

Divine Stories Divyavadana

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Buddha The Tibetan Book of Everyday Wisdom Image Problems Nagarjuna's
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Its Sanskrit, Pāli, Tibetan, and Chinese Versions ??????????????
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Robert Daniel DeCaroli Sara McClintock Kenneth K. S. Ch'en Kalpana
Upreti Shayne Neil Clarke M. C. Choubey Gunapala Piyasena
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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

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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retellings of the buddha s life story have animated and sustained buddhist thought and practice through some 2 500 years of history to this day buddhist holidays and rituals are pinned to the arc of his biography celebrating his birth awakening teaching and final nirvana his story is the model that exemplary buddhists follow often there is a moment of insight akin to the buddha s experience with the four sights followed by a great departure from home and a period of searching that it is hoped will lead to final awakening the buddha s story is not just the buddha s story it is the story of buddhism in this book twelve leading scholars of south asian texts and traditions articulate the buddha life blueprint the underlying and foundational pattern that holds the life story of a buddha together they retell the episodes of buddha gautama s extended life story while keeping in mind the cosmic paradigmatic arc of his narrative the contributors have dedicated their careers to exploring hagiographical materials each applying their own methodological and theoretical interests to shed new light on the enduring story of buddhism using multiple perspectives voices and sources this volume underscores the multivalent centrality of this story the book will be an invaluable resource to practicing buddhists and students of buddhist studies to help them engage in the most foundational story of the tradition

enjoy popular tibetan collections of advice fables and aphorisms for following the way of the wise and avoiding the paths of fools the tibetan book of everyday wisdom a thousand years of sage advice presents a genre of tibetan works known as wise sayings lekshé while most tibetan literature focuses on the buddhist path wise sayings literature has traditionally been a centerpiece of secular education

in tibet and in the cultivation of social mores and an honorable way of life drawing inspiration from classical indian literature on human virtue and governance nitisastra including the folktales in the pañcatantra the authors of these tibetan works strove to educate young minds in the ways of the civilized world especially by distinguishing the conduct of the wise from that of the foolish this anthology includes some of the best loved classics of tibetan literature such as sakya pandita s jewel treasury of wise sayings panchen sönam drakpa s garden wise sayings and gungthang s treatise on trees and treatise on water the final work is the intriguing kaché phalu s advice ostensibly written by a wise tibetan muslim this versified text enjoys great popularity within tibetan speaking communities such that most people are able to recite at least a few verses from memory

this deft and lively study by robert decaroli explores the questions of how and why the earliest verifiable images of the historical buddha were created in so doing decaroli steps away from old questions of where and when to present the history of buddhism s relationship with figural art as an ongoing set of negotiations within the buddhist community and in society at large by comparing innovations in brahmanical jain and royal artistic practice decaroli examines why no image of the buddha was made until approximately five hundred years after his death and what changed in the centuries surrounding the start of the common era to suddenly make those images desirable and acceptable the textual and archaeological sources reveal that figural likenesses held special importance in south asia and were seen as having a significant amount of agency and power anxiety over image use extended well beyond the buddhists helping to explain why images of vedic gods jain teachers and political elites also are absent from the material record of the centuries bce decaroli shows how the emergence of powerful dynasties and rulers who benefited from novel modes of visual authority was at the root of the changes in attitude toward figural images however as decaroli demonstrates a strain of unease with figural art persisted even after a tradition of images of the buddha had become established

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.

Description: Divyavadana is a quite voluminous book written in mixed Sanskrit and belonging to the school of the Sarvastivada Buddhists. The main emphasis in the text is on the Buddhist concept of karma, and the consequent result, phala. Religiosity and charity have been consciously stressed by the author. Authors of the text to increase the interaction between the laity and the monastic establishments, being a student of Buddhist philosophy as well as history, the author has tried to study the text from various angles with a multidisciplinary approach. Some questions have been raised for further research work. The work hopefully will benefit the students of Buddhist studies, particularly for the study of changes in thought as well as in religious perception that took place in different Buddhist schools. It will also help the students of ancient Indian history as the text is replete with information on the socio-economic, political, and religious ideas and institutions of India during the first few centuries of the Christian era.

The book covers not only the political history of Tripuri but throws flood of light on the various aspects of cultural history. No stone has been unturned by the author to make the book as up to date as possible.

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