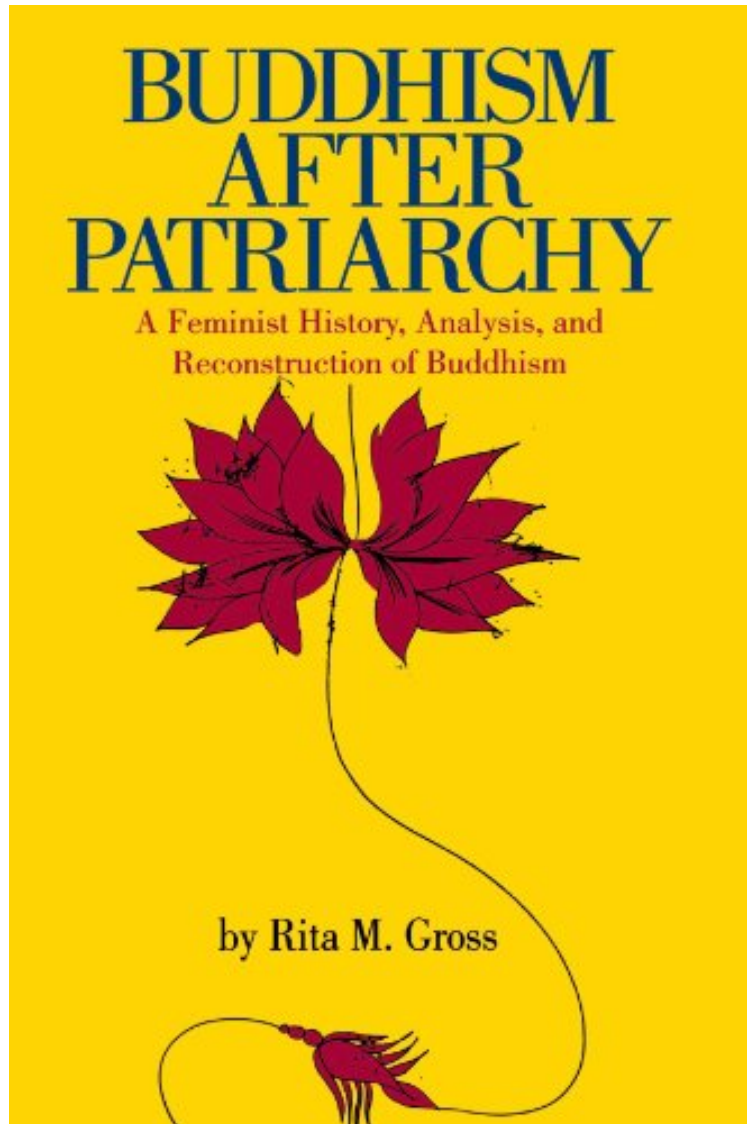


[E-BOOK] Buddhism After Patriarchy: A Feminist History, Analysis, and Reconstruction of Buddhism

Buddhism After Patriarchy: A Feminist History, Analysis, and Reconstruction of Buddhism

Rita M. Gross

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Rita M. Gross : Buddhism After Patriarchy: A Feminist History, Analysis, and Reconstruction of Buddhism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buddhism After Patriarchy: A Feminist History, Analysis, and Reconstruction of Buddhism:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Deep insights into the wondrous potential of Feminism paired with BuddhismBy jsorakAfter noticing that most "spiritual" books I was reading were written by men and rarely - if ever - brought up issues of feminism, I began to seek out "spiritual" texts by women and, specifically, by feminist women. It's been a thrilling ride that, at some point, led me to the Therigatha. On 's "suggested titles" link, this book came up and I'm so grateful. It answers a lot of questions and doubts I've been having and does so in a very pragmatic, academic-but-accessible way. A helpful emphasis of the text is on how Buddhist teachings, seen without their cultural (androcentric) baggage, can facilitate intimacy, interdependence, and community with others. Great stuff.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Doesn't go nearly far enoughBy Kitchen BarbarianDoesn't go nearly far enough. The only thing I found objectionable in this examination of women in Buddhism is the author's wimping out on calling a spade a spade - patriarchy IS misogyny. "Do what I want as long as I want you to do it or I will punish you" (eg patriarchy) IS misogyny.It makes me sad, but that's the way Buddhism is practiced in the majority of instances. Before I deleted my fakebook account, I was constantly being contacted by male Buddhists from around the world about how I wasn't showing proper respect to Buddhist traditions - an idea they were apparently getting from my other associations on fakebook with things like NOW and various gynocentric Buddhist groups, and support for the ordination of women.The Buddha saidDo not believe in anything (simply) because you have heard it ; Do not believe in traditions, because they been handed down for many generations ; Do not believe in anything, because it is spoken and rumoured by many ; Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books ; But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.Continuing to repress and exclude women from the full range of Buddhist practice, INCLUDING ordination, is a tradition that has long worn out its welcome. It is not good or of benefit to one and all to continue these misogynistic practices; in fact the rejection and continued repression and even subjugation of women within the Buddhist community is not only harmful to the women themselves, but also to each and every male practitioner who insists on continuing these antiquated ideas of the "proper place" for women. How can one NOT be damaged by refusing to acknowledge the equality and humanity of another person, whether because of gender, gender identity, how deep your tan is or how blue your eyes are (or not), or any other of the many marks of difference, one from another, that are rife throughout all of humanity?Buddhism teaches that there is no duality; that all is one. How then, can anyone excuse gender based dichotomy within Buddhism?4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. worth the effortBy Suzie Q.This is an excellent book. It's dense, so prepare to put some effort into getting out the key points, but well worth the time and focus. Great perspective. Great clarity.

This book surveys both the part women have played in Buddhism historically and what Buddhism might become in its post-patriarchal future. The author completes the Buddhist historical record by discussing women, usually absent from histories of Buddhism, and she provides the first feminist analysis of the major concepts found in Buddhist religion. Gross demonstrates that the core teachings of Buddhism promote gender equity rather than male dominance, despite the often sexist practices found in Buddhist institutions throughout history. "The power of this book comes from the combination of the passion and analytic skill that Gross brings to this feminist reconstruction of the Buddhist tradition. It is a book that should inform all introductory classes on Buddhism. Through a reexamination of basic texts, Gross describes women's experiences in different cultures and epochs, and shows their relevance for the Buddha's Path to Enlightenment as well as for the social roles and images of women in different times and places." -- Frederick J. Streng, Southern Methodist University"Gross has written the magnum opus of feminist critique and revisioning of Buddhism. This has great theoretical and practical significance for feminist theology in its global inter-faith dialogue. The particular merit of this book is its bridging of high quality scholarship and accessibility to the non-expert."-- Rosemary Radford Ruether, Garrett Theological Seminary and Northwestern University"The book will fill a real, indeed urgent, need and be of great service to many Buddhists and students, scholars and friends of Buddhism. Here are some of its many strengths: It clearly harvests years of impassioned study and experience, offers refreshingly bold, original and well-reasoned arguments, and deals with important questions that only a woman who is both a scholar and practitioner would adequately recognize. It appropriately combines both textual work and historical/anthropological perspectives, along with a clearly delineated feminist theoretical stance. It offers a valuable overview of the roles of women and discerning comparisons between them. The feminist analysis of key Buddhist concepts is excellent, especially issues of gender in relation to selflessness, emotions, nonduality. These burning issues for many Western women meeting Buddhism receive here very thoughtful, thorough, original treatment. The 'prophetic voice' that Gross openly brings to the Buddhist tradition is welcome, moving and appropriate." -- Joanna R. Macy

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About the Author Rita M. Gross is Professor of Comparative Studies in Religion at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. A former president of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, she is the editor of *Beyond Androcentrism: New Essays on Women and Religion*, and with Nancy Falk, of *Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives*. She is also the author of numerous articles and essays on women and religion.