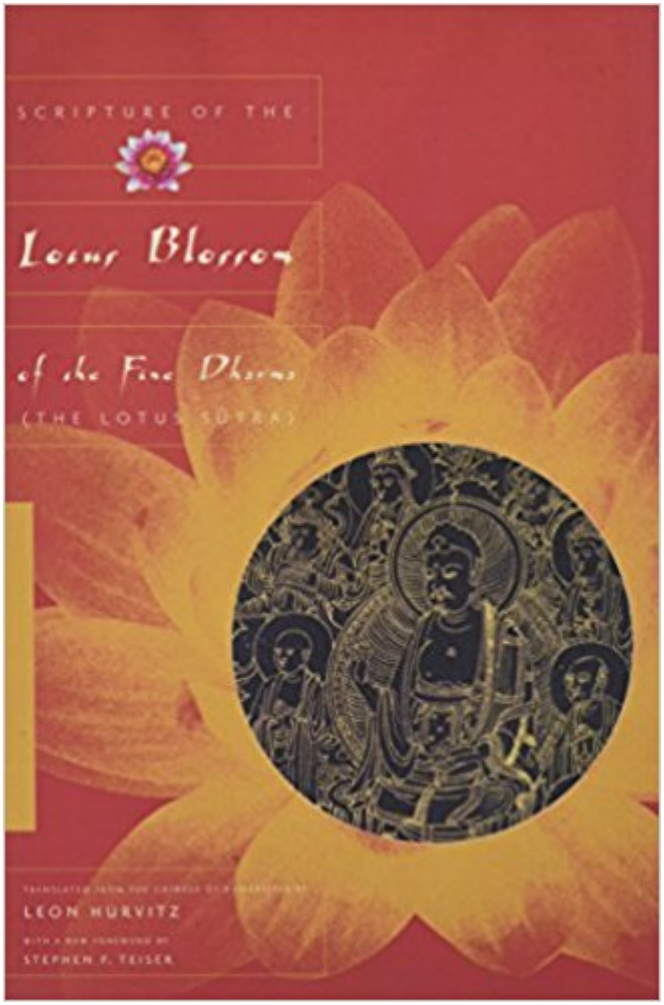
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Scripture Of The Lotus Blossom Of The Fine Dharma: (The Lotus Sutra) (Translations From The Asian Classics)



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Synopsis

Originally published in 1976, Leon Hurvitz’s monumental translation of the Lotus Sutra is the work scholars have preferred for decades. Hailed by critics as an "extraordinary" and "magnificent" achievement, Hurvitz’s translation is based on the best known Chinese version of the text and includes passages of the original Sanskrit that were omitted from the Chinese. Beloved for its mythology and literary artistry, the Lotus Sutra is one of the most popular and influential texts of Mahayana Buddhism, asserting that there is only one path to enlightenment, the bodhisattva path, and that all followers without exception can achieve supreme awakening. The text argues that the Buddha cannot be delimited by time and space and that a common intent underlies the diversity of Buddhist teachings. Through parables of the burning house, the wayward son, and other tales that have come to be known throughout East Asia, the sutra skillfully concretizes abstract religious concepts and clarifies bold claims about the Buddhist tradition. Urging devotees to revivify doctrine through recitation and interpretation, the sutra powered an organic process of remaking that not only kept its content alive in the poetry and art of premodern Asia but also introduced new forms of practice and scriptural study into contemporary Buddhism. Stephen F. Teiser’s foreword addresses this vital quality of the sutra, discusses its background, and reflects on the enduring relevance of Hurvitz’s critical work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leon Hurvitz (1923-1992) was professor in the Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia. He spent time as a translator and interpreter and later studied in Japan during the occupation, specializing in early Chinese Buddhism.Stephen F. Teiser is D. T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies at Princeton University. His research focuses on the interaction between Buddhism and Chinese forms of religion. His book Reinventing the Wheel: Paintings of Rebirth in Medieval Buddhist Temples received the Stanislas Julien Prize from the Institut de France.

This is considered one of the definitive translations of the Lotus Sutra, so anyone wanting to read this text should read this version. I do not follow this vehicle, but read it out of interest and also a desire of wanting to know more about Nichiren Buddhism and SGI, both of which hold this sutra in high esteem (although I find it ironic that while many SGI adherents talk all the time about this sutra, few have actually read it).So while my rating indicates that I liked it, that's because it was a good translation and easy enough to read. Having said that, I must repeat, I do not follow this vehicle nor do I espouse its teachings.

None of the translations including this one, have the feeling of the classical flair of the old Kern translation or passages translated by Anesaki. This one is most helpful with it's technical information then the others, which all have their good and bad points.

This is a wonderful piece of work. Having read two other interpretations of the Wonderful Lotus. This version which includes some Sanskrit interpretations adds to the richness of this version

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