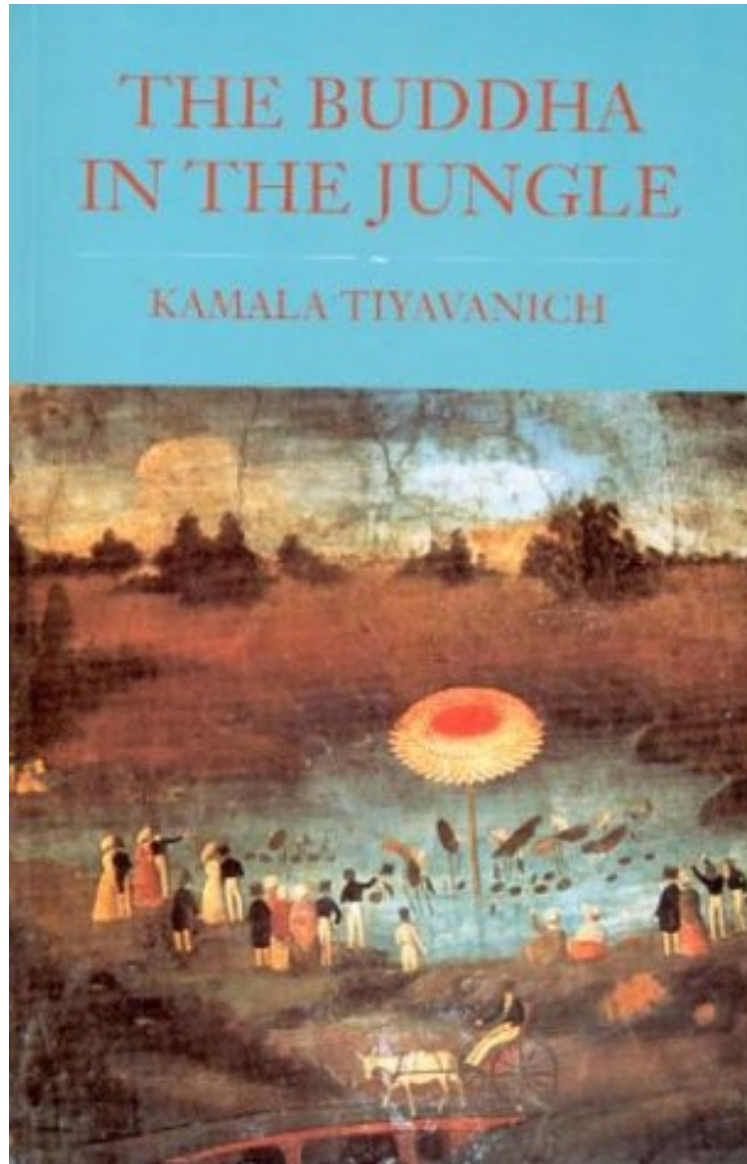


[Download free pdf] The Buddha in the Jungle

The Buddha in the Jungle

Kamala Tiyavanich

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1561813 in Books 2004-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.46 x 1.12 x 5.581, .95 #File Name: 0295983728404 pages | File size: 27.Mb

Kamala Tiyavanich : The Buddha in the Jungle before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Buddha in the Jungle:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thai Buddhism in a Historical and Social Context By Cassey Lee This is a book which I :(i) looked forward to reading (after reading the favorable reviews),(ii) wasn't sure about the quality of the book half-way through reading it, but(iii) was convinced that it is an important book upon finishing the final chapter. Broadly, it is a book about Thai Buddhism in a historical and cultural context. It attempts to relate what

Thai Buddhism was like before state-led reformations (which began during the rule of King Mongkut, 1851-68) changed the institution. The story told is very subtle - it discusses, amongst others, the role that monks played in the local Thai society during this period. The method that the author employs is very peculiar - the book reads like a personal narrative that is sourced from personal interviews (with senior surviving monks), written recollections by monks as well as 'farang' diarists. This approach, which I thought was almost akin to an oral history is, I think, inevitable given the form and availability of the information on the subject. This approach also makes the book very readable and appealing as it manages to impart to the reader the feeling of how the past feels like. Stories surrounding the sometimes supernatural feats of monks wandering in forests adds a 'folklore' dimension to Buddhism as practised by Thais that I think is not often conveyed. The stories about individual monks were the ones I enjoyed reading the most. I cared less about 'farang' writings even though their observations sometimes proved informative. Not all the book is centered around Thai Buddhism. For example, the author discusses views on the status of women in Thai society towards the end of the book (chapter 43). The book is partly a social commentary about how Thai Buddhism and society have changed. I sense a tinge of sadness about these changes but the author does not quite say it outright whether the past reforms were mistakes. This is quite understandable, given the sensitivity of the issue due to the exalted status and high esteem in which past and present Thai kings are held. One of my favourite chapter is the last one - the tale of a Dutchman who stole a jade Buddha statue from a forest, only to return it later and to ultimately find the true meaning of life (as a Buddhist monk). The last few words of this chapter (uttered by the Dutchman) was, for me, very memorable: "All our European haste and disquiet has fallen away from me. I have come to realize that quite equanimity is the highest good that we can achieve in this life". Tiyavanich certainly knows how to choose her words very well. This is a book which I read and savoured slowly - one to two chapters daily, every night, before I slid into pleasant dreams. Tonight, upon finishing the book, I lament the fact that I will need to find another good read tomorrow night.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Thai Buddhism in a Historical and Social Context By Cassey Lee This is a book which I :(i) looked forward to reading (after reading the favorable reviews),(ii) wasn't sure about the quality of the book half-way through reading it, but(iii) was convinced that it is an important book upon finishing the final chapter. Broadly, it is a book about Thai Buddhism in a historical and cultural context. It attempts to relate what Thai Buddhism was like before state-led reformations (which began during the rule of King Mongkut, 1851-68) changed the institution. The story told is very subtle - it discusses, amongst others, the role that monks played in the local Thai society during this period. The method that the author employs is very peculiar - the book reads like a personal narrative that is sourced from personal interviews (with senior surviving monks), written recollections by monks as well as 'farang' diarists. This approach, which I thought was almost akin to an oral history is, I think, inevitable given the form and availability of the information on the subject. This approach also makes the book very readable and appealing as it manages to impart to the reader the feeling of how the past feels like. Stories surrounding the sometimes supernatural feats of monks wandering in forests adds a 'folklore' dimension to Buddhism as practised by Thais that I think is not often conveyed. The stories about individual monks were the ones I enjoyed reading the most. I cared less about 'farang' writings even though their observations sometimes proved informative. Not all the book is centered around Thai Buddhism. For example, the author discusses views on the status of women in Thai society towards the end of the book (chapter 43). The book is partly a social commentary about how Thai Buddhism and society have changed. I sense a tinge of sadness about these changes but the author does not quite say it outright whether the past reforms were mistakes. This is quite understandable, given the sensitivity of the issue due to the exalted status and high esteem in which past and present Thai kings are held. One of my favourite chapter is the last one - the tale of a Dutchman who stole a jade Buddha statue from a forest, only to return it later and to ultimately find the true meaning of life (as a Buddhist monk). The last few words of this chapter (uttered by the Dutchman) was, for me, very memorable: "All our European haste and disquiet has fallen away from me. I have come to realize that quite equanimity is the highest good that we can achieve in this life". Tiyavanich certainly knows how to choose her words very well. This is a book which I read and savoured slowly - one to two chapters daily, every night, before I slid into pleasant dreams. Tonight, upon finishing the book, I lament the fact that I will need to find another good read tomorrow night.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Review of Buddha in the Jungle By Tenzin Shila Dr. Kamala Tiyavanich's latest book, "The Buddha in the Jungle," is a wonderful collection of fascinating tales, rich in the exotic beauty and mystery of 19th century Buddhist Thailand. From the horrors of the charnel grounds to the quiet serenity of tropical forest shrines, Dr. Tiyavanich's stories of Buddhist practitioners and saints will captivate, inspire and teach the reader. A native of Thailand and a Buddhist practitioner in the Thai Theravada tradition, Dr. Tiyavanich writes in her characteristic style of detail and clarity, making this scholarly work fresh, exciting and easily accessible to every reader. I found this book to be a joy to read and I highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in Buddhism.

In *The Buddha in the Jungle*, real-life stories about 19th and early 20th century Buddhist monks in Thailand are ingeniously intermingled with experiences recorded by their Western contemporaries. Stories tell of giant snakes, bandits, boatmen, midwives, and guardian spirits and collectively portray a Buddhist culture in all its imaginative and geographical concreteness. By juxtaposing these eyewitness accounts, Kamala Tiyavanich presents a new and vivid

picture of Buddhism as it was lived and of the natural environments in which the Buddha's teachings were practiced. Kamala Tiyanich is a Thai Buddhist and the author of *Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand*. She lives in Ithaca, New York. "Reading *The Buddha in the Jungle* is a wondrous journey to an exotic land, full of magic chants, wise grandmothers, ghosts, elephants, snakes, and compassionate Buddhist monks. This is a book of history, anthropology, and Buddhist teachings, and it is delightfully easy and fun to read." - Wes Nisker, co-editor of *Inquiring Mind* "This is one of the most remarkable, honest, and rich accounts of how Theravada Buddhism actually flourished in Thailand. It gives us a new picture of the true breadth and fullness of the tradition in every part of life." - Jack Kornfield, author of *A Path with Heart* "This is a wonderful work of scholarship and storytelling. By introducing nearly every tale with comments by one or more western writers, Kamala helps English-reading students of Thailand and Buddhism understand the translated material." - John Badgley, Cornell University "An absorbing and totally different yet highly readable survey of a little-known period of religious and social history." - Russell Webb, editor of *Buddhist Studies Review*, London "A very interesting and engaging account of living Buddhism in the last centuries and a valuable contribution to the increasing knowledge of the many and varied forms of Buddhist practice." - Venerable Tiradhammo, abbot of Dhammapala Monastery, Switzerland "Throws an interesting light upon Dharma as it was practiced in Siam, certainly a light that differs in many respects from the state-imposed Buddhism of Bangkok." - Laurence Khantipalo, cofounder of the Bodhi Citta Buddhist Centre, Australia

"A delightful read..This is an important and lovely book which is easy and fun to read but carries some important messages. More than any conventional work of history or anthropology, this book conveys a very tangible sense of what the landscape was like, how life was lived, and how the monkhood fit together with nature and with society." *Bangkok Post* "This wonderful book, produced with care and beautiful simplicity, deals with the variety of Theravada Buddhism practiced in Thailand. But its appeal is broader. It serves as a useful counterweight to what might be called the Kitsilano school of Buddhism." *The Vancouver Sun* "A heart-warming narrative..The Buddha in the Jungle captures the most authentic expression of the Thai Theravada Buddhism in which wisdom, inner repose and freedom of being takes central place for the monks." *dharmalife* "These stories of monks in Thailand during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries give a remarkable picture of the lives of monks and the practice of Buddhism in earlier times..[A] fascinating book." *Multicultural* "Reading *The Buddha in the Jungle* is a wondrous journey to an exotic land, full of magic chants, wise grandmothers, ghosts, elephants, snakes, and compassionate Buddhist monks. This is a book of history, anthropology, and Buddhist teachings, and it is delightfully easy and fun to read." Wes Nisker, coeditor of *Inquiring Mind* "This is one of the most remarkable, honest, and rich accounts of how Theravada Buddhism actually flourished in Thailand. It gives us a new picture of the true breadth and fullness of the tradition in every part of life." Jack Kornfield, author of *A Path with Heart* "This is a wonderful work of scholarship and storytelling. By introducing nearly every tale with comments by one or more western writers, Kamala helps Englishreading students of Thailand and Buddhism understand the translated material." John Badgley, Cornell University "An absorbing and totally different yet highly readable survey of a littleknown period of religious and social history." Russell Webb , editor of *Buddhist Studies* , London "A very interesting and engaging account of living Buddhism in the last centuries and a valuable contribution to the increasing knowledge of the many and varied forms of Buddhist practice." Venerable Tiradhammo, abbot of Dhammapala Monastery, Switzerland "Throws an interesting light upon Dharma as it was practiced in Siam, certainly a light that differs in many respects from the stateimposed Buddhism of Bangkok." Laurence Khantipalo, cofounder of the Bodhi Citta Buddhist Centre, Australia About the Author Kamala Tiyanich is a Thai Buddhist and the author of *Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand*. She lives in Ithaca, New York.