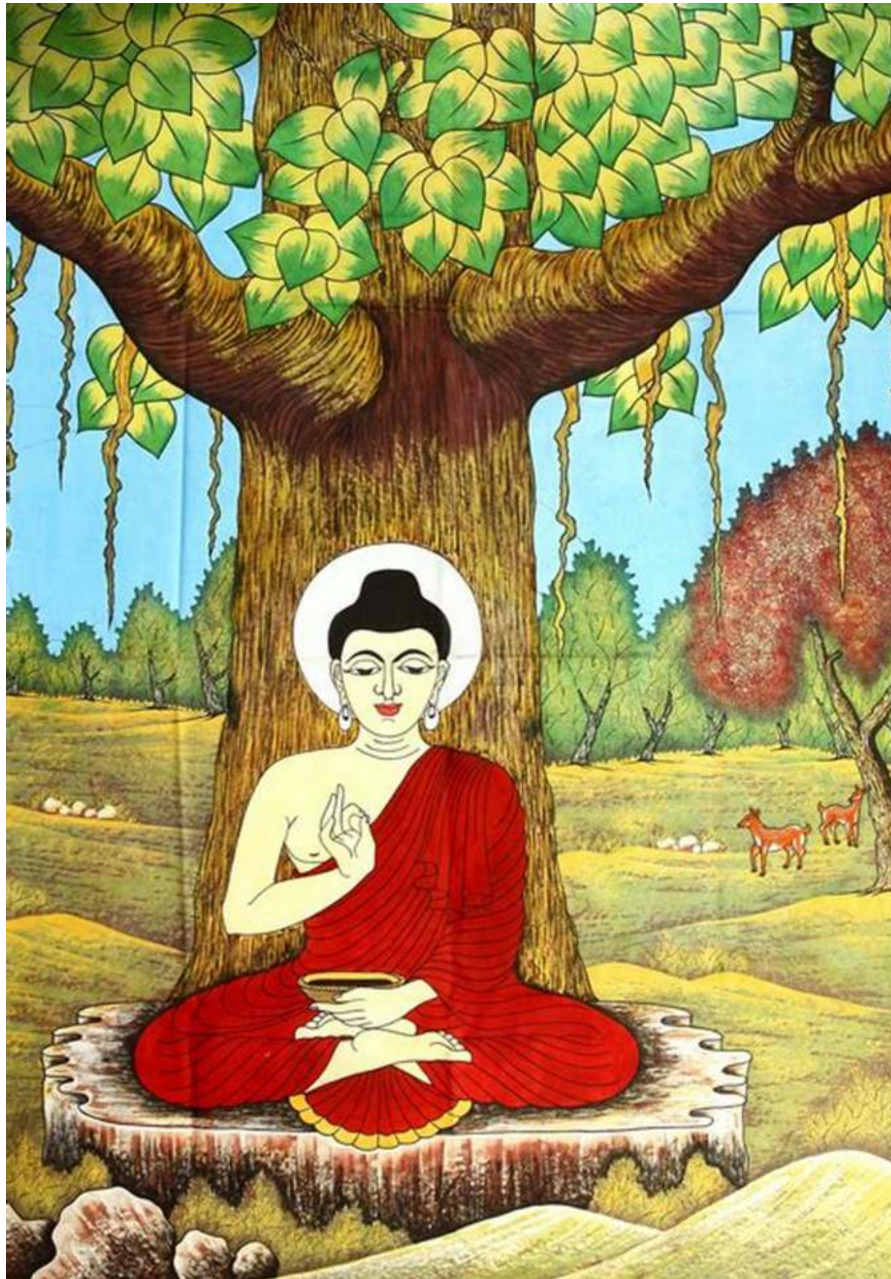


The Buddha In The Lotus Sutra And Won Buddhism: Unlocking the Paths to Enlightenment



The Buddha, also known as Siddhartha Gautama, is a revered spiritual figure who founded Buddhism around 2,500 years ago in ancient India. His teachings

have had a profound impact on millions of people across the world, leading them on a path of self-discovery and enlightenment. In this article, we explore the profound connections between the Buddha, the Lotus Sutra, and Won Buddhism, shedding light on the deep wisdom embedded in these spiritual paths.

The Lotus Sutra: A Jewel of Buddhist Literature

The Lotus Sutra, a revered Mahayana Buddhist scripture, holds a central place in the teachings of Gautama Buddha. This scripture encapsulates the essence of his teachings, presenting a roadmap to spiritual awakening and enlightenment. The Lotus Sutra emphasizes the universality of the Buddha's wisdom and compassion, offering a profound vision of how all beings can attain enlightenment regardless of their background or circumstances.



The Buddha in the Lotus Sutra and Won

Buddhism by Will Hughes (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1873 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 483 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The Sutra introduces a wide range of parables, metaphors, and stories to convey its messages, with one prominent story being the "Parable of the Burning House." In this parable, the Buddha portrays the world as a burning house from which his followers are liberated with the help of his divine teachings. The Lotus Sutra states that just as a lost child inside a burning house is rescued by a wise father

who lures them out with the promise of extraordinary toys, the Buddha liberates beings from the burning house of suffering through enlightening teachings.

Won Buddhism: A Modern Reflection of the Buddha's Teachings

Won Buddhism, a spiritual tradition established in 1916 by Master Sotaesan in Korea, draws inspiration from the Lotus Sutra and the profound teachings of the Buddha. This modern Buddhist sect aims to bridge the gap between the traditional Buddhist practices and the modern society's needs, making the ancient wisdom accessible to people from all walks of life.

The core teachings of Won Buddhism revolve around the principles of 'Buddha-nature,' the innate potential for enlightenment present in all beings. This belief aligns with the teachings of the Lotus Sutra, which emphasizes the omnipresence of Buddha-nature and the potential for awakening within every individual. Won Buddhism encourages practitioners to uncover this Buddha-nature through meditation and self-reflection, providing a practical path to self-realization.

The Parallel Paths to Enlightenment

Both the Lotus Sutra and Won Buddhism share a common goal: to guide individuals on the path to enlightenment and ultimate liberation. The Lotus Sutra provides a comprehensive philosophical framework for understanding the nature of reality and the means to transcend suffering. Won Buddhism, on the other hand, focuses on practical techniques, such as meditation and self-reflection, to cultivate inner wisdom and realize one's true nature.

In the Lotus Sutra, the Buddha unveils the concept of "Skillful Means" (upaya), highlighting that there are multiple paths to enlightenment suited to different individuals' needs and capacities. This notion resonates deeply with Won Buddhism's inclusive approach, where individuals are encouraged to walk their

unique spiritual paths while embracing the universal teachings of compassion, wisdom, and self-discovery.

The Role of Compassion

One of the key teachings in both the Lotus Sutra and Won Buddhism is the cultivation of compassion. The Buddha emphasized acts of kindness, empathy, and understanding towards all living beings as a pivotal component of the awakening process. Both traditions firmly believe that genuine compassion has the power to transform individuals and society as a whole.

The Lotus Sutra addresses the importance of compassionate actions through the parable of the "Medicine King Bodhisattva," which highlights the Bodhisattva's unwavering dedication to healing all suffering beings. Similarly, Won Buddhism teaches compassion as an essential virtue, encouraging practitioners to embody loving-kindness and offer altruistic service to others.

The Buddha's teachings have inspired various spiritual traditions throughout history. The Lotus Sutra and Won Buddhism stand as significant manifestations of the Buddha's profound wisdom, providing practical and philosophical guidance to those seeking enlightenment and liberation.

Through their emphasis on universal compassion, self-reflection, and the potential for awakening in all beings, these spiritual paths bridge ancient teachings with the modern world, offering individuals hope and a transformative understanding of their existence.

Whether one follows the Lotus Sutra, practices Won Buddhism, or explores any other branch of Buddhism, the ultimate aim remains the same – to unlock the doors to enlightenment and experience the profound unity of all beings.



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There are two parts of this present book. Part one explains the evolution the concept of the Buddha from Early Buddhism to Mahāyana Buddhism, especially the Lotus Sutra. The concept developed in three steps: 1. an awakened human being, 2. a transcendental being, 3. an embodied dharma. The first step shows us a historical Buddha; the second and third step show us as a philosophical Buddha. The Lotus Sūtra, however, shows us as a religious Buddha who is saving all sentient being. Therefore, the concept of the Buddha had to see the three aspects, which are *nirmāṇakāya*, *saṃbhoghakāya* and *dharmakāya*. All these aspects, however, are *upāya* (skillful means) for saving different kinds of sentient beings in the Lotus Sūtra. In summary, the concept of the Buddha developed by necessity of suffering beings.

Part two explains the historical background of Korean Buddhism to struggle to adapt in Korean society. There were two periods of Korean Buddhism: the one is the embracive period and the other is the exclusive period. During approximately two millennia of Korean Buddhism, however, the exclusive period is about five hundred years. Even this difficulty period, Korean Buddhism could survive deep

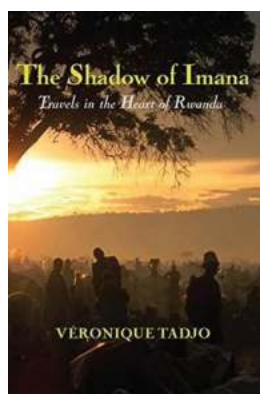
inside the mountain. In the period of Japanese colonization (1910-1945), however, Korean Buddhism was challenged to convert to Japanese style of Buddhism. Park Jung-Bin (1891-1943), the founder of Won-Buddhism, tried to reform not Buddhism but Buddha's dharma for use in the real world since 1916. He enshrined Il-Won-Sang (One circle image, dharmakāya) instead of Buddha image in the main hall. He taught four-fold graces (saṃboghakāya) and three folds studies (nirmāṇakāya) for saving all sentient beings in this scientific civilization.

Therefore, Korean Won-Buddhism is succeeding the concept of the Buddha in the Lotus Sutra as soteriological way in this civilization.



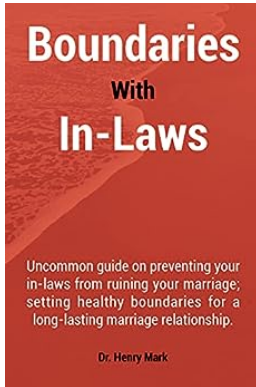
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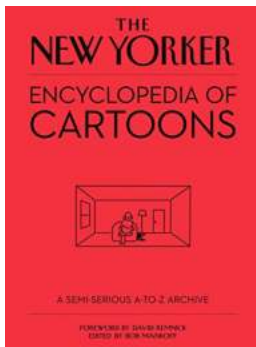
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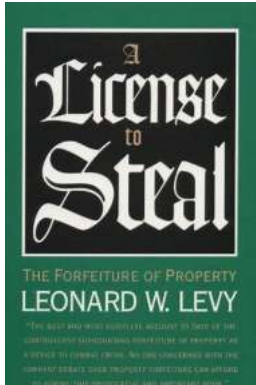
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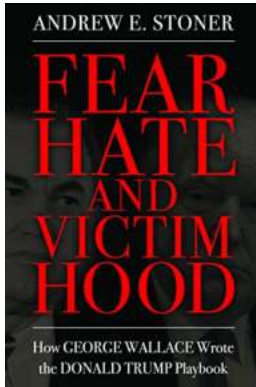
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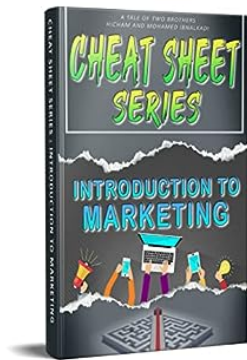
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