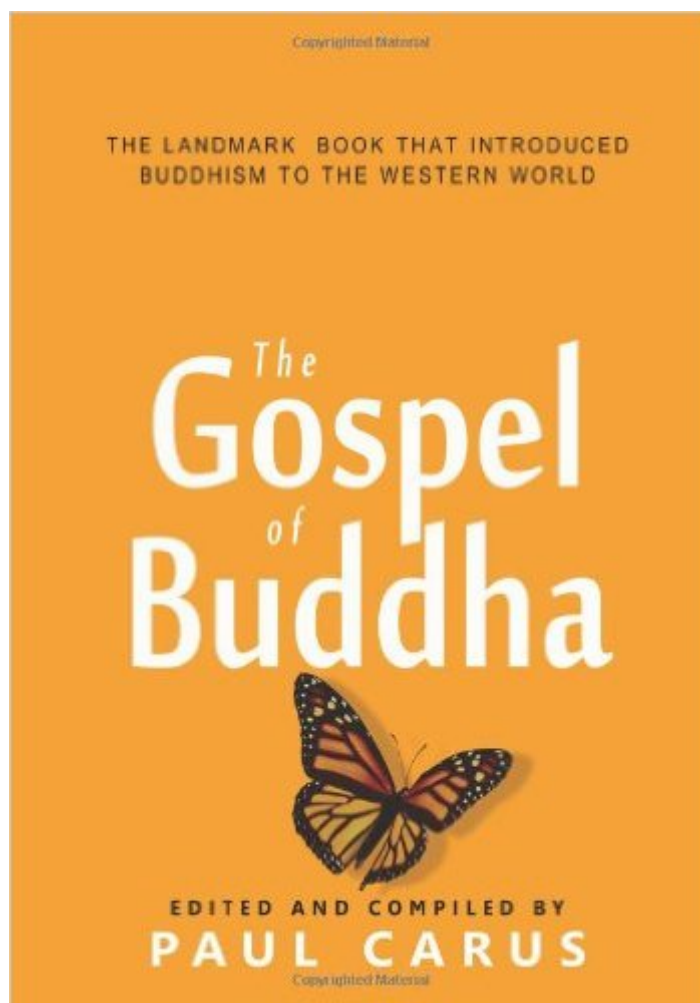


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The Gospel Of Buddha



Synopsis

The Gospel of Buddha, compiled from ancient records by Paul Caus, tells the story of Buddha through a series of parables. It was a significant book in introducing Buddhism to the west and is still used as a text book by some sects.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #597,368 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #220 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > Sacred Writings #121590 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality

Customer Reviews

Although this is a really old and linguistically dated, for a variety of reasons this is the simplest place for a person familiar with the Gospels to begin an inquiry into the life of the Buddha (as opposed to Buddhism as a religion generally-- which is much too broad for this book to cover in its just over three hundred pages....) For a book that is almost one hundred years old, its author did a remarkable job of summarizing the sutras that detail the life of the Buddha and in providing charts, etc. such that Christians would grasp that yes, this man was teaching many of the same things as was the man who taught in their Bible.....This is a good place to learn about the Buddha's life. However, a person versed only in this book would not be familiar with most of the forms of Buddhism as they were actually practiced-- it would be difficult to identify HOW Zen or Pure Land or Vajrayana Buddhism came to be having just this little book much in the same way it would be impossible to determine how Christianity had changed and developed throughout time having only the record provided in the New Testament, or Judaism having only the Pentateuch.....For those acquainted with Buddhist literature, this book is vaguely similar in content to the Digha Nikaya ("The Long Discourses of the Buddha") in that both are trying to portray how Buddhism, or the thought and teachings of the Buddha were portrayed at the time of his life as opposed to any kind of philosophy, etc. which

developed later (the Mahayana stuff). For those interested in this stuff, I would advise books by Robert Thurman (there are a number) and D.T. Suzuki (again, the same) as the easiest to understand in regards to Indian and Tibetan forms and East Asian and Zen forms respectively. I highly recommend this book....

This is a nice book for Christians who wish to grasp the message and principle beliefs of Buddhism. Carus presents the Buddha's life in a collection of stories from his birth, attainment of enlightenment, teaching, to his death. Well written, it emulates the biblical style of the King James Bible, occasionally punctuated with Ye, Thou, Thy, and so on. The stories are enjoyable but short and somewhat numerous. Also included is a glossary of terms and a concordance with passages in the New Testament. This edition has been reset and lacks the original intricate illustrations by Olga Kopetzky. The pages of the book were also strangely scented. I bought this to have a hardcover version but prefer the Open Court copy made from the original plates.

311 pages, illustrated. This is a nice book for Christians who wish to grasp the message and principle beliefs of Buddhism. Carus presents the Buddha's life in a collection of stories from his birth, attainment of enlightenment, teaching, to his death. Well written, it emulates the biblical style of the King James Bible, occasionally punctuated with Ye, Thou, Thy, and so on. The stories are enjoyable but short and somewhat numerous. This edition appears to be made from the original plates, with original intricate illustrations made for the work by Olga Kopetzky. Also included is a glossary of terms and a concordance with passages in the New Testament. This book convinced me that Christianity is historically the child of both Judaism and Buddhism.

I have read a lot of books of buddhism, but this book impress me a lot because it is written clearly with lucid english with a clear and authoritative records on early buddhism based on historical facts, I feel happy and hope it can one day be appreciated by chinese readers and perhaps such classical book be translated to other languages and I hope great publicity be given to this book to create a greater awareness of the noble teachings of buddha and to remove common misconceptions about buddhism. Please declare it to the public for anyone who may wish to publish it or duplicate it for further circulation and distribution free of charge to the thirsty world in quest of noble truth. I hope to see more of such books with such fluent and beautiful language and pray for its greater success
asoka lai singapore feb 98 i

NOTE: This is not a knock against quality of the content, which I have not finished reading, but against the quality of the book. I bought the book despite it being available for free online because I wanted a better experience reading it. Unfortunately, the typesetting of this book leaves a lot to be desired. Too much text (>100 characters) is fitted on a single line, making it difficult to read. The paragraph spacing is either non-existent, or way too much. I'd probably look for a version of this book with better typesetting, or just read it at Gutenberg for free:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/35895/35895-h/35895-h.htm>

Carus was an interesting figure in Anglo-American philosophy and we owe him much. He was a friend to and publisher of the great Charles Peirce, when he was universally condemned and shunted by the academic community, and a champion of many other philosophies, which were most definitely not mainstream in 19th century America, through his Open Court Press. He promoted Eastern philosophies which were a novelty at the time (circa 1890s) and translated Buddhist and Taoist texts. The Dhammapada is an exquisite and essential collection of the basic philosophy of Buddhism, in what we would call blank verse, a pocket-size distillation of the huge Tripitaka (the general collection of the original discourses of the Buddha) made by monks about 700 years after his death in the early 5th century B.C. This particular translation is, in my opinion, somewhat antiquated, has been superseded by many others, which are more contemporary, poetic, accurate, and/or informative. I like the diminutive volume available from Auroville Press, with commentaries of the Mother, recorded in the late 1950's.

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