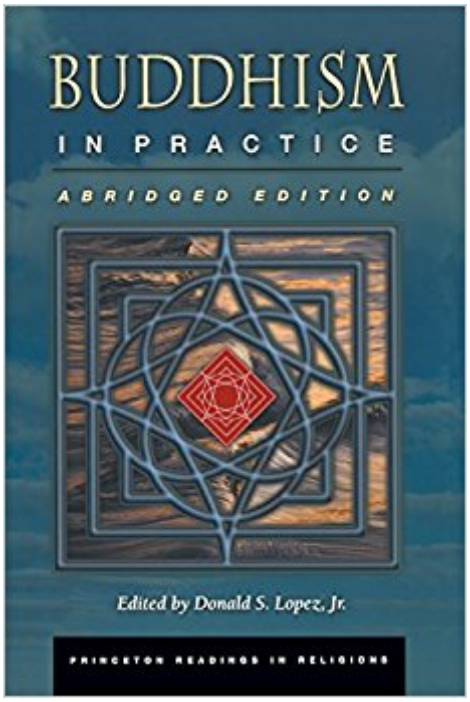
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Buddhism In Practice (Princeton Readings In Religions)



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Synopsis

This anthology, first published in 1995, illustrates the vast scope of Buddhist practice in Asia, past and present. Re-released now in a slimmer but still extensive edition, Buddhism in Practice presents a selection of thirty-five translated texts--each preceded by a substantial introduction by its translator. These unusual sources provides the reader with a sense of the remarkable diversity of the practices of persons who over the course of 2,500 years have been identified, by themselves or by others, as Buddhists. Demonstrating the many continuities among the practices of Buddhist cultures widely separated by both history and geography, Buddhism in Practice continues to provide an ideal introduction to Buddhism and a source of new insights for scholars.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Princeton’s previous edition: "Buddhism in Practice . . . constitute[s] a benchmark of where Buddhist studies has been, and where it is going. By endeavoring to break the circularity of the knowledge process, by which we recognize as ’Buddhist’ only what we already think of as Buddhist, Lopez has opened a new course for a self-reflexive Buddhology."--Timothy Brook, Journal of Asian StudiesPraise for Princeton’s previous edition: "Like an all-star professional athletic team, the contributors to this volume bring credentials as world famous scholars of Buddhism. . . . [This] anthology contains a variety that shatters the narrowness of previous collections of texts."--William Huntley, Education About ASIA

Praise for Princeton’s previous edition:"These selections consistently reveal new vistas on the Buddhist landscape or illuminate old views from new angles."--John S. Strong, Bates College

This book came right on time, and arrived in perfect condition. It was one of the requirements for a class on Buddhism, and for those purposes it was great, but for someone simply wanting to read a book on Buddhism I would recommend on of Lopez’ s other works on the subject.

For those who are curious about the difference between the original (1995, 1998) and abridged (2007) versions, the following chapters are omitted from the latter (page numbers in brackets):Buddha:8. The Whole Universe as a Sutra by Luis O. Gomez (107ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ112)10. The Great Bliss Queen by Anne C. Klein (139ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ150)11. Story of Simhala, the Caravan Leader by Todd T. Lewis (151ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ169)Dharma:14. A Mahayana Liturgy by Luis O. Gomez (183ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ196)17. Buddhism and the State in Early Japan by William E. Deal (216ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ227)19. The Matsumoto Debate by George J. Tanabe, Jr. (241ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ248)22. A Heretical Chinese Buddhist Text by Jamie Hubbard (272ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ283)29. A Summary of the Seven Books of the Abhidhamma by Donald K. Swearer (336ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ342)32. Ãƒâ Ã â ¬ryadeva and Candrakirti on Self and Selfishness by Karen Lang (380ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ398)34. Saramati’s Entering into the Great Vehicle by Ronald M. Davidson (402ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ411)Sangha:41. The Chinese Life of NÃƒâ Ã Â•gÃƒâ Ã Â•rjuna by Roger Corless (525ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ531)45. The Illustrated Biography of Ippen by Dennis Hirota (563ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ577)46. Account of the Buddhist Thaumaturge Baozhi by Alan J. Berkowitz (578ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ585)

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This book lives up to its title in that it is an excellent introduction to the ways Buddhism is actually practiced. However, readers looking for an introduction to Buddhist philosophy should start somewhere else. Lopez seems to take for granted that readers know about the basic precepts of Buddhism, and spends his time in this book expounding on how different sects put those precepts into practice.If someone reads this before developing a familiarity with the beautiful philosophical side of Buddhism, he or she runs the risk of coming away dissilusioned and thinking that Buddhism

is too steeped in religiosity and obsession with ritual to have much philosophical merit.

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