

Original Enlightenment and the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism

Jacqueline I. Stone



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**Christopher Partridge, Linda
Woodhead, Hiroko Kawanami**



Original Enlightenment And The Transformation Of Medieval Japanese Buddhism:

Original Enlightenment and the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism Jacqueline I. Stone, 2003-05-31

Original enlightenment thought hongaku shiso dominated Buddhist intellectual circles throughout Japan's medieval period. Enlightenment, this discourse claims, is neither a goal to be achieved nor a potential to be realized but the true status of all things. Every animate and inanimate object manifests the primordially enlightened Buddha just as it is. Seen in its true aspect, every activity of daily life—eating, sleeping, even one's deluded thinking—is the Buddha's conduct. Emerging from within the powerful Tendai School, ideas of original enlightenment were appropriated by a number of Buddhist traditions and influenced nascent theories about the kami, local deities, as well as medieval aesthetics and the literary and performing arts. Scholars and commentators have long recognized the historical importance of original enlightenment thought but differ heatedly over how it is to be understood. Some tout it as the pinnacle of the Buddhist philosophy of absolute non-dualism. Others claim to find in it the paradigmatic expression of a timeless Japanese spirituality. According to other readings, it represents a dangerous anti-nomianism that undermined observance of moral precepts, precipitated a decline in Buddhist scholarship, and denied the need for religious discipline. Still others denounce it as an authoritarian ideology that, by sacralizing the given order, has in effect legitimized hierarchy and discriminative social practices. Often the acceptance or rejection of original enlightenment thought is seen as the fault line along which traditional Buddhist institutions are to be differentiated from the new Buddhist movements: Zen, Pure Land, and Nichiren, that arose during Japan's medieval period.

Jacqueline Stone's groundbreaking study moves beyond the treatment of the original enlightenment doctrine as abstract philosophy to explore its historical dimension. Drawing on a wealth of medieval primary sources and modern Japanese scholarship, it places this discourse in its ritual, institutional, and social contexts, illuminating its importance to the maintenance of traditions of lineage and the secret transmission of knowledge that characterized several medieval Japanese elite cultures. It sheds new light on interpretive strategies employed in pre-modern Japanese Buddhist texts, an area that hitherto has received a little attention. Through these and other lines of investigation, Stone problematizes entrenched notions of corruption in the medieval Buddhist establishment. Using the examples of Tendai and Nichiren Buddhism and their interactions throughout the medieval period, she calls into question both overly facile distinctions between old and new Buddhism and the long-standing scholarly assumptions that have perpetuated them. This study marks a significant contribution to ongoing debates over definitions of Buddhism in the Kamakura era (1185–1333), long regarded as a formative period in Japanese religion and culture. Stone argues that original enlightenment thought represents a substantial rethinking of Buddhist enlightenment that cuts across the distinction between old and new institutions and was particularly characteristic of the medieval period.

Original Enlightenment and the Transformation of Medieval Japanese Buddhism Jacqueline Ilyse Stone, 1999. It sheds new light on interpretive strategies employed in premodern Japanese Buddhist texts, an area that hitherto has received little attention. **BOOK JACKET**

Visions of Awakening Space and Time Taigen Dan Leighton, 2007-05-11 Publisher description *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Philosophy* Bret W. Davis, 2020 This handbook is currently in development with individual articles publishing online in advance of print publication At this time we cannot add information about unpublished articles in this handbook however the table of contents will continue to grow as additional articles pass through the review process and are added to the site Please note that the online publication date for this handbook is the date that the first article in the title was published online

Ryōgen and Mount Hiei Paul Groner, 2002-06-30 Ryogen and Mount Hiei focuses on the transformation of the Tendai School from a small and impoverished group of monks in the early ninth century to its emergence as the most powerful and influential school of Japanese Buddhism in the last half of the tenth century a position it would maintain throughout the medieval period This is the first study in a Western language of the institutional factors that lay behind the school's success At its core is a biography of a major figure behind this transformation Ryogen 912-985 The discussion however extends well beyond a simple biography as Ryogen's activities are placed in their historical and institutional context Unlike the recluses and eccentrics that have so often attracted Western readers of Buddhism Ryogen was a consummate politician and builder Because he lost his major monastic sponsor at an early age he was forced to find ways to advance his career with little support His activities reveal much about the path to success for monks during the tenth century Skill in debate the performance of Esoteric Buddhist ritual and strategic alliances with powerful lay and monastic figures were important to his advance In 966 Ryogen was appointed head of the Tendai School and served until his death nineteen years later He has been vilified at times for his loyalty to his own faction within Tendai at the expense of other groups Careful analysis of the political and social factors behind his attitudes however places his activities in their appropriate context The study concludes with a discussion of the ordinations and roles of nuns during the early Heian period An examination of Ryogen's close relation with his mother helps define the ambiguities of a school that prohibited women from the precincts of its temple yet performed rituals to insure safe childbirth and frequently attracted their patronage A number of primary sources are translated in the appendices

Personal Salvation and Filial Piety, 2008-02-20 The Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara was a handsome prince when he entered China As Guanyin the bodhisattva was venerated from the eleventh century onward in the shape of a beautiful woman who became a universal savior Throughout the last millennium the female Guanyin has enjoyed wide and fervid veneration throughout East Asia and has appeared as a major character in literature and legend In one tale Guanyin as the princess Miaoshan returns from the dead after being executed by the king her father for refusing to marry The most popular version of this legend is The Precious Scroll of Incense Mountain Xiangshan baojuan a long narrative in prose and verse and a work of considerable literary merit It emphasizes the conflict between father and daughter in the course of which all conventional arguments against a religious lifestyle are paraded and rebutted A lengthy description of Guanyin's visit to the underworld which focuses on the conflict between grace and justice is also included Personal Salvation

and Filial Piety offers a complete and fully annotated translation of The Precious Scroll based on a nineteenth century edition. The translation is preceded by a substantial introduction that discusses the origin of the text and the genre to which it belongs and highlights the similarities and differences between the scroll and female saints' lives from medieval Europe. There follows a translation of the much shorter Precious Scroll of Good in Talent and Dragon Daughter which provides a humorous account of how Guanyin acquired the three acolytes Sudhana, Nagakanya and a white parrot who are often shown surrounding her in popular prints. As the first English language translation of major precious scrolls, Personal Salvation and Filial Piety will appeal to a wide range of readers from scholars of Chinese literature to students of Buddhism. Beyond the field of East Asian studies it will interest specialists in comparative religion and literature and feminist theologians. Because of its lively and moving narratives the text is suitable for courses on popular Buddhist religiosity, particularly female religiosity in Chinese society.

Just Awakening Jessica X. Zu, 2025-03-18 Just Awakening uncovers a forgotten philosophy of social democracy inspired by Yogic, an ancient nondualistic Buddhist philosophy that claims everything in the perceptible cosmos is mere consciousness and consists of multiple karmically connected yet bounded lifeworlds. This Yogic social philosophy emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries among Chinese intellectuals who struggled against the violent Social Darwinist logic of the survival of the fittest. Its proponents were convinced that the root cause of crisis in both China and the West was epistemic: an unexamined faith in one common objective world and a subject-object divide. This dualistic paradigm in their view had dire consequences including moral egoism, competition for material wealth and racial war. Yogic insights about plurality, interdependence and intersubjectivity, however, had the capacity to awaken the world from these deadly dreams. Jessica X. Zu reconstructs this account of modern Yogic philosophy, arguing that it offers new vocabularies with which to reconceptualize equality and freedom. Yogic thinking, she shows, diffracts the illusions of individual identity, social categories and material wealth into aggregated, recurring karmic processes. It then guides the reassembly of a complex society through nonhierarchical, noncoercive and collaborative actions sustained by new behavior patterns and modes of thought. Demonstrating why Chinese Buddhist social philosophy offers powerful resources for social justice and liberation today, Just Awakening invites readers to think with modern Yogic philosophers about other ways of building egalitarian futures.

The Stories of the Lotus Sutra Gene Reeves, 2010-05-10 Stories are ancient and wondrous tools with the mysterious power to transform lives. And the stories and parables of the Lotus Sutra, one of the world's great religious scriptures and most influential texts, are among the most fascinating and dramatic. In this fun, engaging and plain English book, Gene Reeves, the translator of Wisdom's critically acclaimed and bestselling edition of the Lotus Sutra, presents the most memorable and remarkable of the Lotus Sutra's many stories and parables along with a distillation of his decades of reflection on them in an accessible, inspiring and naturally illuminating way. The Stories of the Lotus Sutra is the perfect companion to Reeves's breathtaking translation of this scriptural masterpiece as well as a thoroughly enjoyable stand-

alone volume for those who want to bring the inspiring teachings of the bodhisattva path into their daily lives The Culture of Secrecy in Japanese Religion Bernhard Scheid, Mark Teeuwen, 2015-04-22 The Japanese Middle Ages were a period when forms of secrecy dominated religious practice This fascinating collection traces out the secret characteristics and practices in Japanese religion as well as analyzing the decline of religious esotericism in Japan The essays in this impressive work refer to Esoteric Buddhism as the core of Japan s culture of secrecy Esoteric Buddhism developed in almost all Buddhist countries of Asia but it was of particular importance in Japan where its impact went far beyond the borders of Buddhism also affecting Shinto as well as non religious forms of discourse The contributors focus on the impact of Esoteric Buddhism on Japanese culture and also include comparative chapters on India and China Whilst concentrating on the Japanese medieval period this book will give readers familiar with present day Japan many explanations for the still visible remnants of Japan s medieval culture of secrecy The mandala in Nichiren Buddhism, Part One: Introduction, mandalas of the Bun-ei and Kenji periods (Paperback Edition)

The Nichiren Mandala Study Workshop, 2013-08-02 The mandala in Nichiren Buddhism is the first comprehensive analysis of Nichiren s mandala in English As the total number of pages in a single volume would reach 720 the book has been divided into three parts In this first volume the origin and evolution of Nichiren s mandala are examined while the extant works produced in the Bun ei and Kenji eras 2 1264 4 1275 4 1275 2 1278 are analyzed in detail The second volume will thus examine the whole extant corpus produced in the Koan period while in the third the missing but catalogued mandalas will be analyzed along with a study of Nichiren s works from an holistic perspective including the scrolls authored by his immediate disciples and later successors within the various traditions Together these three volumes shall provide the reader with exhaustive information on Nichiren s mandala **The Origins of Buddhist Monastic Codes in China**

Professor Yifa, 2009-08-18 The Origins of Buddhist Monastic Codes in China contains the first complete translation of China s earliest and most influential monastic code The twelfth century text Chanyuan qinggui Rules of Purity for the Chan Monastery provides a wealth of detail on all aspects of life in public Buddhist monasteries during the Sung 960 1279 Part One consists of Yifa s overview of the development of monastic regulations in Chinese Buddhist history a biography of the text s author and an analysis of the social and cultural context of premodern Chinese Buddhist monasticism Of particular importance are the interconnections made between Chan traditions and the dual heritages of Chinese culture and Indian Buddhist Vinaya Although much of the text s source material is traced directly to the Vinayas and the works of the Vinaya advocate Daoan 312 385 and the L master Daoxuan 596 667 the Chanyuan qinggui includes elements foreign to the original Vinaya texts elements incorporated from Chinese governmental policies and traditional Chinese etiquette Following the translator s overview is a complete translation of the text extensively annotated *The Poetry Demon* Jason

Protass, 2021-07-31 Chinese Buddhist monks of the Song dynasty 960 1279 called the irresistible urge to compose poetry the poetry demon In this ambitious study Jason Protass seeks to bridge the fields of Buddhist studies and Chinese literature to

examine the place of poetry in the lives of Song monks Although much has been written about verses in the gong'an Jpn k'an tradition very little is known about the large corpora roughly 30 000 extant poems composed by these monastics Protass addresses the oversight by using strategies associated with religious studies literary studies and sociology He weaves together poetry with a wide range of monastic sources and in doing so argues against positing a literary Chan movement that wrote poetry as a path to awakening he instead presents an understanding of monks poetry grounded in the Song discourse of monks themselves The work begins by examining how monks fashioned new genres created their own books and fueled a monastic audience for monks poetry It traces the evolution of g' th from hymns found in Buddhist scripture to an independent genre for poems associated with Chan masters as living buddhas While Song monastic culture produced a prodigious amount of verse at the same time it promoted prohibitions against monks participation in poetry as a worldly or Confucian art This constructive tension was an animating force The Poetry Demon highlights this and other intersections of Buddhist doctrine with literary sociality and charts productive pathways through numerous materials including collections of Chan recorded sayings monastic rulebooks eminent monk and flame record hagiographies manuscripts of poetry Buddhist encyclopedia primers and s' tra commentary Two chapter length case studies illustrate how Song monks participated in two of the most prominent and conservative modes of poetry of the time those of parting and mourning Protass reveals how monks used Chan humor with reference to emptiness to transform acts of separation into Buddhist teachings In another chapter monks in mourning expressed their grief and dharma through poetry The Poetry Demon impressively uncovers new and creative ways to study Chinese Buddhist monks poetry while contributing to the broader study of Chinese religion and literature

The Halo of Golden Light Asuka Sango, 2015-03-31 In this pioneering study of the shifting status of the emperor within court society and the relationship between the state and the Buddhist community during the Heian period 794-1185 Asuka Sango details the complex ways in which the emperor and other elite ruling groups employed Buddhist ritual to legitimate their authority Although considered a descendant of the sun goddess Amaterasu the emperor used Buddhist idiom particularly the ideal king as depicted in the Golden Light S' tra to express his right to rule Sango's book is the first to focus on the ideals presented in the s' tra to demonstrate how the ritual enactment of imperial authority was essential to justifying political power These ideals became the basis of a number of court sponsored rituals the most important of which was the emperor's Misai'e Assembly Sango deftly traces the changes in the assembly's format and status throughout the era and the significant shifts in the Japanese polity that mirrored them In illuminating the details of these changes she challenges dominant scholarly models that presume the gradual decline of the political and liturgical influence of the emperor over the course of the era She also compels a reconsideration of Buddhism during the Heian as state Buddhism by showing that monks intervened in creating the state's policy toward the religion to their own advantage Her analysis further challenges the common view that Buddhism of the time was characterized by the growth of private esoteric rites at the expense of exoteric

doctrinal learning The Halo of Golden Light draws on a wide range of primary sources from official annals and diaries written by courtiers and monks to ecclesiastical records and Buddhist texts many of them translated or analyzed for the first time in English In so doing the work brings to the surface surprising facets in the negotiations between religious ideas and practices and the Buddhist community and the state **Language in the Buddhist Tantra of Japan** Richard K. Payne,2018-08-09

Language in the Buddhist Tantra of Japan dismantles the preconception that Buddhism is a religion of mystical silence arguing that language is in fact central to the Buddhist tradition By examining the use of extraordinary language evocations calling on the power of the Buddha in Japanese Buddhist Tantra Richard K Payne shows that such language was not simply cultural baggage carried by Buddhist practitioners from South to East Asia Rather such language was a key element in the propagation of new forms of belief and practice In contrast to Western approaches to the philosophy of language which are grounded in viewing language as a form of communication this book argues that it is the Indian and East Asian philosophies of language that shed light on the use of language in meditative and ritual practices in Japan It also illuminates why language was conceived as an effective means of progress on the path from delusion to awakening **Zen Terror in Prewar Japan**

Brian Daizen Victoria,2020-02-14 Written by a Zen priest this book explodes the myth of Zen Buddhism as a peaceful religion Can Buddhism widely regarded as a religion of peace also contribute to acts of terrorism Through an insider s view of right wing ultranationalism in prewar Japan this powerful book follows a band of Zen Buddhist trained adherents who ardently believed so Brian Victoria himself a Zen priest tells the story of a group of terrorists who were responsible for the assassination of three leading political and economic figures in 1932 Victoria provides a detailed introduction to the religious as well as political significance of the group s terrorist beliefs and acts focusing especially on the life and times of the band s leader Inoue Nissho A deeply troubled youth Inoue became a spy in Manchuria for the Japanese Army in 1909 where he encountered Zen for the first time When he returned to Japan in 1921 he determined to resolve his deep spiritual discontent through meditation practice which culminated in an enlightenment experience that resolved his long term doubts After engaging in post enlightenment training under the guidance of Rinzai Zen master Yamamoto Gempo Inoue began a program of training the patriotic youth who formed the nucleus of his terrorist band After the assassinations Inoue and his band were sentenced to life imprisonment only to be released just a few years later in 1940 Almost unbelievably Inoue then became the live in confidant of Prime Minister Konoe Fumimaro a position he held through the end of WWII In the postwar era Inoue reinvented himself again as the founder and head of yet another band of ultranationalists known as the National Protection Corps His eventful life came to an end in 1967 Victoria concludes with an assessment of the profound impact of the assassinations which culminated in Japan s transformation into a totalitarian state and set the stage for Pearl Harbor The author also examines the connection of Buddhism to terrorism more broadly considering the implications for today s Islamic related terrorism **Japan Emerging** Karl Friday,2018-04-19 Japan Emerging provides a comprehensive survey of Japan

from prehistory to the nineteenth century Incorporating the latest scholarship and methodology leading authorities writing specifically for this volume outline and explore the main developments in Japanese life through ancient classical medieval and early modern periods Instead of relying solely on lists of dates and prominent names the authors focus on why and how Japanese political social economic and intellectual life evolved Each part begins with a timeline and a set of guiding questions and issues to help orient readers and enhance continuity Engaging thorough and accessible this is an essential text for all students and scholars of Japanese history

Lovable Losers Mikael S. Adolphson, Anne Commons, 2015-09-30 *Lovable Losers* is the first substantial piece of English language scholarship to examine the actions and the memorization of the Heike Ise Taira a family of aristocratic warriors whose resounding defeat at the hands of the Seiwa Genji in 1185 resulted in their iconic status as tragic losers The Tale of the Heike and the many other works derived from it set in place the depiction of the Heike as failed upstart aristocrats whose spectacular downfall was due to neglect of their warrior heritage and the villainy of the family head Taira no Kiyomori *Lovable Losers* aims to contextualize and deconstruct representations of the Heike not only to show how such representations were created in specific contexts in response to specific needs but also to demonstrate that the representations themselves came to create and sustain a particular kind of culture Drawing on the expertise of scholars in a variety of disciplines this volume explores the Heike in their own time and their depiction as cultural figures in the centuries that followed Their portrayal in literature and the arts spans more than eight hundred years and a wide range of genres and media including n plays picture scrolls early modern comic books novels and film In texts from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries the Heike serve as catalysts for miracles and vectors for subtle criticisms of the Tokugawa government Over time Kiyomori became an emblem of postwar democracy and economic progress today he is a powerful symbol of modern citizens dissatisfaction with politics The Heike s ambiguous moral standing allowed them to be reimagined reconstructed and repurposed by different authors in different contexts as both heroes and villains Rather than assuming their failure *Lovable Losers* repositions the Heike within the larger phenomenon of the Genpei War and its aftermath demonstrating how they took advantage of their station as nobles and warriors The new research it presents seeks to transcend categorization and blur the lines between different approaches to the Heike to give a well rounded depiction of a family who has played a defining role in Japanese culture in action in memory and somewhere in between

Public Zen, Personal Zen Peter D. Herschok, 2014-03-14 Among Buddhist traditions Zen has been remarkably successful in garnering and sustaining interest outside the Buddhist homelands of Asia and zen is now part of the global cultural lexicon This deeply informed book explores the history of this enduring Japanese tradition from its beginnings as a form of Buddhist thought and practice imported from China to its reinvention in medieval Japan as a force for religious political and cultural change to its role in Japan s embrace of modernity Going deeper it also explores Zen through the experiences and teachings of key individuals who shaped Zen as a tradition committed to the embodiment of enlightenment by all By bringing together Zen s

institutional and personal dimensions Peter D Hershock offers readers a nuanced yet accessible introduction to Zen as well as distinctive insights into issues that remain relevant today including the creative tensions between globalization and localization the interplay of politics and religion and the possibilities for integrating social transformation with personal liberation Including an introduction to the basic teachings and practices of Buddhism and an account of their spread across Asia Public Zen Personal Zen deftly blends historical detail with the felt experiences of Zen practitioners grappling with the meaning of human suffering personal freedom and the integration of social and spiritual progress *Religions in the Modern World* Linda Woodhead,2002 This comprehensive guide offers an unrivalled introduction to recent work in the study of religion from the religious traditions of Asia and the West to new forms of religion and spirituality such as New Age With an historical introduction to each religion and detailed analysis of its place in the modern world Religions in the Modern World is ideal for newcomers to the study of religion It incorporates case studies and anecdotes text extracts chapter menus and end of chapter summaries glossaries and annotated further reading sections Topics covered include religion colonialism and postcolonialism religious nationalism women and religion religion and globalization religion and authority the rise of new spiritualities *Religions in the Modern World* Christopher Partridge,Linda Woodhead,Hiroko Kawanami,2003-09-02 This comprehensive guide offers an unrivalled introduction to recent work in the study of religion from the religious traditions of Asia and the West to new forms of religion and spirituality such as New Age With an historical introduction to each religion and detailed analysis of its place in the modern world Religions in the Modern World is ideal for newcomers to the study of religion It incorporates case studies and anecdotes text extracts chapter menus and end of chapter summaries glossaries and annotated further reading sections Topics covered include religion colonialism and postcolonialism religious nationalism women and religion religion and globalization religion and authority the rise of new spiritualities

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