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The Bodhicaryavatara: Buddhist Classics Series



Synopsis

The Bodhicaryavatara is one of the best-loved Buddhist texts. It tells of a noble ideal: a compassionate life lived for the well-being of the world. Through his uplifting verses, Santideva, the eighth-century monk and poet, outlines the training undertaken by one wishing to follow his vision - a path of selflessness which is much needed today. This is the first hardback edition of the translation by Kate Crosby and Andrew Skilton, with clear explanatory notes and an introduction by Paul Williams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation)

Kate Crosby is Tutor in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Pali at Oxford University. Andrew Skilton a Junior Research Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society. Paul Williams is Codirector of the Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Bristol.

While I have read quite a bit of spiritual books, the concept of a Bohdisattva was of particular interest to me. I purchased this book along with the Vesna & B. Alan Wallace version. I started with the Wallace one but was a bit put off with the way the poem was presented. It was a bit too conversational and not too poetic in the language used (but well done none the less). SO, I put that down and gave this one a try and was pleased with the depth of preface given to the poem. It not

only tells you a bit about the author, but more importantly it points out other translations that exist and their differences and contradictions in structure. Another helpful feature for those interested in more than just saying that you have read the Bodhicaryavatara is the section explaining the pronunciations of the special letters used throughout the book. This gave the reader more than just words, it actually helps one to better understand and pronounce the original Sanskrit words. Like any great book, you can't just read it once! When I reached the end of the poem I found the extensive notes that go with each chapter. Although the introduction clearly explains that these notes are there, I was too eager to get on with the show to research it first. Now, I am re-reading the book, or better said, studying the poem with the intention to better understand the Bodhicaryavatara. I recommend this book for anyone who is truly interested in having an in-depth understanding of this part of Mahayana Buddhist poetry. The practice of compassion in today's world is quite challenging, this book lets the reader know that it was just as challenging 13 centuries ago.

Like Cliff notes except has the actual text as well. Explains a section then provides a section of the work. The editors and translators present this classic in a way Westerners can understand without being intimidating. It's all about The Awakened Mind. I love that phrase.

This book is about the Buddhist path to enlightenment, but contains many things applicable to improving anyone's life. It deals a lot with human suffering, and the need for people to help remove the suffering of others, as through this one's own life may be improved. Although it is presented from a Buddhist perspective, much of the teaching is a good guide to self development, the principles that it teaches are hard to fault, and it remains centered on these things throughout the book. The commentary deals with the Buddhist philosophies that Santideva uses, and explains the Buddhist principles involved, rather than explaining the teachings. It gets pretty involved, but you can take quite a lot out of it. "When the mental attitude of anger is slain, then slain is every enemy".....

Great edition very good translation

truly a masterpiece close to my heart as it mirrored my heart to a tee, which in these times is warming to find I'm not alone in my beliefs.

This book came very quickly in the mail and it was very affordable compared to the college bookstore price. I would recommend this book to all future students. I ended up keeping mine

because it was a very good book.

One of the few original Buddhist texts. Much more interesting than reading a text book on Buddhism. Beautifully written and thought provoking.

Good, Just as described!

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