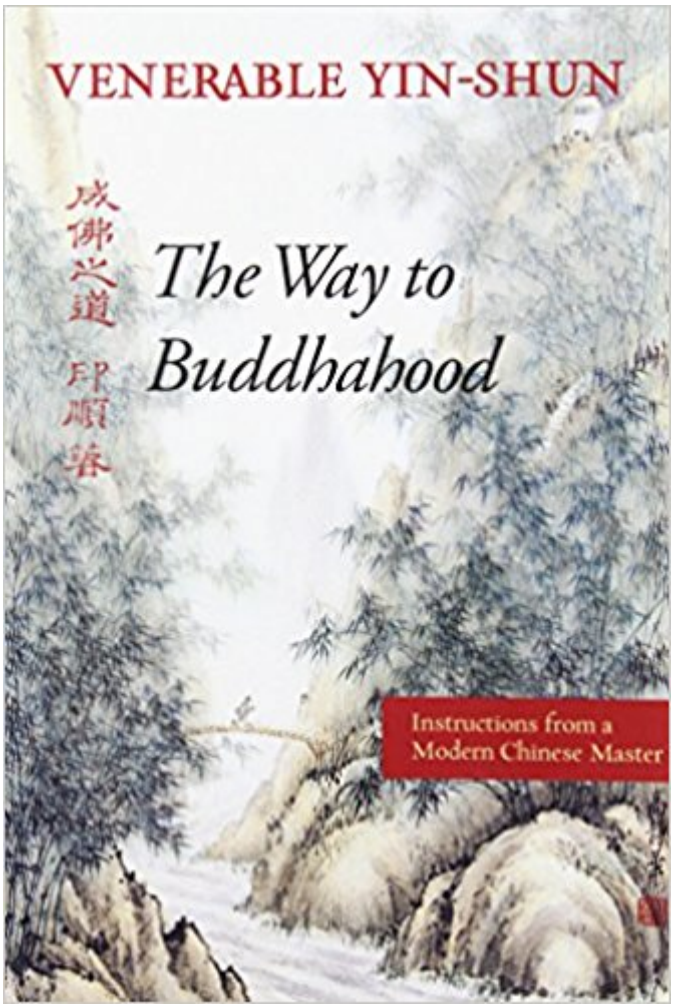
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The Way To Buddhahood: Instructions From A Modern Chinese Master



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Synopsis

The Way to Buddhahood is a compendium of two thousand years of Chinese practice in assimilating and understanding the Buddhist experience of enlightenment. It is the first in-depth explanation of Chinese Buddhism by Yin-shun, the greatest living master of the Chinese scholar-monk tradition. The master’s broad scope not only includes the traditional Chinese experience but also ideas from the Tibetan monastic tradition. This is one of those rare classic books that authentically captures an entire Buddhist tradition between its covers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book, which is a reflection of his long life of study, service and meditation, is a living testament to Yin-Shun’s spirituality and erudition. His interpretations bring freshness to the examination of Buddhist doctrine in a clear, compelling style." (The Beacon)"Students of Buddhism will find this an important guide." (The Bookwatch)"Readers will enjoy the traits of Yin-shun that set him apart from most traditional monk-scholars: his reliance upon diverse sources and traditions, coupled with a highly precise, scholastic examination. But scholars will also find interest in how his book reveals the etiology of the Chinese Tripitaka, while never cleaving to any particular school, since all point toward the Buddha way. For Yin-shun, it is a matter of skillful means: all the ideas presented are legitimate, from Pure Land to the School of Mere Consciousness, their efficacy simply depending on the user’s sophistication. General readers, particularly students, will enjoy how this philosophy creates a survey of Buddhist belief in the Chinese vein, while academics will be interested in how

such a survey places his thought within the intellectual tradition of Chinese Buddhism." (The Journal of Buddhist Ethics)"This fine translationÃ¢â ¬Â¦is a most welcome addition to the small English language archives of modern Chinese Buddhism.Ã¢â ¬Â¦ The foremost leader of Chinese Buddhism's intellectual resurgence, the monk Yin-shun is both a scholar and an original thinker of the first order. Drawing upon the whole broad range of Buddhist thought--but especially upon the Madhyamaka tradition of Nagarjuna, Candrakirti, and Tsongkhapa--The Way to Buddhahood presents itself as an introductory overview of the essentials of Buddhism. It is that, of course, but it is also much more. It plots a course for Buddhism's future development that will allow its robust engagement with the modern world without forcing the severance of its traditional roots." (Robert M. Gimello, Professor of East Asian Languages and Culture, University of Notre Dame)

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese

This is an encyclopedic work on Chinese Buddhism, covering all schools. The author, Yin Shun is a Chinese monk who has studied many traditions, not just Chinese (he draws heavily upon Tsongkhapa), and is a well known modernizer. This is the best English-language (and one of the few) overviews of East Asian Buddhism. The book is more on theory than practice, and Pure Land and esoteric may feel left out.The content is there, but I find that I have to work at it to understand it. Why? The translation. First, I find the terminology awkward (extinction? annihilated? transmigrations?). As I've read quite a number of other dharma books, I have to mentally shift gears when reading this. The text is also over-formal and circuitous, reflecting the nature of the original Chinese, not the free-flowing and directness of modern vernacular English. Something gets lost in the rhetorical flourishes in translation. Also, there is a lot of hype - I'm more of the "don't tell me, show me" mindset.For more those who have been grappling with the teachings for a while, then the end of the book is for you, which covers Madhyamaka (Empty Nature Mere Name), Yogacara (False Imagination Mere Consciousness) and Tathagatagarbha (Truly Eternal Mere Mind).

This is clearly written by a leading scholastic, but it wasn't quite my cup of tea. It is quite polemical in many places regarding the superiority of Buddhism over other teachings. I think it is very much written for the scholastic and trainee monk, so if that is your aspiration, you will doubtlessly benefit from it. But from a non-sectarian Western Buddhist perspective, it is a bit specialised.

This is an excellent encyclopedic coverage of Buddhism. There are hundreds of sutras that explain

Buddhism as taught by the historical Buddha (born 623 B.C.), so one can get excellent overview of the Buddhism in this book.

This is one of the very best books on Buddhism in English. When it comes to East Asian Buddhism, most of the books in English present a watered down Buddhism that mystifies more than it illuminates. This book, on the other hand, represents years of meticulous study and practice, and provides a really solid grounding for understanding the fundamentals of the Mahayana tradition as it developed in East Asia. Master Yinshun was concerned with finding the common ground between the various practices and sects that emerged (Pure Land, Chan, Tiantai, etc.) and showing how these different teachings, whose proponents were sometimes at odds with each other, can be harmonized. In this, Yinshun not only re-asserted the fundamentals of Buddhist tradition, but brought new insights into how the philosophical systems- madhyamaka, yogacara, tathagatagarbha- can be integrated. The book is systematic- there's no major Mahayana idea that isn't discussed; at the same time it's easy to read. While its comprehensiveness might bewilder newcomers, it would make a fine second book.

One of the best pieces or buddhist literature I have read in a long time. It really answers tons of questions or (delimas) one may have about Buddhism. I highly recommend this book. I not only recommend it for those that are seeking but, also for those who have sought but, just not quite fulfilled.

Venerable Master Yinshun has read the entire Tripitaka three times (all of the Buddhist Sutras, Vinayas, and Sastras). He details in this book all of the essential points, drawing from all of the different schools, methodologies, history and his vast knowledge of the Buddha's teachings. This book is used in the Buddhist schools as standard reading though out the world.If you want to understand the true meaning of Buddhism, this is a book to read. Most colleges and universities that have Buddhism courses are only teaching the Western stereotype of what they think Buddhism is and is incorrect.

I had this book when we had a translation class in a Buddhist temple in Austin, Texas about ten years ago. Through the book I not only learned the vocabularies but also the reasons and guidance of the Buddhism. I had read it twice and still keep reading. I bought both paper and Kindle edition. I enjoying reading this great book.

Ven. Yin-Shun is not known widely in the West, but was deeply respectful across the Buddhist tradition for his excellent scholarship, and comprehensive approach to Buddhism. His particular style, which he dubbed "Humanistic Buddhism" took a rational approach to Buddhism, but remained deeply rooted in the traditions and texts from which it emerged.This book provides a very comprehensive look at Mahayana, or East Asian, Buddhism. The author begins with the foundations of Buddhism, common to all Buddhist sects (Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, Five Moral Precepts, etc) and gradually works his way into Mahayana Buddhism in particular, then ultimately reaches the teachings of the Bodhisattva Path. The book has a very clear flow throughout.The detail and depth of research is unprecedented as well, as he covers practically every topic in Buddhism from meditation, chanting, devotion, tantra, Bodhisattvas, Buddhas and so on. This is a book worth referring to over and over again just because so much can be found in this one book. Some Buddhist texts haven't been widely translated into English either, so there's a lot of hidden gems not normally found in Western books.Also, Ven. Yin-Shun, being a respected Chan Buddhist himself, speaks from experience. The book does not contain anecdotes, but he does speak on current trends in Buddhism, and also explains carefully the various types of meditation, and how to go about practicing them (again, relying on extensive Buddhist texts).This is a challenging book to read just because of its size and depth, and Ven. Yin-Shun is actually writing for a Chinese, not Western audience, but if you're familiar with Buddhism and want more depth and understanding, this definitely should be your next purchase.Enjoy!

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