

Divine Stories Divyavadana

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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

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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

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

twenty translations from the vast corpus of buddhist literature come alive in this full color anthology of ancient wisdom for turbulent times as a master scholar uncovers their sources and significance change and loss have always been part of the human condition but in today s world the pace and intensity of uncertainty has reached new extremes the buddha observed the truth of impermanence more than 2 500 years ago and diagnosed the source of the anxiety it engenders so incisively that his prescription still resonates and heals here and now in buddha s words for tough times peter skilling one of the world s foremost authorities on buddhist scripture brings the reader face to face with the wealth of buddhist literature from a teaching in a single word to a seminal collection of verses on impermanence to narrations of the buddha s teaching journeys across the gangetic plain translating from sources in tibetan sanskrit and pali he uncovers the complex history of the vast writings of the buddhist canons and his skill in revealing the meaning of twenty gems from within those riches brings them alive for english readers we could have no better guide for this exploration an exploration whose value is more urgent than ever

over its long history buddhism has never been a simple monolithic phenomenon but rather a complex living tradition or better a family of traditions continually shaped by and shaping a vast array of social economic political literary and aesthetic contexts across east asia south asia and southeast asia written by undergraduate educators buddhisms in asia offers a guide to buddhism s rich variety of traditions and cultural expressions for educators who would like to include buddhism in their undergraduate courses it introduces fundamental yet often underrepresented buddhist texts concepts and material in their historical contexts presents the major ecologies of buddhist belief practice and cultural expression and provides methodological insights regarding how best to infuse buddhist content into undergraduate courses in the humanities and social sciences the text aims to represent buddhisms by approaching the subject from a broad range of disciplinary perspectives including art history anthropology history literature philosophy religious studies and pedagogy

the extraordinary multiplicity of religions and religious cultures in india chronicled over two thousand years from its earliest recorded history india was a place of remarkable and varied religious activity ranging from elaborate sacrificial rituals and rigorous regimes of personal austerity to psycho spiritual experimentation and utopian visions in this ambitious and wide

ranging chronicle richard davis offers a history of india s myriad religious cultures that spans two thousand years from 1300 bce to 700 ce india davis writes was not only the birthplace of the religions we now know as hinduism buddhism and jainism it was also the home of other often unnamed religions that can be classified as folk or popular religions tracing these intertwined practices davis shows that the ardent and heterogeneous religious cultures of early india came to define and redefine themselves in relation to one another davis recounts this history through voices voices recorded in hymns poems songs didactic stories epic narratives scientific treatises and theological discourses as well as voices that speak through material remains whether monumental sculptures or tiny terracotta figurines of nameless goddesses he focuses on the long millennium often designated as classical india which stretches from the time of the founding figures of buddhism and jainism during the sixth century bce through the seventh century ce dynasties of the chalukyas and the pallavas in southern india throughout he emphasizes encounter interaction debate critique and borrowing among religious communities within a shared changing social and political reality the voices and visions of early india s religions davis shows us are fascinating in their multiplicity

this book provides close historical theological and cultural analyses of an important but neglected late antique writer isaac of antioch who was active during the second half of the fifth century this book is the first english language monograph on this key figure and also includes the first translation without the syriac of this compelling metrical homily into english which has at its heart the public pronouncement by a parrot of theological truths the authors situate this remarkable text in the wider fields of performance studies animal studies and media studies all areas that can illuminate essential meanings and implications of the homily

discover how ordinary beings a deer a robber a monkey a parrot and more make up the past lives of the buddha before he was buddha the jataka tales are ancient buddhist stories found in both the pali canon and sanskrit tradition recounting the many past lives and ongoing spiritual work of shakya muni buddha on his way to his final birth as siddhartha gautama in them we find the buddha facing difficulties making tough choices doing hard work falling down and getting back up the kind of continuing effort of spiritual practice that all beings face before buddha was buddha focuses on a selection of particular jataka tales in which the buddha in past lives faces temptations and struggles with self doubt as well as his own shortcomings in these tales he s not beyond life s messes its challenges and disasters but is down in the mix trudging through the mud with the rest of us each story presented in brief is followed by a commentary pointing to its relevance to our lives and practice realization today

empire trade religion three crucial forces that have been almost equally responsible for shaping human civilization so far yet the politics of empire has dominated history and popular discussion irrespective of the political upheavals however india has always been an open market welcoming traders from far off lands promising them a fair bargain indian entrepreneurs since ages had developed their own sophisticated institutions and wide community based networks this open liberal and robust bazaar economy thrived unhindered till the advent of european trading companies who brought with them the notions of monopoly and state controls business in india blossomed in tune with liberal religious thought and indian intellectual tradition always fostered the spirit of questioning laxminana is an account of how the country s open market and its liberal religious outlook have nurtured each other throughout the centuries told through a medley of stories this is the saga of india s socioeconomic power that has characterized not only the country s vibrant pluralistic society but also much of global history an untold narrative of india s geographies products and pioneers this is an unforgettable album of heroes who championed game changing ideas at the intersection of faith and enterprise

in archaeological and visual sources of meditation in the ancient monasteries of kuā angela f howard and giuseppe vignato use diverse methodological approaches from archaeology art history and religious studies to reconstruct monastic life and practices in the rock monasteries on the northern silk route ca 200 650 analysis of the caves function meditation manuals and the cave murals highlights the centrality of meditation a fundamental duty of kuā monastics this interdisciplinary study utilizes hitherto unpublished line drawings maps and photographs to reconstruct and interpret the architecture and dīcor of kuā caves thus revealing the close links between the spiritual and the physical between doctrinal teaching and practice and the lay out and dīcor of the monasteries

this collection examines the topic of time in the life and works of augustine of hippo adopting a global perspective on time as a philosophical and theological problem the volume includes reflections on the meaning of history the mortality of human bodies and the relationship between temporal experience and linguistic expression as augustine himself once observed time is both familiar and surprisingly strange everyone s days are structured by temporal rhythms and routines from watching the clock to whiling away the hours at work few of us however take the time to sit down and figure out whether time is real or not or how it is we are able to hold our past present and future thoughts together in a straight line so that we can recite a prayer or sing a song divided into five sections the essays collected here highlight the ongoing relevance of augustine s work even in settings quite distinct from his own era and context the first three sections organized around the themes of interpretation language and gendered embodiment engage directly with augustine s own writings from the confessions to the city of god and beyond the final two sections meanwhile explore the afterlife of the augustinian approach in conversation with medieval islamic and christian thinkers like avicenna and aquinas as well as a broad range of buddhist figures like dharmakīrti and vasubandhu what binds all of these diverse chapters together is the underlying sense that regardless of the century or the tradition in which we find ourselves there is something about the puzzle of temporality that refuses to go away time as augustine knew demands our attention this was true for him in late ancient north africa it was also true for buddhist thinkers in south and east asia and it remains just as true for humankind in the twenty first century as people around the globe continue to grapple with the reality of time and the challenges of living in a world that always seems to be to be speeding up rather than slowing down

a blueprint for a life of mindfulness dedicated to the easing of suffering both for oneself and for others the story of shakya muni buddha s epic journey to enlightenment is perhaps the most important narrative in the buddhist tradition tenzin chōgyel s the life of the buddha composed in the mid eighteenth century and now in a vivid new translation is a masterly storyteller s rendition of the twelve acts of the buddha chōgyel s classical tale seamlessly weaves together the vast and the minute the earthly and the celestial reflecting the near omnipresent aid of the gods alongside the buddha s moving final reunion with his devoted son rahula the life of the buddha has the power to engage people through a deeply human story with cosmic implications for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

moonpaths explores the connection between buddhist ethics and mahayana metaphysics by combining careful textual analysis and doctrinal exposition with philosophical reconstruction and reflection the volume considers a variety of ways to understand the structure of buddhist ethics and its relationship to emptiness

gracefully blending scholarship and accessibility malcolm david eckel s buddhism provides a succinct authoritative introduction to one of the world s great religious traditions the text

covers a wide range of subjects including buddhas and bodhisattvas zen meditation tantric scriptures pilgrimage temples and festivals and rites

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