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Vimalakirti

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THE HOLY TEACHING of Vimalakīrti



A MAHĀYĀNA SCRIPTURE

Robert A. F. Thurman

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Vimalakirti : The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti: A Mahayana Scripture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti: A Mahayana Scripture:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The Koan of the Void By Edward J. Barton This is heavy duty Buddhist scripture. Thurman's prologue and introduction do a great job of setting up the actual scripture reading itself. Considered advanced for adherents of Buddhist thought, for those that aren't (like myself), the introduction is critical - don't skip it. The proposition is that all is unified, and dualism is not real. The artificial dualism and the concept of

voidness (the absence of dualism, not nihilism) permeate the reading. The apparent paradox of an existent void is exactly the "Zen like" koan that is pondered and meditated on to attempt to understand the profundity of reality. A tough read, but a good one. A strong working knowledge of Buddhist thought will be very helpful before diving in. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Vimalakirti Sutra By Helden We've been studying this Sutra for the past 5 semesters in one of our Zen Buddhism classes at Chung Tai Monastery Sunnyvale. This version--a different translation than the Burton Watson--is not the one we use. It's based on Tibetan sources. However, this translation has PRIMO notes! So I keep it at hand right along with my Watson. Very good for the serious Buddhism student. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Phil "[T]hose living beings who, having heard this teaching of the Dharma, accept it, remember it, read it, and understand it deeply will be, without a doubt, true vessels of the Dharma... They will cut off all possibility of unhappy lives, will open their way to all fortunate lives, will always be looked after by all Buddhas, will always overcome all adversaries, and will always conquer all devils." So read it. What have you got to lose?

This book presents the major teachings of Mahayana Buddhism in a precise, dramatic, and even humorous form. For two millennia this Sutra, called the jewel of the Mahayana Sutras, has enjoyed immense popularity among Mahayana Buddhists in India, central and southeast Asia, Japan, and especially China, where its incidents were the basis for a style in art and literature prevalent during several centuries. Robert Thurman's translation makes available in relatively nontechnical English the Tibetan version of this key Buddhist scripture, previously known to the English-speaking world only through translations from Chinese texts. The Tibetan version is generally conceded to be more faithful to the original Sanskrit than are the Chinese texts. The Tibetan version also is clearer, richer, and more precise in its philosophical and psychological expression. The twelve books of the Sutra are accompanied by an introduction and an epilogue by Dr. Thurman and by three glossaries: Sanskrit terms, numerical categories, and technical terms.

About the Author Robert A. F. Thurman, who was ordained a Buddhist monk in 1964 by Tenzin Gyatso, the current Dalai Lama, is the current director of Tibet House in New York City. He is the father of five children including the actress Uma Thurman. One of the world's most respected scholars and translators of Tibetan and Sanskrit, Thurman has translated *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* (1994) and is the author or translator of many books including *The Central Philosophy of Tibet: A Study and Translation of Jey Tsong Khapa's Essence of True Eloquence* (1984), *Speech of Gold: Reason and Enlightenment in Tibetan Buddhism* (1989), *Inside Tibetan Buddhism* (1995), and *Infinite Life: Seven Virtues for Living Well* (2004). This book was published in cooperation with The Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions.