – Enriched the philosophical landscape of Buddhist thought. – Inspired artistic and poetic expressions of Buddhist insights. Their influence extends beyond academic circles to meditation centers, monasteries, and individual practitioners worldwide. --- Modern Reinterpretations and Continuing Scholarship Contemporary scholars continue to explore the Lankavatara Sutra through new translations, commentaries, and interpretations. Advances in linguistics, philosophy, and cognitive science have added new layers of understanding, emphasizing the relevance of the sutra’s teachings in modern contexts. Notable recent works include: – Jeffrey Hopkins’ comprehensive commentary, which combines scholarly rigor with practical guidance. – Daniel Malinowski Tan’s studies on the sutra’s influence on Zen and Chan traditions. – Comparative analyses bridging Yogacara with contemporary cognitive science. These efforts ensure that the Lankavatara Sutra translation and commentary remain vital resources for exploring the nature of mind and reality. --- The Lankavatara Sutra Translation And Commentary 9 Conclusion The translation and commentary of the Lankavatara Sutra are invaluable for deepening understanding of Mahayana Buddhist philosophy and practice. They serve as bridges connecting ancient wisdom with contemporary seekers, offering profound insights into the nature of consciousness, perception, and enlightenment. While challenges in translation persist, ongoing scholarly efforts continue to shed light on this intricate and inspiring text. Whether approached as a philosophical treatise or a spiritual manual, the Lankavatara Sutra remains a cornerstone of Buddhist literature, inviting all to explore the true nature of mind and reality. --- Key Features of the Lankavatara Sutra Translation and Commentary: – Accurate preservation of original poetic and philosophical nuances – Multi- layered interpretive approaches (scholarly, mystical, traditional) – Extensive contextual background aiding comprehension – Practical guidance for meditation and realization – Continual evolution through modern scholarship Pros: – Deep philosophical insights – Rich cultural and historical context – Facilitates direct experiential understanding – Bridges tradition and modernity Cons: – Complexity may be challenging for beginners – Variations across translations can lead to differing understandings – Risk of misinterpretation without proper guidance The ongoing exploration of the Lankavatara Sutra translation and commentary exemplifies the enduring relevance and transformative potential of Buddhist teachings, inspiring generations to seek wisdom beyond words and concepts. Lankavatara Sutra, Buddhist philosophy, Zen Buddhism, Mahayana teachings, Buddhist translation, sutra commentary, mind-only school, Yogacara, Mahayana texts, Buddhist scriptures

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a lively and plainspoken translation of the buddhist sutra known as the holy grail of zen with plentiful notes explanations and study questions library journal the first english translation of the original text used by bodhidharma the source upon which all chinese zen masters have relied ever since having translated the diamond sutra and the heart sutra and following with the platform sutra red pine now turns his attention to perhaps the greatest sutra of all the lankavatara sutra is the holy grail of zen zen s first patriarch bodhidharma gave a copy of this text to his successor hui k o and told him everything he needed to know was in this book passed down from teacher to student ever since this is the only zen sutra ever spoken by the buddha although it covers all the major teachings of mahayana buddhism it contains but two teachings which chinese zen masters came to know as have a cup of tea and taste the tea everything we perceive as being real is nothing but the perceptions of our own mind the knowledge of this is something that must be realized and experienced for oneself and cannot be expressed in words in addition to presenting one of the most difficult of all buddhist texts in clear english red pine has also added summaries explanations and notes including relevant sanskrit terms on the basis of which the chinese translation was made this promises to become an essential text for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding or knowledge of zen

the lotus sutra one of the central texts of mahayana buddhism provides a basis for key buddhist ideas this translation by reeves provides readers from vastly different backgrounds with the opportunity to understand and utilize the wisdom of this profound text

discover the most influential buddhist sutra in the mahayana buddhism tradition from one of the world's preeminent translators of religious texts simplified organization helpful glossaries and word for word analysis make understanding buddhist scripture easier than ever the heart sutra is buddhism in a nutshell it has had the most

profound and wide reaching influence of any text in buddhism this short text covers more of the buddha s teachings than any other buddhist scripture and it does so without being superficial or hurried although the original author is unknown he was clearly someone with a deep realization of the dharma for this award winning english translation of the heart sutra an award winning translator of chinese poetry and religious texts utilizes various sanskrit and chinese versions refining the teachings of dozens of ancient teachers together with his own commentary to offer a profound word for word explication divided into 4 parts and broken into 35 lines to make it easier to study or chant and containing a glossary of names terms and texts the heart sutra is a wise book of deep teaching destined to become the standard edition of this timeless buddhist sutra

a masterful translation of the diamond sutra an essential zen buddhist scripture with insightful commentary and helpful historical context zen buddhism is often said to be a practice of mind to mind transmission without reliance on texts in fact some great teachers forbid their students to read or write but buddhism has also inspired some of the greatest philosophical writings of any religion and two such works lie at the center of zen the heart sutra which monks recite all over the world and the diamond sutra said to contain answers to all questions of delusion and dualism this is the buddhist teaching on the perfection of wisdom and cuts through all obstacles on the path of practice as red pine explains the diamond sutra may look like a book but it s really the body of the buddha it s also your body my body all possible bodies but it s a body with nothing inside and nothing outside it doesn t exist in space or time nor is it a construct of the mind it s no mind and yet because it s no mind it has room for compassion this book is the offering of no mind born of compassion for all suffering beings of all the sutras that teach this teaching this is the diamond

discover the most influential buddhist sutra in the mahayana buddhism tradition from one of the world s preeminent translators of religious texts simplified organization helpful glossaries and word for word analysis make understanding buddhist scripture easier than ever the heart sutra is buddhism in a nutshell it has had the most profound and wide reaching influence of any text in buddhism this short text covers more of the buddha s teachings than any other buddhist scripture and it does so without being superficial or hurried although the original author is unknown he was clearly someone with a deep realization of the dharma for this award winning english translation of the heart sutra an award winning translator of chinese poetry and religious texts utilizes various sanskrit and chinese versions refining the teachings of dozens of ancient teachers together with his own commentary to offer a profound word for word explication divided into 4 parts and broken into 35 lines to make it easier to study or chant and containing a glossary of names terms and texts the heart sutra is a wise book of deep teaching destined to become the standard edition of this timeless buddhist sutra

complete enlightenment is the first authoritative translation and commentary on the sutra of complete enlightenment a central text that shaped the development of east asian buddhism and ch an chinese zen the text is set in the form of a transcription of discussions between the buddha and the twelve enlightened beings bodhisattvas who question him on all aspects of spiritual practice this new translation preserves all the liveliness and nuance of the text in the original chinese the sutra s ancient wisdom is brought to life by the commentaries of master sheng yen one of the most revered living buddhist masters in the ch an lineage this is truly a manual for the spiritual journey toward complete enlightenment providing the key to the deep poetic and practical meanings of the scripture

a pocket sized presentation of the three most venerated buddhist sutras of zen buddhism the heart sutra diamond sutra and platform sutra featuring easy to understand translations and helpful footnotes all from a legendary practitioner and translator of buddhist teachings three classic buddhist sutras often linked to form a trio of texts that have been revered and studied for centuries are now available together in this single volume red pine whose acclaimed translations these particular buddhist texts are considered canon provides a sensitive and assured treatment of the classic triumvirate in a gift sized volume perfect for sharing with anyone seeking guidance and peace the heart sutra offers the prajnaparamita teaching of emptiness the diamond sutra outlines the bodhisattva path followed by the buddha the platform sutra is an autobiography of hui neng the controversial 6th patriarch of zen whose teachings have served as an introduction to zen for 1 300 years in addition to new translations of all three texts red pine has included an introduction that ties all three together and just enough footnotes to explain what needs explaining but not enough to get in the way

translation has a long history in china down the centuries translators interpreters buddhist monks jesuit priests protestant missionaries writers historians linguists and even ministers and emperors have all written about translation and from an amazing array of perspectives such an exciting diversity of views reflections and theoretical thinking about the art and business of translating is now brought together in a two volume anthology the first volume covers a time frame from roughly the 5th century bce to the twelfth century ce it deals with translation in the civil and government context and with the monumental project of buddhist sutra translation the second volume spans the 13th century ce to the revolution of 1911 which brought an end to feudal china it deals with the transmission of western learning to china a translation venture that changed the epistemological horizon and even the mindset of chinese people comprising over 250 passages most of which are translated into english for the first time here the anthology is the first major source book to appear in english it carries valuable primary material allowing access into the minds of translators working in a time and space markedly different from ours and in ways foreign or even inconceivable to us the topics these writers discussed are familiar but rather than a comfortable trip on well trodden ground the anthology invites us on an exciting journey of the imagination

the routledge handbook of translation and sexuality questions what it would mean to think of sexualities transnationally and explores the way cultural ideas about sex and sexuality are translated across languages it considers how scholars chart the multilingual rise of the modern sexual sciences in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries how translators writers and readers respond to sexual modernities and to what extent the keywords of queer social movements travel across borders the handbook draws from fields as diverse as translation studies critical multilingualism studies comparative literature european studies slavic studies middle eastern studies latin american studies and east asian studies this pioneering handbook maps out an emerging brand of women s gender and sexuality studies that approaches sexualities as translational formations divided into two parts the handbook covers theoretical chapters on the interdisciplinary dialogue between translation studies and queer studies empirical studies of both canonic and minor scientific religious literary philosophical and political texts about sex and sexuality in translation across a variety of world languages with 20 chapters written by leading academics from around the world the routledge handbook of translation and sexuality will serve as an important reference for students and scholars in the fields of translation studies applied linguistics modern languages and women s gender and sexuality studies

translated from miao fa lian hua jing which was translated from sanskrit into chinese by kumarajiva

a new translation of essential texts of mahayana buddhism brings together various sanskrit and chinese sutra into one accessible collection of spiritual writings including poetry religious texts and wisdom from ancient teachers

this new translation of the buddha s most important most studied teaching offers a radical new interpretation in september 2014 thich nhat hanh completed a profound and beautiful new english translation of the prajñāparamita heart sutra one of the most important and well known sutras in buddhism the heart sutra is recited daily in mahayana temples and practice centers throughout the world this new translation came about because thich nhat hanh believes that the patriarch who originally compiled the heart sutra was not sufficiently skillful with his use of language to capture the intention of the buddha s teachings and has resulted in fundamental misunderstandings of the central tenets of buddhism for almost 2 000 years in the other shore a new translation of the heart sutra with commentaries thich nhat hanh provides the new translation with commentaries based on his interpretation revealing the buddha s original intention and insight makes clear what it means to transcend duality and pairs of opposites such as birth and death and to touch the ultimate reality and the wisdom of nondiscrimination by helping to demystify the term emptiness the heart sutra is made more accessible and understandable prior to the publication of the other shore thich nhat hanh s translation and commentaries of the heart sutra called the heart of understanding sold more than 120 000 copies in various editions and is one of the most beloved commentaries of this critical teaching this new book the other shore

supersedes all prior translations

this book offers an engrossing account both of the origin and development of the sutras and of the monks who braved perilous journeys and mastered unfamiliar languages in order to carry the sutras to new lands

for more than a thousand years the *śūraṅgama sūtra* has been held in high regard in the mahāyāna buddhist countries of east and southeast asia and has been as popular as the lotus heart and diamond sūtras its wealth of theoretical and practical instruction in living a spiritual life often made it the first major text studied by newly ordained monks particularly in the chan tradition this sutra is regarded as a complete and practical manual for spiritual practice that will lead to enlightenment it provides instruction on understanding one's own buddha nature the potential within every being for becoming a buddha the sutra explains how and why this nature is hidden and how we can uncover it and recognize it as our own true mind the sutra also explains why personal integrity and purity of conduct are prerequisites for spiritual awakening it presents the principles of meditation and provides guidelines for discerning correct practices from those which deviate into wrong ones it explains how our own intentional acts whether physical verbal or mental result in karmic experiences including rebirths into various levels of being both human and non human at the heart of the sūtra is the *śūraṅgama* mantra the sutra promises that the practice of reciting this mantra in the context of the other practices taught in the sutra can successfully eliminate internal or external obstacles that block the path of spiritual progress

a classic work of indian philosophy that succinctly spells out how the mind works and what is needed to attain liberation in 196 short aphorisms this classic work of indian philosophy succinctly spells out how the mind works and how it is possible to use the mind to attain liberation the yoga sūtra is a road map of human consciousness and a helpful guide to the mental states that one encounters in meditation yoga and other spiritual practices chip hartranft's translation and extensive lucid commentary bring the text beautifully to life he also provides useful auxiliary materials including an afterword on the legacy of the yoga sūtra and its enduring relevance for us today

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Introduction

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