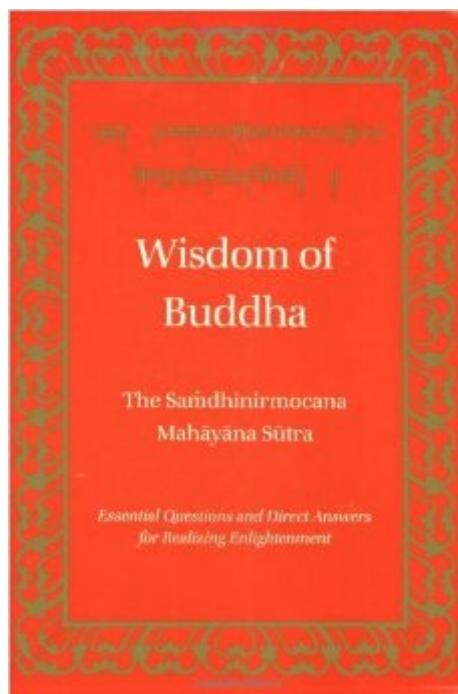


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Wisdom Of Buddha: The Samdhinirmochana Sutra (Tibetan Translation Series)



Synopsis

This is the Elucidation of the Intention Sutra, or the Sutra Unravelling the Thought (of the Buddha).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are a Mahayana Buddhist who is practicing yoga in the form of body postures, breath control, or sitting in meditation to deepen your tranquility of mind and clarify your insight into Wisdom - you are on a path that leads to this foundational Yogacara (Master of Yoga) text, which has been translated three times - once by Thomas Cleary as [a course in] Buddhist Yoga and John Powers as The Wisdom of the Buddha, and finally by Keenan in The Scripture on the Explication of Underlaying Meaning. The Cleary text is aimed at being very simple and straightforward, an effort to make it easy to assimilate text. The Power's book is lovely having facing pages of Tibetan and English text and a full set of notes. In a review of John Powers book that you can find on the Internet by Tom Graham you can get the background picture of just how frustrating it is that a text this important as a background to both the Yogacara School and the view of the Tantras is almost completely overlooked by American Buddhists. Both the Powers and the newest, excellent, translation by Keenan offer a both a crystal clarity of translation and insightful footnotes that make for a compact commentary on the text all by themselves. Key to Coordinating the available english translations:
I. The Samdhinirmochana Sutra as translated from The Tibetan of the sDe-dge bKa'-gur:1.) Powers, John. Wisdom of Buddha: The Samdhinirmochana Sutra. Dharma Publishing, 1995
II. The Samdhinirmochana Sutra as translated from The Chinese of Hsuan-tsang (Taisho Vol.

16, Number 676):2a.) Cleary, Thomas. *Buddhist Yoga: A Comprehensive Course*. 1st ed. Shambhala, 1995. the same text republished in 2b.) Cleary, *Classics of Buddhism and Zen*, Shambhala, 2002.) Keenan, John P.. *The Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning*. Numata Center for Buddhist Translation & Research, 2000.-----A Student's Guide to Using their version to Study the *Samdhinirmochana Sutra*Keenan Chapter One Page 7Cleary Chapter One Page 1 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 753]"Introduction"[Powers Chapter One] Gambhirarrthasamdhinirmocana p.5Keenan Chapter One Page 11Cleary Chapter Two Page 5 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 755]"Characteristics of Ultimate Truth"[Powers Chapter Two] Dahrmodgata p. 25[Powers Chapter Three] Suvisuddhamati p.35[Powers Chapter Four] Subhuti p. 53The first four chapters in Powers version focus on a discussion of the ultimate truth (paramartha).-----Keenan Chapter Three Page 27Cleary Chapter Three Page 19 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 766]"Characteristics of Mind, Intellect, and Consciousness"[Powers Chapter Five] Visalamati p.69Keenan Chapter Four Page 31Cleary Chapter Four p. 23 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 769]"Characteristics of All Phenomena"[Powers Chapter Six] Gunakara p.82The fifth and sixth chapters discuss the concept of *alayavijñāna* or "storehouse consciousness" and the three characteristics of phenomena (*trilakṣaṇa*), which refer to the incomplete and absolute truth of various phenomena.-----Keenan Chapter Five Page 35Cleary Chapter Five Page 27 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 772]"Essencelessness"[Powers Chapter Seven] Paramartha samudgata p.95The seventh chapter is mainly concerned with outlining principles of Buddhist HERMENEUTICS-----Keenan Chapter Six Page 51Cleary Chapter Six Page 43 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 784]"Analyzing Yoga"[Powers Chapter Eight] Maitreya p. 151The eighth chapter focuses on MEDITATION theory, (Yoga) and practice.-----Keenan Chapter Seven Page 51Cleary Chapter Seven Page 69 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 805][Chapter Nine] Avalokiteśvara p. 221"The Transcendent Way of the Sages"The ninth chapter describes the Bodhisattva PATH (Marga).-----Keenan Chapter Eight Page 99Cleary Chapter Eight - Page 91 [Classics Vol. 5 - p. 822]"Deeds of the Enlightened "Powers [Chapter Ten] Mañjuśiṇī page 275The final chapter is concerned with the characteristics of Buddhahood, the culmination of the practices the text describes.-----

This book provides the "definitive meaning of the Teachings". This means that it is really for advanced scholars. It would be better avoided in the case of people with strong dogmatic tendencies (even Buddhists) because wrong interpreting is easy with this difficult text...The richness and beauty of the meaning of the text requires some habit with Buddhist teachings. In intent, it is rather for scholars than poets...so don't expect verses...beauty is in the meaning, not the writing

style...The content is structured as each chapter being the question of a particular Bodhisattva and the answer from the Bhagavan. Each question being asked for allowing the Bhagavan to explain its "doctrine" and by the same way to allow Bodhisattvas to attain perfect enlightenment. This first English translation of the Samdhinirmocana Sutra is invaluable, thanks John ! I hope there will be more...

Not only is the text of this volume inspiring, it is beautifully designed, with Tibetan text on the left side and the English translation facing. Wisdom of Buddha is a pleasure to hold and to read.

product as specified. a difficult read. some interesting points.

Did not know what to expect and when I received it I was extremely impressed. I would recommend it to all seekers of knowledge.

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