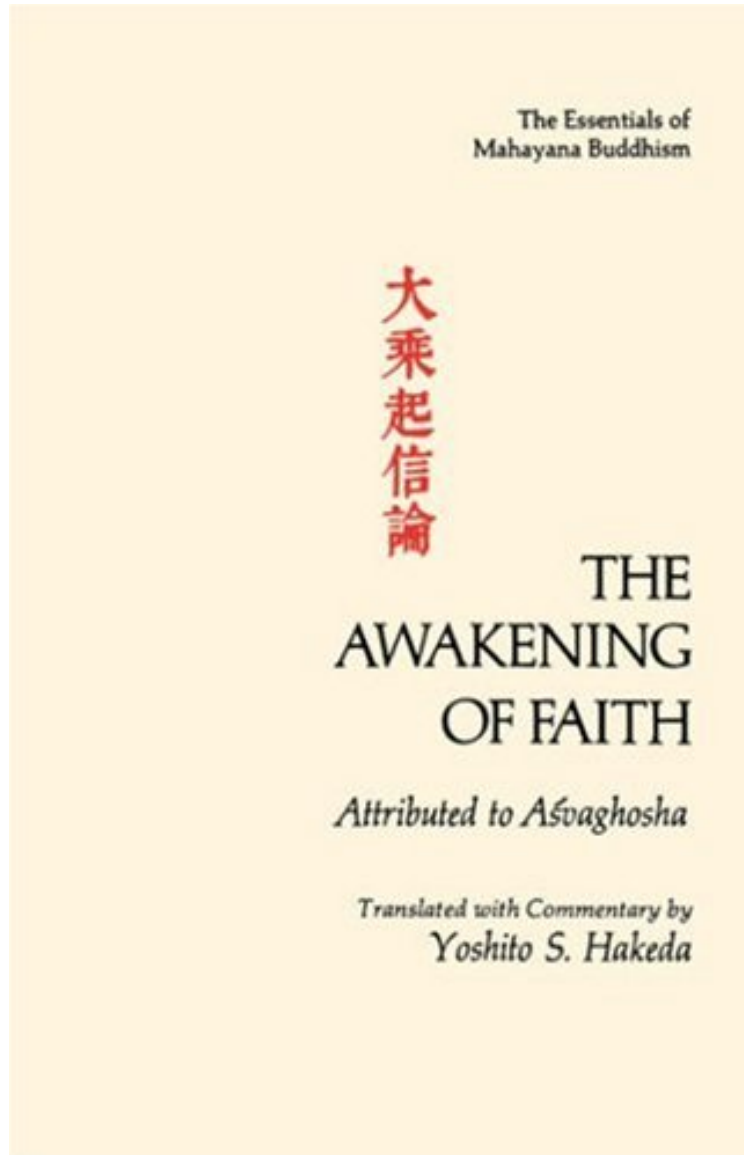


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The Awakening of Faith

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From Columbia University Press : The Awakening of Faith before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Awakening of Faith:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bill and Carol A must for any zen practice. It will be read more than once. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An important portrayal of the meaning of "Faith" By James M. Corrigan For me, the highlight of this text is its depiction of faith, not as a blind grasping towards the truth, but as trust with conviction. The difference is important in today's world where the meaning of faith has been

eviscerated of its positive affirmation of a path - conviction arising from a sure understanding, rather than just an adopted belief - to become more a label of anti-experiential assertion. Thus in today's world to have faith is to believe in the absence of evidence, while in this context to have faith is to have become permeated with the enlightened aspect of Suchness. The value of a text such as this is not the programmatic ideas that it presents, but the underlying understanding that these ideas point to. If one merely forms an attachment to the conceptual ideas, one is not developing faith. The translator's introduction and commentary, much of which is taken from a few Chinese and Korean scholars, but especially that of Fazang, is generally excellent. One caveat is that there are a few places within the text where the typographic style of setting off the commentary from the base text is not adhered to (ex. top of pg 65 of reprint edition), potentially confusing the reader. The introduction to the reprint edition by Ab is suspect. He starts with a whopper of a misunderstanding when he states: "... the Awakening of Faith boldly posits as the ultimate reality the minds of sentient beings in their everyday existence." The "minds" (plural and individuated) are presented as the permeation of ignorance and not the "ultimate reality". So I recommend caution in reading these remarks. James Corrigan

An Introduction to Awareness
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
great read
By mikerich928
This book was a great read, and I think an important one for anyone interested in looking into Mahayana Buddhism, or Buddhism in general. The major concepts of Buddhist thinking are presented here along with the author's help in deciphering meaning from the more difficult or unclear paragraphs. This is invaluable as a lot of Buddhist concepts and style of writing can be difficult to grasp. I take refuge in this book :)

This text is a short treatise, but its importance is out of all proportion to its length, since it provides a comprehensive summary of the essentials of Mahayana Buddhism. It discusses the question of how man can transcend his finite state and participate in the life of the infinite while still remaining in the midst of the phenomenal order and concludes with a discussion of the particular practices and techniques that will aid the believer in the awakening and growth of his faith.

"It is basic to all schools, particularly to Zen...All serious students of Mahayana should obtain a copy and use it for study of the subject so that they gain an insight into the source of so much later development." -- Western Buddhist
"At last a critical English translation of one of the most influential documents of Mahayana Buddhism faithful to the earliest extant Chinese text." -- Choice
About the Author
Hakeda was Associate Professor of Japanese in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Associate Professor of Religion at Columbia University.
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