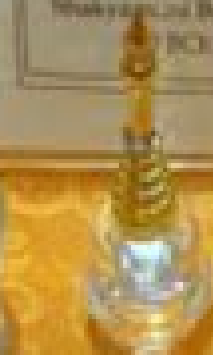




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Relics Of The Buddha

Gerson Da Cunha



Relics Of The Buddha:

Relics of the Buddha John S. Strong, 2018-06-05 Buddhism is popularly seen as a religion stressing the truth of impermanence. How then to account for the long standing veneration in Asian Buddhist communities of bone fragments, hair, teeth and other bodily bits said to come from the historic Buddha? Early European and American scholars of religion, influenced by a characteristic Protestant bias against relic worship, declared such practices to be superstitious and fraudulent and far from the true essence of Buddhism. John Strong's book, by contrast, argues that relic veneration has played a serious and integral role in Buddhist traditions in South and Southeast Asia and that it is in no way foreign to Buddhism. The book is structured around the life story of the Buddha, starting with traditions about relics of previous buddhas and relics from the past lives of the Buddha, Sakyamuni. It then considers the death of the Buddha, the collection of his bodily relics after his cremation, and stories of their spread to different parts of Asia. The book ends with a consideration of the legend of the future parinirvana, extinction of the relics prior to the advent of the next Buddha, Maitreya. Throughout, the author does not hesitate to explore the many versions of these legends and to relate them to their ritual, doctrinal, artistic and social contexts.

Relics, Ritual, and Representation in Buddhism Kevin Trainor, 1997-06-13 This book is a serious study of relic veneration among South Asian Buddhists. Drawing on textual sources and archaeological evidence from India and Sri Lanka, including material rarely examined in the West, it looks specifically at the practice of relic veneration in the Sri Lankan Theravada Buddhist tradition. The author portrays relic veneration as a technology of remembrance and representation which makes present the Buddha of the past for living Buddhists. By analysing the abstract ideas, emotional orientation and ritual behaviour centred on the Buddha's material remains, he contributes to the rematerializing of Buddhism which is currently under way among Western scholars. This book is an excellent introduction to Buddhist relics. It is well written and accessible and will be read by scholars and serious students of Buddhism and religious studies for years to come. Jewel in the Ashes Brian D. Ruppert, 2020-03-23 Focusing on the ninth to the fourteenth centuries, this study analyzes the ways in which relics functioned as material media for the interactions of Buddhist clerics, the imperial family, lay aristocrats and warrior society and explores the multivocality of relics by dealing with specific historical examples. Brian Ruppert argues that relics offered means for reinforcing or subverting hierarchical relations. The author's critical literary and anthropological analyses attest to the prominence of relic veneration in government in lay practice associated with the maintenance of the imperial line and warrior houses and in the promotion of specific Buddhist sects in Japan. *Relics and Relic Worship in Early Buddhism* Janice Stargardt, Michael D. Willis, 2018 Offers new perspectives on Buddhist relics and reliquaries, including a discussion of what constitutes a relic as well as an analysis of the terminology related to relic worship. Other chapters focus on the placement and treatment of relics in situ as well as the spread of Buddhism to Burma and the vibrant relic culture that has been found there. **The History of the Buddha's Relic Shrine** Parākrama Paṇḍita, Stephen C. Berkwitz, 2007 Buddhist

chronicles have long been had a central place in the study of Buddhism Scholars however have relied almost exclusively on Pali works that were composed by elites for learned audiences to the neglect of a large number of Buddhist histories written in local languages for popular consumption The Sinhala Thupavamsa composed by Parakama Pandita in thirteenth century Sri Lanka is an important example of a Buddhist chronicle written in the vernacular Sinhala language Furthermore it is among those works that inform public discussion and debate over the place of Buddhism in the Sri Lankan nation state and the role of Buddhist monks in contemporary politics In this book Stephen Berkwitz offers the first complete English translation of the Sinhala Thupavamsa Composed in a literary dialect of Sinhala it contains a richly descriptive account of how Buddhism spread outside of India replete with poetic embellishments and interpolations not found in other accounts of those events Aside from being an important literary work the Sinhala Thupavamsa is a text of considerable historical and religious significance It comprises several narrative strands that relate the life story of the Buddha and the manner in which Buddhist teachings and institutions were established on the island of Sri Lanka in ancient times The central focus of this work concerns the variety of relics associated with the historical Buddha particularly how the relics were acquired and the presumed benefits of venerating them The text also relates the mythological history of the Buddha's previous lives as a bodhisattva and concludes with a prediction about the future Buddha Maitreya Reflection on Buddhist ethics and instruction on the Dharma or the Buddha's teaching are found throughout the work indicating that this historical narrative was meant both to recall the past and give rise to religious practice among contemporary readers and listeners This new translation makes a significant work more widely accessible in the West and adds to our knowledge of how local Buddhist communities imagined and represented their religious and cultural heritages in written works

Embodying the Dharma David Germano, Kevin Trainor, 2012-02-01 *Embodying the Dharma* explores the centrality of relic veneration in Asian Buddhist cultures Long disregarded by Western scholars as a superstitious practice reflecting the popularization of original Buddhism relic veneration has emerged as a topic of vital interest in the last two decades with the increased attention to Buddhist ritual practice and material culture This volume includes studies of relic traditions in India Japan Tibet Sri Lanka and Thailand as well as broader comparative analyses including comparisons of Buddhist and Christian relic veneration

The Buddha's Tooth John S. Strong, 2021-10-22 John S Strong unravels the storm of influences shaping the received narratives of two iconic sacred objects Bodily relics such as hairs teeth fingernails pieces of bone supposedly from the Buddha himself have long served as objects of veneration for many Buddhists Unsurprisingly when Western colonial powers subjugated populations in South Asia they used manipulated redefined and even destroyed these objects to exert control In *The Buddha's Tooth* John S Strong examines Western stories from the sixteenth to the twentieth century surrounding two significant Sri Lankan sacred objects to illuminate and concretize colonial attitudes toward Asian religions First he analyzes a tale about the Portuguese capture and public destruction in the mid sixteenth century of a tooth later identified as a relic of the Buddha

Second he switches gears to look at the nineteenth century saga of British dealings with another tooth relic of the Buddha the famous Da ad enshrined in a temple in Kandy from 1815 when it was taken over by English forces to 1954 when it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II As Strong reveals the stories of both the Portuguese tooth and the Kandyan tooth reflect nascent and developing Western understandings of Buddhism realizations of the cosmopolitan nature of the tooth and tensions between secular and religious interests **The Relics of the Buddha** Kevin Michael Trainor,1990 **Memoir on the History of the Tooth-Relic of Ceylon** Gerson Da Cunha,2024-01-29 Reprint of the original first published in 1875

The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture John Kieschnick,2003-04-06 Buddhism had a profound effect not only on Chinese philosophy and ritual but also on the material culture of China Examining the impact of books bridges sugar tea and the chair amongst other things this text looks at how attitudes to such novelties affected the history of Chinese Buddhism

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