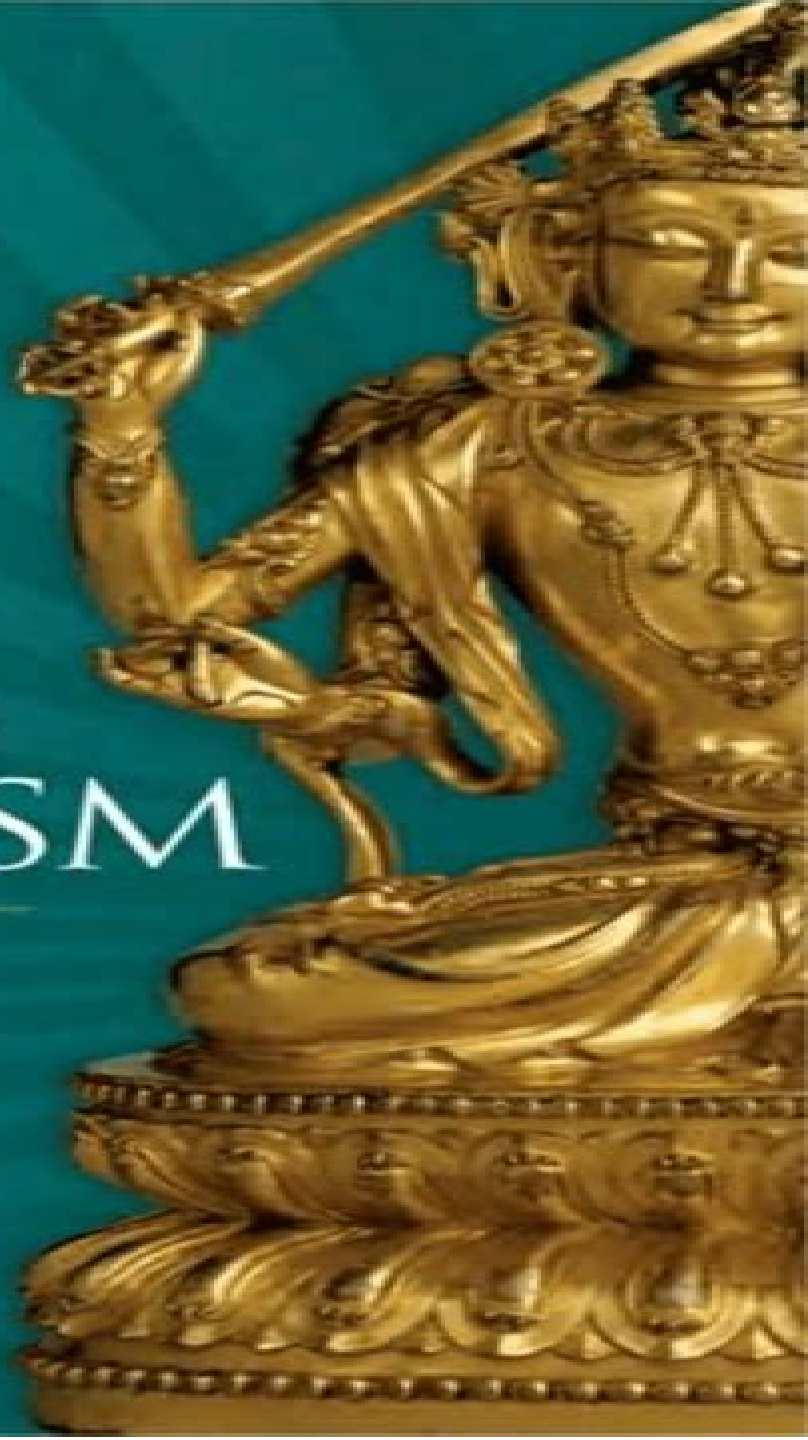


UNMASKING BUDDHISM

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The Buddha's Footprint Johan Elverskog, 2020-01-24 A corrective to the contemporary idea that Buddhism has always been an environmentally friendly religion In the current popular imagination Buddhism is often understood to be a religion intrinsically concerned with the environment The Dharma the name given to Buddhist teachings by Buddhists states that all things are interconnected Therefore Buddhists are perceived as extending compassion beyond people and animals to include plants and the earth itself out of a concern for the total living environment In The Buddha's Footprint Johan Elverskog contends that only by jettisoning this contemporary image of Buddhism as a purely ascetic and apolitical tradition of contemplation can we see the true nature of the Dharma According to Elverskog Buddhism is in fact an expansive religious and political system premised on generating wealth through the exploitation of natural resources Elverskog surveys the expansion of Buddhism across Asia in the period between 500 BCE and 1500 CE when Buddhist institutions were built from Iran and Azerbaijan in the west to Kazakhstan and Siberia in the north Japan in the east and Sri Lanka and Indonesia in the south He examines the prosperity theology at the heart of the Dharma that declared riches to be a sign of good karma and the means by which spiritual status could be elevated through donations bequeathed to Buddhist institutions He demonstrates how this scriptural tradition propelled Buddhists to seek wealth and power across Asia and to exploit both the people and the environment Elverskog shows the ways in which Buddhist expansion not only entailed the displacement of local gods and myths with those of the Dharma as was the case with Christianity and Islam but also involved fundamentally transforming earlier social and political structures and networks of economic exchange The Buddha's Footprint argues that the institutionalization of the Dharma was intimately connected to agricultural expansion resource extraction deforestation urbanization and the monumentalization of Buddhism itself

A Partial Enlightenment Avram Alpert, 2021-04-06 In many ways Buddhism has become the global religion of the modern world For its contemporary followers the ideal of enlightenment promises inner peace and worldly harmony And whereas other philosophies feel abstract and disembodied Buddhism offers meditation as a means to realize this ideal If we could all be as enlightened as Buddhists some imagine we could live in a much better world For some time now however this beatific image of Buddhism has been under attack Scholars and practitioners have criticized it as a Western fantasy that has nothing to do with the actual experiences of Buddhists Avram Alpert combines personal experience and readings of modern novels to offer another way to understand modern Buddhism He argues that it represents a rich resource not for attaining perfection but rather for finding meaning and purpose in a chaotic world Finding unexpected affinities across world literature Rudyard Kipling in colonial India Yukio Mishima in postwar Japan Bessie Head escaping apartheid South Africa as well as in his own experiences living with Tibetan exiles Alpert shows how these stories illuminate a world in which suffering is inevitable and total enlightenment is impossible Yet they also give us access to partial enlightenments powerful insights that become available when we come to terms with

imperfection and stop looking for wholeness A Partial Enlightenment reveals the moments of personal and social transformation that the inventions of modern Buddhism help make possible **A Brief History of Death** W. M.

Spellman,2014-02-15 As humans death its certainty its inevitability consumes us We make it the subject of our literature our art our philosophy and our religion Our feelings and attitudes toward our mortality and its possible afterlives have evolved greatly from the early days of mankind Collecting these views in this topical and instructive book W M Spellman considers death and dying from every angle in the Western tradition exploring how humans understand and come to terms with the end of life Using the work of archaeologists and paleoanthropologists Spellman examines how interpreting physical remains gives us insight into prehistoric perspectives on death He traces how humans have died over the centuries both in the causes of death and in the views of actions that lead to death He spotlights the great philosophical and scientific traditions of the West which did not believe in an afterlife or see the purpose of bereavement while also casting new light on the major religious beliefs that emerged in the ancient world particularly the centuries long development of Christianity He delves into three approaches to the meaning of death the negation of life continuity in another form and agnosticism from both religious and secular scientific perspectives Providing a deeper context for contemporary debates over end of life issues and the tension between longevity and quality of life A Brief History of Death is an illuminating look at the complex ways humans face death and the dying

Buddhisms in Asia Nicholas S. Brasovan,Micheline M. Soong,2019-09-01 Over its long history Buddhism has never been a simple monolithic phenomenon but rather a complex living tradition or better a family of traditions continually shaped by and shaping a vast array of social economic political literary and aesthetic contexts across East Asia South Asia and Southeast Asia Written by undergraduate educators Buddhisms in Asia offers a guide to Buddhism s rich variety of traditions and cultural expressions for educators who would like to include Buddhism in their undergraduate courses It introduces fundamental yet often underrepresented Buddhist texts concepts and material in their historical contexts presents the major ecologies of Buddhist belief practice and cultural expression and provides methodological insights regarding how best to infuse Buddhist content into undergraduate courses in the humanities and social sciences The text aims to represent Buddhisms by approaching the subject from a broad range of disciplinary perspectives including art history anthropology history literature philosophy religious studies and pedagogy **The Routledge Companion to**

Literature and Religion Mark Knight,2016-04-28 This unique and comprehensive volume looks at the study of literature and religion from a contemporary critical perspective Including discussion of global literature and world religions this Companion looks at Key moments in the story of religion and literary studies from Matthew Arnold through to the impact of 9 11 A variety of theoretical approaches to the study of religion and literature Different ways that religion and literature are connected from overtly religious writing to subtle religious readings Analysis of key sacred texts and the way they have been studied re written and questioned by literature Political implications of work on religion and literature Thoroughly introduced

and contextualised this volume is an engaging introduction to this huge and complex field *Chinese and Buddhist Philosophy in Early Twentieth-Century German Thought* Eric S. Nelson, 2017-08-24 Presenting a comprehensive portrayal of the reading of Chinese and Buddhist philosophy in early twentieth century German thought *Chinese and Buddhist Philosophy in Early Twentieth Century German Thought* examines the implications of these readings for contemporary issues in comparative and intercultural philosophy Through a series of case studies from the late 19th century and early 20th century Eric Nelson focuses on the reception and uses of Confucianism Daoism and Buddhism in German philosophy covering figures as diverse as Buber Heidegger and Misch He argues that the growing intertextuality between traditions cannot be appropriately interpreted through notions of exclusive identities closed horizons or unitary traditions Providing an account of the context motivations and hermeneutical strategies of early twentieth century European thinkers interpretation of Asian philosophy Nelson also throws new light on the question of the relation between Heidegger and Asian philosophy Reflecting the growing interest in the possibility of intercultural and global philosophy *Chinese and Buddhist Philosophy in Early Twentieth Century German Thought* opens up the possibility of a more inclusive intercultural conception of philosophy

Modern Women: Women Artists at The Museum of Modern Art Alexandra Schwartz, 2010 This text examines the collection of feminist art in the Museum of Modern Art It features essays presenting a range of generational and cultural perspectives *The British National Bibliography* Arthur James Wells, 2009

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