Buddhism in Medieval Sri Lanka

By H B M Ilangasinha

Satguru. Hardbound. Book Condition: New. Contents: Preface. Foreword. 1. Introduction and sources. 2. Political background. 3. The Sangha. 4. The state and the Sangha. 5. Monastic education. 6. Relations with other Buddhist countries. 7. Cults, rituals ceremonies and festivals. Conclusion. Bibliography. Indexes. "This book opens a new chapter in the field of Buddhist Studies in Sri Lanka which has been dealt with by a number of pioneer scholars. The author’s thorough grasp of the Tripitaka and the ancient and medieval Sinhala Literature is clearly manifest in the book especially in the third chapter where he discusses the organization of the Sangha in medieval Sri Lanka. The author reveals that the Trikaya doctrine of the Mahayanaists has been given a new interpretation, and a new Kaya viz : Sunya Kaya has been added to it by Sri Lankan Theravadins like Dhammadinna Vimalakirti, the author of the Saddhamaratnakaraya. Also in this chapter, the author deals with various new developments among the Sangha of Medieval Sri Lanka. In the fifth chapter, the author gives not only the history of the monastic educational institutions of the medieval period, but also, for the first time, gives details of their graded courses of studies, curricula, tests...

Reviews

It is one of the most popular publication. It really is written in easy words and not difficult to understand. You are going to like how the author write this book.
-- Prof. Evans Balistreri DDS

Completely essential go through book. This is for all who state there had not been a worthy of reading through. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
-- Lydia Legros
Buddhism came to Sri Lanka in the 3rd century. Here is a brief history, from its beginnings to the end of the 19th century. Since Buddhism eventually died out in India and Gandhara, it can be argued that the oldest living Buddhist tradition today is found in Sri Lanka. Today about 70 percent of the citizens of Sri Lanka are Theravada Buddhists. This article will look at how Buddhism came to Sri Lanka, once called Ceylon; how it was challenged by European missionaries; and how it was revived. How Buddhism Came to Ceylon. The history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka begins with Emperor Ashoka of India (304 - 232 BCE). Pre-Buddhist Religion in Sri Lanka. Emperor Asoka and Buddhism in India. The Mission to Sri Lanka. Arrival of Mahinda. Entry into the Capital. The present treatise, Buddhism in Sri Lanka: A Short History deals with the history of Buddhism in this island from the time of its introduction in 250 BCE in the reign of King Devaanampiya Tissa, up to the present time (1966). The work is the outcome of an attempt to revise Dr. W. A. de Silva's monograph entitled "History of Buddhism in Ceylon" appearing in Buddhistic Studies of Dr. B. C. Law (Calcutta, 1931).