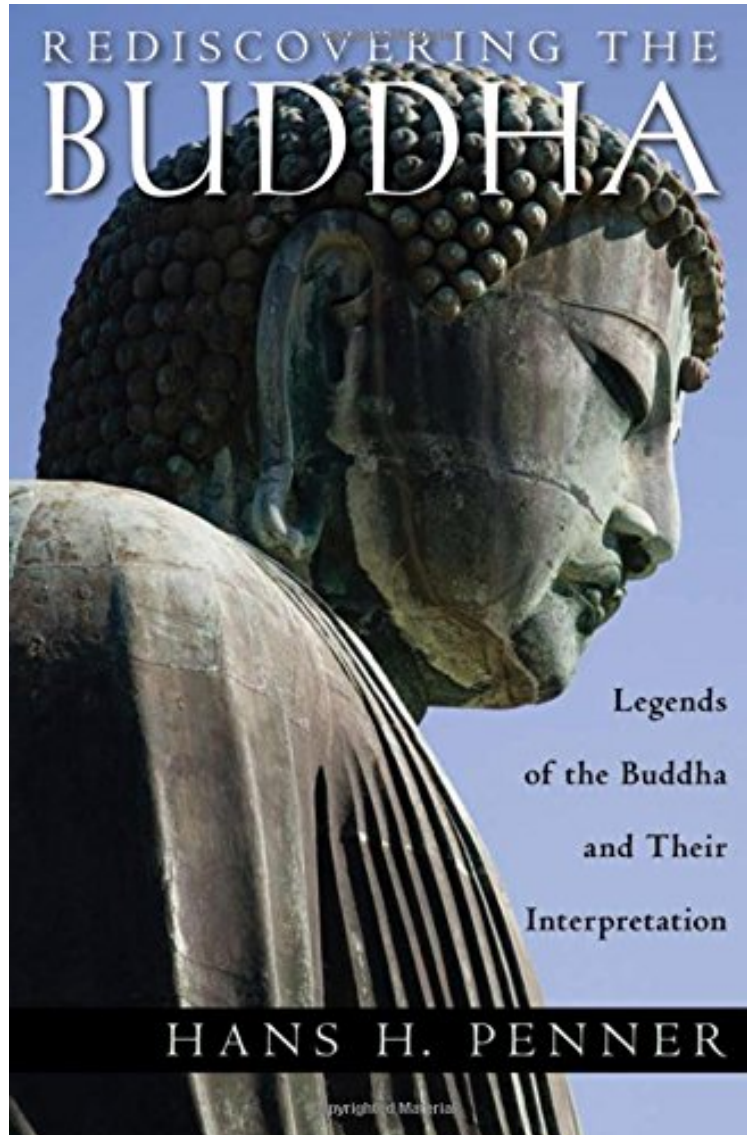


Rediscovering the Buddha: The Legends and Their Interpretations

Hans H Penner

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#1528523 in Books Hans H Penner 2009-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.10 x .70 x 9.30l, 1.18 #File Name: 0195385829272 pages Rediscovering the Buddha The Legends and Their Interpretations | File size: 58.Mb

Hans H Penner : Rediscovering the Buddha: The Legends and Their Interpretations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rediscovering the Buddha: The Legends and Their Interpretations:

Hans Penner takes a new look at the classic stories of the life of the Buddha. In the first part of the book, he presents a full account of these stories, drawn from various texts of Theravada Buddhism, the Buddhism of South and Southeast Asia. Penner allots one chapter to each of the major milestones in Buddha's life, with titles such as: Birth and Early Life, Flight from the Palace, Enlightenment and Liberation, Last Watch and Funeral. In the process, he brings to the fore dimensions of the myth that have been largely ignored by western scholarship. In Part II, Penner offers his own original interpretations of the legends. He takes issue with Max Weber's assertion that "Buddhism is an other-worldly ascetic religion," a point of view that remains dominant in the received tradition and in most contemporary studies of Buddhism. His central thesis is that the "householder" is a necessary element in Buddhism and that the giving of gifts, which creates merit and presupposes the doctrine of karma, mediates the relation between the householder and the monk. Penner argues that the omission of the householder - in his view one-half of what constitutes Buddhism as a religion - is fatal for any understanding of Buddha's life or of the Buddhist tradition. This boldly revisionist and deeply learned work will be of interest to a wide range of scholarly and lay readers.

"Penner succeeds in presenting the Buddha's story in a way that involves the reader viscerally." --BuddhadharmaAbout the AuthorHans Penner is John Philips Professor of Religion, Emeritus at Dartmouth College.