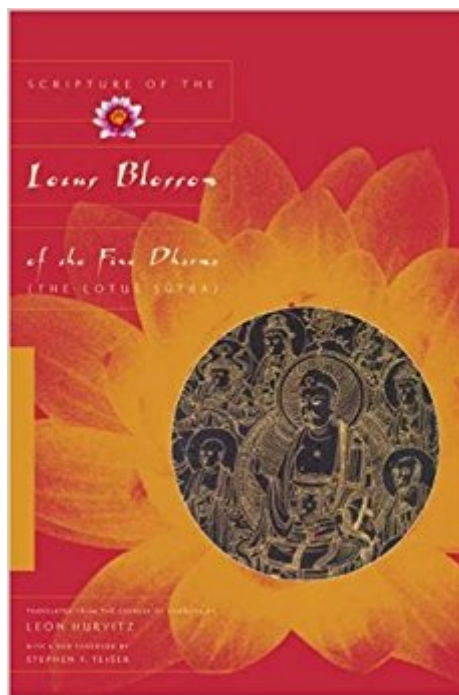


The book was found

# Scripture Of The Lotus Blossom Of The Fine Dharma: The Lotus Sutra (Records Of Civilization: Sources And Studies)



## Synopsis

This is a translation of a Buddhist scripture which was originally written in Sanskrit but is best known to Buddhists through Chinese versions. It is one of the most influential and popular texts of Mahāyāna Buddhism. The work is famous and beloved throughout the Far East for its parables; presentation of abstract religious concepts in concrete images; the innumerable fascinating beings which people the work; and the charm, warmth, and directness of its style.

## Book Information

Series: Records of Civilization: Sources and Studies (Book 94)

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; Reprint edition (October 15, 1976)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231039204

ISBN-13: 978-0231039208

Product Dimensions: 9 x 6 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #480,853 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Buddhism #2397 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism #4214 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy

## Customer Reviews

Text: English, Chinese (translation)

Leon Hurvitz is a professor in the Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia. He spent time during the occupation of Japan as a translator and interpreter and later studied in Japan, specializing in early Chinese Buddhism.

A look outside Zen.

Many English versions of the Lotus Sutra are translated from a Chinese translation of the original Sanskrit version. Regardless of how well they were translated into English, the quality of these versions depends heavily on the quality of the Chinese translation. As many such translations were either done by merchants who didn't know that much about religion or by monks who didn't know

much about the other language, there are quite a few bad versions of the Lotus Sutra. This is not one of them. Not only was it translated from the best known of the Chinese versions (that of Kumarajiva), but Hurvitz also consulted the original Sanskrit to see where the versions differed. While the main text comes entirely from the Chinese, there are nearly 70 pages of endnotes on the Sanskrit, in which Hurvitz either comments on differences between that and the Chinese, or gives a translation of Sanskrit passages that don't appear in Kumarajiva's translation. What this means for the text is that it is one of the most readable versions of the Lotus Sutra and, at the same time, one of the most informative.

The Lotus Sutra, or Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma (J., Myohorengekyo, Hokkekyo), the preeminent scripture in the Mahayana Buddhism of East Asia -- China, Tibet, Mongolia, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam -- is known primarily through the translation into Chinese of the Sanskrit Saddharma-pundarika-sutra by Kumarajiva in CE 406. (This 28-chapter version differs in organization and presentation from the 27-chapter Sanskrit text translated into English by H. Kern in 1884, and still available for sale; the two versions should not be confused.) Although Kumarajiva's Lotus Sutra has influenced all of Japanese Buddhism in one way or another, it is the basic scripture for the great medieval Tendai (C., T'ien T'ai) sect, as well as the later Nichiren sect and its offshoots, especially Soka Gakkai and Rissho Koseikai, all three of which emphasize recitation of the "Nam' myohorengekyo" formula." The Lotus is NOT included in the scriptural canon of Southern Buddhism (Theravada) in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, and other areas of SE Asia. The Lotus Sutra is basically a statement of philosophical principles and should not be approached as literary entertainment. Its message has serious implications - today probably more so than any time in past history. But the reading takes patience and serious, quiet rumination. Its message is that all sentient beings have the potential for attaining Buddhahood, but conceptual illusion prevents them from realizing that this is their essential nature. Out of compassion, the Buddha(s) employs many devices (Skillful Means/Expedients; hoben) accommodated to their specific needs, to assist them in seeing through this illusion. (The notion is expressed through most of the sutra's Seven Parables.) Although provisional teachings are not only possible but necessary, there is, in fact, only One Vehicle, one ultimate, ineffable spiritual goal; and for this reason the Lotus is sometimes called the Sutra of the One Vehicle. It is important to note, however, that the term does not describe an EXCLUSIVE DOGMATIC FORMULATION that is taken to be correct while others are false. The ultimate religious experience is beyond the reach of rational understanding, which is, at best, "a finger pointing at the moon". Although the Lotus Sutra might be viewed as the BEST possible

expression of the Buddha's teaching, it is NOT THE ONE AND ONLY way to spiritual realization: other scriptures (and other words, rituals, myths, metaphors, etc.) can be embraced as expressing a more or less adequate means for attaining spiritual understanding - the specific words or symbols do no matter. The One Vehicle refers to a single experiential GOAL to be reached through a variety of conceptual formulations and exercises, but ultimately transcending the word-games of rationality. Note, however, that although the Lotus Sutra freely admits many routes to enlightenment (because of the varying needs of individuals), it does NOT claim that "one view is just as good as any another," i.e., relativism. Although today the most popular translation of the (Chinese) Lotus Sutra may be Burton Watson's elegant rendition (1993) into English, some serious scholars still prefer this older version by Leon Hurvitz (1976); and even, occasionally, the Bunno Kato collection of three sutras (1975). Depending on the size of your wallet, you might consider buying all 3.

While the Burton Watson translation of the Lotus Sutra is "elegant" as one reviewer commented, to be sure, it was also totally commissioned by the Soka Gakkai International to be written. Don't get me wrong, it is a great translation in it's own right as Burton Watson has done some excellent translations in the past, it's just that that one had an agenda from the beginning. Now this older Leon Hurvitz translation, on the other hand, had no political influence. It just remained pure to the Sanskrit and Chinese translation from the Kumarajiva. This remains the most accurate and readable translation to date - period and exclamation point! Buy both copies and read them side by side. Do all the research online into the original Sanskrit of the Bodhisattvas and then make your own judgement. Better yet buy as many translations of The Lotus Sutra as you can and refer to all of them from time to time - it will broaden your understanding deeply. Namaste, Donna

good

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma: The Lotus Sutra (Records of Civilization: Sources and Studies) Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma: (The Lotus Sutra) (Translations from the Asian Classics) The Lotus Sutra: Saddharma Pundarika Sutra or the Lotus of the True Law Kama Sutra: Best Sex Positions from Kama Sutra and Tantra to Skyrocket Your Sex Life (Kama Sutra, Sex Positions, How to have Sex, Tantric Sex) (Volume 1) Entering the Psalms, Participant's Workbook (Meeting God in Scripture) (Meeting God in Scripture Meeting God in Scripture) Dharma and Dhamma: An Overview of Dharma and Dhamma, and How to Apply them in Daily Life (includes Moksha, the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, and Nibanna) The Sixth

Patriarch's Dharma Jewel Platform Sutra The Age of Napoleon: A History of European Civilization from 1789 to 1815 (Story of Civilization, Book 11) (Story of Civilization (Audio)) Theology and the Mirror of Scripture: A Mere Evangelical Account (Studies in Christian Doctrine and Scripture) Lotus 49 Manual 1967-1970 (all marks): An insight into the design, engineering, maintenance and operation of Lotus's ground-breaking Formula 1 car (Haynes Owners Workshop Manual) Lotus 72 - 1970 onwards (all marks): An insight into the design, engineering, maintenance and operation of Lotus's legendary Formula 1 car (Owners' Workshop Manual) Shaping the Lotus Sutra: Buddhist Visual Culture in Medieval China The Lotus Sutra: A Contemporary Translation of a Buddhist Classic Peaceful Action, Open Heart: Lessons from the Lotus Sutra Readings of the Lotus Sutra (Columbia Readings of Buddhist Literature) The Lotus Sutra: Revised Edition (Bdk English Tripitaka) The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra: A Discussion, Vol. 1 The Stories of the Lotus Sutra Kama Sutra: Kama Sutra Be the expert of love making and learn the modern ways of sex styles, positions, and become an irresistible lover! (Volume 3) Buddhist Wisdom: The Diamond Sutra and The Heart Sutra

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)