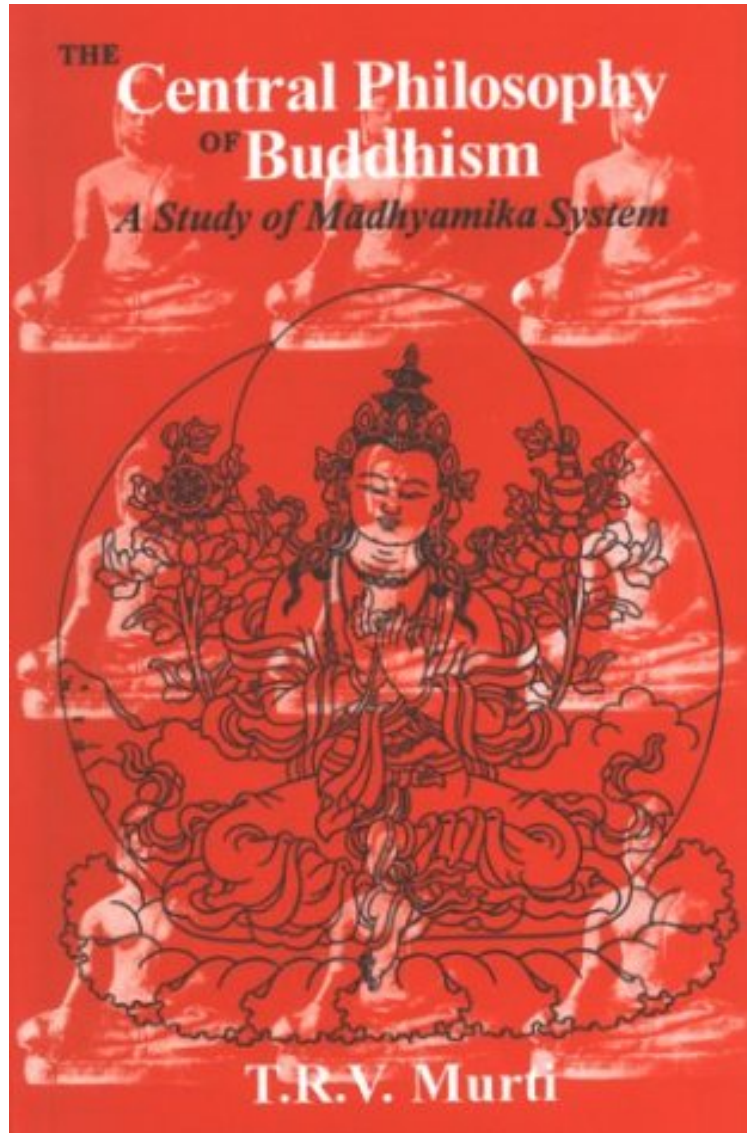


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Central Philosophy of Buddhism: A Study of Madhyamika System

T. R. V. Murti

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T. R. V. Murti : Central Philosophy of Buddhism: A Study of Madhyamika System before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Central Philosophy of Buddhism: A Study of Madhyamika System:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Best of the BestBy Dillon MastersThe Central Philosophy of Buddhism--A Study of Madhyamika System (T.R.V. Murti) is rare jewel; a true masterpiece for any serious minded student interested in a bed-rock spiritual journey. If you think your faith is secure and the only way to God, be

prepared to be stripped naked. But by the time you've reached the end of Murti's exposition you'll realize that naked is the needed condition for genuine spiritual release and communion. Don't hesitate--rush to this book. Never mind that you think of yourself as non-Buddhist. Whatever your brand of religious persuasion Murti will fill the void you don't even know that you have. 2 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Lacks gnosis, but good for what it is By peterDry and lacking any Gnosis . This book is a giant sleeping pill .But i mean its good in many other superficial ways i suppose .Reading this its like a 400 page description of a sun set . But you never get to see the sunset.Let me explain this book is a cyclopean and detailed expansive work that really goes to the bones of buddhism but it all really means nothing in the end. example the author goes into a 3 thousand word explanation of the buddhas silence . and goes on chapter after chapter about why the buddha was silent on metaphysics as such. Its like a technical book on buddhism which all the knowledge is categorized and the genealogy of the concepts, words,ideas, all traced back to the source and fits neatly into a system of knowledge . But reading it i just wanted to go back and re read nagarjuna or the pali works and skip this book altogether. I don't really know what someone could learn from this exhaustive work that is mostly just comparing buddhism to theories of the time and after in an attempt to understand the roots and concepts of buddhism while also looking at nagarjuna vansbandu etc but in the end it just scholarly academic pile of papers that really teach you nothing, and i mean nothing. But don't get me wrong its good for what it is academically . it does go into details about buddhist concepts and the meaning of Sanskrit words as well as comparing vedanta to buddhism and the original texts of the buddha and how they were maybe shaped over time and a rich detailed history of the figures of buddhism through out history but all that is largely superficial as such you see going into details about them won't help you understand them. sorry if you bought this for that reason you wasted your money .7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A great classic on Buddhist Madhyamika By Wolfgang Schlage This classic is a wonderful exposition of the Buddhist Madhyamika philosophy. Of course, this is not an easy read. Before you start, you probably should have some idea what Madhyamika is about. Some knowledge of European philosophy is also helpful. But you can understand it, e.g., without the knowledge of Sanskrit. (I never studied Sanskrit.)The author starts with how Madhyamika fits into the history of philosophy in India and how it builds on them. He then explains and elaborates on the core technique of Madhyamika, namely the Dialectic. Then he shows how the Dialectic is used to arrive at the concept of emptiness (sunyata). In the last part of the book, the author compares Madhyamika with other philosophical systems.I am reading this book after I have heard many talks and read quite a lot of literature of Buddhist teachers about sunyata. It is fantastic how Murti pulls all the things together that I half know and that I have half forgotten so that they actually make sense to me. It is certainly helpful that Murti has a knowledge of European philosophy so that he can compare Madhyamika's concepts to ideas of Western philosophy.I am very grateful to Murti for this book!

There is a class of scholars who are of the opinion that Buddhism in general, and Madhyamaka of Nagarjuna in particular, is not only deconstructionistic in orientation, but also nihilistic in content. How far this assertion is tenable or valid depends from what perspective we look at the Middle Way philosophy of Nagarjuna. While analyzing the general orientation of Buddhist thought, Prof. Murti shows that Nagarjuna's philosophy, although deconstructionistic in its approach, is not at all nihilistic in orientation. The dialectical methods of the *reductio ad absurdum*, which Murti employs as a basic tool of critique, is meant to show that reason cannot reach or comprehend that which is a priori of the Beyond, or what we call Transcendent. It is through the method of negation that Nagarjuna, on the one hand, affirms the Buddha's noble silence concerning that which is inexpressible, and confirms, on the other hand, that the Absolute as Emptiness can be intuited only through the silence of negation. The Emptiness of the Madhyamaka, thus, must not be seen as a philosophy of nihilism; rather it must be viewed as pointing out the limitations of reason, or what we call conceptual knowledge, in the context of that which is beyond reason, and therefore transcendent to thought and language. This book is a veritable treasure of information concerning the evolution of human thought in the East and West. This book is a must for such seekers of truth who would like to plunge to the depths of knowledge.