

## Buddhist Tales

*A Zen monk strides empty handed into a tiger's cage. An Indian master spontaneously empties a bag of gold dust into the air. A young woman lays down the burden of her dead child and asks the Buddha to accept her as his disciple. Here is another book by the popular author, Vessantara, who takes incidents from the lives of the Buddha, Tibetan mystics and Zen masters and uses them to show how we too can live a more fulfilled life. Full of colorful tales, Vessantara's vivid, imaginative style makes these ancient, well-loved stories inspiring tools for self-development. Also by the same author: Female Deities in Buddhism, The Mandala of the Five Buddhas, Meeting the Buddhas, The Vajra and Bell*

*Wondrous Brutal Fictions presents eight seminal works from the seventeenth-century Japanese sekkyo and ko-joruri puppet theaters, many translated into English for the first time. Both poignant and disturbing, they range from stories of cruelty and brutality to tales of love, charity, and outstanding filial devotion, representing the best of early Edo-period literary and performance traditions and acting as important precursors to the Bunraku and Kabuki styles of theater. As works of Buddhist fiction, these texts relate the histories and miracles of particular buddhas, bodhisattvas, and local deities. Many of their protagonists are cultural icons, recognizable through their representation in later works of Japanese drama, fiction, and film. The collection includes such sekkyo "sermon-ballad" classics as Susho Dayu, Karakusa, and Owar, as well as the "old joruri" plays Goo-no-hime and Amida's Riven Breast. R. Keller Kimbrough provides a critical introduction to these vibrant performance genres, emphasizing the role of seventeenth-century publishing in their spread. He also details six major sekkyo chanters and their playbooks, filling a crucial scholarly gap in early Edo-period theater. More than fifty reproductions of mostly seventeenth-century woodblock illustrations offer rich, visual foundations for the critical introduction and translated tales. Ideal for students and scholars of medieval and early modern Japanese literature, theater, and Buddhism, this collection provides an unprecedented encounter with popular Buddhist drama and its far-reaching impact on literature and culture.*

*The Jataka* as we possess tells about the life of Buddha during some incarnation in one of his previous existences as a Bodhisatta (one being destined to enlightenment). Each separate story is embedded in a framework, which forms the story of the present. The present selection brings together the *Jataka* stories of the most widespread interest.

*The Jataka*  
*The Wisdom of the Crows and Other Buddhist Tales*

*The Jataka*  
*Stories of the Soul*

*Tales of Love and Wisdom*  
*Opening the Door of Your Heart*

*Stories of the Enlightenment being*  
Buddhist Folk Tales is a wonderful collection of ancient and modern stories from the Buddhist tradition. From short, snappy tales to longer narratives, they will entertain and tantalise the emotions. Laugh, sigh and cry at stories about previous lives, why the Monkey King wanted to be Master of the Universe, the grimace that comes with the phrase 'out of the mouths of babes', and ever-endearing mother love. This is a book to treasure, and read time and again.

One of the world's most popular Tibetan lamas shares accessible advice for working with adversity and living a spiritual life. Enjoy a variety of meditations on topics from flattery and jealousy to karma and compassion. In each brief chapter Khenpo Sodargye weaves in stories from ancient classics and modern headlines. Drawing on adages from the Buddha, Confucius, and even Mark Twain, he delivers simple and timeless insights about facing adversity and developing a good heart. With this English-language edition, you can now join the tens of millions who have already benefitted from this ageless advice on money, relationships, mortality, and more.

Nidena - Katha - The Story of the Lineage - Translated from Prof. V. Fausboll's edition of the Pali text by T.W. Rhys Davids - 19 cm.

Tales from Buddhist Japan  
Buddhist Birth Stories, Or, J'ataka Tales  
Buddhist Birth-stories (Jataka Tales)

King Fruitful

If Only I Had Listened with Different Ears

When the Buddha Was an Elephant

Buddhist Tales for the Soul is a collection of stories inspired from the life of the author blending real-life experiences with touches of fantasy. The stories are set in different time frames and are from various parts of the world like India, Japan and Tibet. It offers glimpses of everyday life, mingling the modern with the ancient, the material with the spiritual and the human with the divine. In this book animals enjoy a place of honour along with the humans as equally capable of attaining enlightenment. Themes such as karma, dharma, compassion, non-violence, reincarnation and moderation which are central to Buddhism are rendered in a simple and amusing manner that would appeal to people of all ages looking for illuminating stories set in everyday life. The Buddhist Jataka tales are simple lessons in living with honesty, wisdom, and compassion that contain the power to transform the hearts and minds of those who hear them. They are stories of the Buddha ' s past lives—in such forms as a boar, a parrot, a monkey, or a peacock—that have enchanted children and adults for millennia. Their animal characters powerfully and sometimes humorously demonstrate the virtues and foibles to which we humans are prone, and they point the way to more enlightened ways of living. Mark McGinnis retells the Jatakas in poetic and accessible language, rendering the Buddhist teachings they contain abundantly clear. Each tale is brought to life by Mark ' s full-color illustration, making the book a visually stunning entr é e to this edifying and highly entertaining literary tradition.

In nearly thirty years as a Buddhist monk trained in the Thai forestdwelling tradition, Ajahn Brahmavamsa has gathered many poignant, funny and profound trueto-life tales. Told with wit and wisdom, this inspiring collection reveals moments of wisdom and compassion in the lives of ordinary people. Endless Path

Buddha in a Teacup

Buddhist Parables

32 Animal Wisdom Tales from the Jataka

Tales of Enlightenment

Buddhist Tales

The J7ataka Tales are the Buddhist equivalent of Aesop's Fables. They are morality stories. In the Buddhist cultures of that time, these were the stories that children grew up hearing. They were the popular entertainment of their time. Families would gather together in the evening after the day's work was done and share these tales. And it is from these stories that people learned about the standards of conduct for followers of the Buddha.Like Aesop's Fables, the main characters in these stories can be a king, a merchant, a craftsperson, or an animal. This collection contains stories 101-150 of the 547 total stories. J7ataka 124 tells a lovely story a monk whose selflessness leads to prosperity for his monastery, and in the past how he devoted himself tirelessly to providing water for animals during a drought. J7taka 105 shows a tree fairy who calms an elephant's fears. J7taka 107 is a funny story about a priest who makes his king crazy by talking too much, and how the king enlists the help of a cripple who is deadly accurate with a pea shooter to cure him!There are a number of stories about monks behaving badly. To a Westerner this may sound strange. But in a Buddhist culture there are bound to be people who ordain as monks – often with good intentions – but who find the monastic life too challenging. J7taka 146 tells the story of three older men who find a pretty cushy way to live as monks.In all these stories represent the breadth the human experience. What we see is that in 2500 years, the spectrum of humanity has not changed at all.

These three tales belong to the same genre as Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse. The first two tales revolve around the Buddha, while the third tale takes place a thousand years later, when the Bodhisattva Maitreya appears, but only to Asanga's eyes. If Only I Had Listened with Different Ears Three Buddhist Tales: King Bimbisara's Chronicler A novel about a young man sent by King Bimbisara to memorize the teachings of the Buddha, told thirty years later during the turbulent reign of King Ajatasattu. After the Parinibbana A short story about an old monk who is the last living person to have heard the Buddha teach and was present at the Buddha's parinibbana. Myth of Maitreya A novella about the Bodhisattva Maitreya visiting Asanga during his twelve years alone in the forest and the subsequent creation of a new Buddhist philosophy with the help of Asanga's brother, Vasubandhu. A young woman leaves her homeland in Australia and goes to live in the Himalayan foothills of Nepal and India for thirty years. She becomes a disciple of two Tibetan Masters who had fled Tibet in the 1950, s and resettled in Nepal. Deeply impressed by their 'Presence' and the profundity of their teachings she determines to follow their advice as closely as possible, letting go of her western life of comfort and ease to live in a simple hut in the forest. Given the situation and locality, she was bound to have many adventures, but even she could never have imagined how strange some of these would be. Tibetan Buddhist Tales is a selection of true short stories about some of these adventures. Although they are all contemporary, one might be forgiven for feeling at times that one has entered a very different time and world. Encounters with ghosts, Yetis and other such unlikely adventures, make this book a compelling read. The fact that these stories all actually took place, gives it a distinct and unique flavor, offering a rare glimpse into a culture, which in our times, faces enormous challenges in retaining its 'authenticity' and 'identity.' These stories are given as a humble offering with the prayer that they add some valuable insights to the current documentation of the unique and highly evolved Tibetan spiritual culture.

Buddhist Birth Stories: or, Jataka Tales, Vol ? 1

Buddhist Birth Stories

Wisdom Of The Crows And Other Buddhist Tales

Buddhist Folk Tales

Wondrous Brutal Fictions

Or, Stories of the Buddha's Former Births

**Meet a generous merchant's son, an outlaw-turned-monk and more in 13 thought-provoking stories from India, China, Japan and Tibet. Gentle illustrations and an insightful foreword provide context to help young readers grasp the warmth, wisdom and compassion of Buddhist tradition.**

**Includes the following titles: Buddha, Angulimala, Amrapali and Upagupta, King Kusha: A Buddhist Tale, The Acrobat: Buddhist Tales**

**\*\*\*WINNER, 2011 Storytelling World Resource Award – Best Storytelling Collection The jataka tales–stories of the Buddha's past lives (in both human and animal form)–were first said to have been told by the Buddha himself 2,500 years ago. Five hundred and fifty jataka tales comprise part of the oldest Buddhist text, the Pali Canon. From this wealth of folklore, award-winning author and storyteller Rafe Martin has chosen ten tales that illustrate the ideals of the Buddhist paramitas, or “perfections” of character: giving, morality, forbearance, vitality, focused meditation, wisdom, compassionate skillful means, resolve, strength, and knowledge. Artist and designer Richard Wehrman helps bring the spirit of these stories alive with rich illustrations that open each chapter. Endless Path presents these ancient stories, usually reduced to children’s tales in the West, for adults, reconnecting modern seekers with the more imaginative roots of Buddhism. The jatakas help readers see their own lives, their failures and renewed efforts, in the same light as the challenges the Buddha faced–not as obstacles but as opportunities for developing character and self-understanding. Endless Path demonstrates the relevance of these tales to Buddhist lay practitioners today, as well as to those more broadly interested in Buddhist teaching and the ancient art of storytelling. From the Trade Paperback edition.**

*Buddha at Bedtime*

*Male-Male Love in Medieval Japanese Buddhist Narratives*

*The acrobat*

*The fearless boy*

*Jataka Tales*

*Tales of Idolized Boys*

*“These teachings from the heart of Buddhism ring true . . . a sumptuous meal of wild and comic dharma. Enjoy!” (Enkyō O’Hara, Soto priest and teacher). One hundred illuminating tales of the foibles and follies of everyday fools, this elegant, humorous, and masterful little book of wisdom is a welcome addition to the Buddhist canon. “The One Hundred Parable Sutra” is known as the most humorous sutra in all of Buddhist literature. Here, Kazuaki Tanahashi, the celebrated translator, calligrapher, and Dōgen scholar, and Peter Levitt, an award-winning poet, storyteller, and Zen practitioner, have translated and retold these jewel-like parables with storytelling panache for students, teachers, and seekers everywhere. With approving commentary, each tale becomes a simple lesson for everyday living. From the potter who seeks fame to the woman who possesses great lust, these tales are told with a gentle clarity that magnifies our appetites and delusions. In doing so, they become an accurate mirror of the human condition. Illustrated with seventeen original brushwork drawings by Tanahashi, *A Flock of Fools* is a perfect little book of wisdom, laughter, and compassion. “Translator Kaz Tanahashi and storyteller Peter Levitt have given these stories a subtle American Zen flavor, and although this collection has a 1500-year pedigree . . . its messages ring clear and true today.” —Shambala Sun “Funny, strange, wise, informing, this marvelous book celebrates the wild heart of Buddhism.” —Roshi Joan Halifax, Zen Buddhist teacher “Nothing breaks apart dualism and sanctimoniousness like a good laugh! . . . lively reminders of the power of humor to enrich our understanding, and to help us let go of our attachments.” — Enkyō O’Hara, Soto priest and teacher*

*Buddha In A Teacup* is a collection of forty-two short stories springing from meditations on Buddhist dharma. Humorous, serious, enigmatic, and poetic, these contemporary tales illuminate the mysteries of life and Buddhist thought by dramatizing turning points in the people's lives.

The stories offered in this collection are simple, wise , humorous and moving, and if read with ipeness they may be used a signposts on the path of spirituality.

*Buddhist Tales in Modern Times*

*Discovering the Self*

*A Buddhist Lama's Advice for Life's Ups and Downs*

*The Jataka Tales*

*And Other Buddhist Tales of Happiness*

*Wisdom from the Buddhist Tradition*

Buddhist Tales in Modern Times brings together a fascinating array of stories from the Buddhist tradition. The stories have been woven from the many accounts of things the author experienced as he travelled to Ladakh, Nepal and other parts of India. The simplicity in the text and illustrations is the highlight of the book. Typical to Buddhist stories, there are talking animals in these tales that teach humans important lessons about the Buddhist principles of wisdom, heroism, non-violence and compassion. Other central themes of the tales are reincarnation, eight sacred places of the Buddha and dispelling myths about the Tibetan medical philosophy. The Lotus Sutra forms a basis of some stories that have been combined with Nepali traditions and culture. Buddhist Tales draws on Buddhist history and rituals making it an engrossing storybook. It is sure to please and enlighten all readers.

It is well known that amongst theBuddhist Scriptures there is one book in which a large number of old stories, fables, and fairy tales, lie enshrined in an edifying commentary; and have thus been preserved for the study and amusement of later times. How this came about is not at present quite certain. The belief of orthodox Buddhists on the subject is this. The Buddha, as occasion arose, was accustomed throughout his long career to explain and comment on the events happening around him, by telling of similar events that had occurred in his own previous births. The experience, not of one lifetime only, but of many lives, was always present to his mind; and it was this experience he so often used to point a moral, or adorn a tale.

A wise and colorful collection of ten Buddhist fables, this modern telling of ancient Indian stories, centering around animals and nature, teaches vibrant and timeless life lessons. (Ages 4-8) Long ago, the Buddha told his followers Jataka Tales, or “birth stories,” about the many lifetimes he lived before he was born as Prince Siddhartha. In this beautiful retelling of ten such stories, the Buddha is introduced as the Queen of the Dogs, a loyal Parrot, a mischievous Monkey, a wise Lion, a brave Forest Owllet, and more. Each story conveys important morals that are short, sweet, and to the point, giving children a handful of useful lessons to apply to their lives, like “Always try to do the right thing, even when no one else is watching.” These tales are brought to life with stunning and dreamlike illustrations by Sonali Zohra (illustrator of Ashoka the Fierce), exploring in vivid detail how one’s actions affect others; the importance of kindness; the strength of friendship; the value of thoughtful decisions; and the importance of letting go and learning to forgive. With a beautiful paper-over-board package to tie it all together, this book will serve as a timeless and treasured offering for both children and adults.

Tales to Illuminate

BUDDHIST TALES FOR THE SOUL

Tales for Transforming Adversity

Tales of Freedom

Volume 3: Folk Tales of the Buddha's Previous Lives

Eight Buddhist Tales from the Early Japanese Puppet Theater

A collection of thirteen retold Buddhist tales from all over Asia, illustrating various aspects of Buddhist thought.

In medieval Japan (14th-16th centuries), it was customary for elite families to entrust their young sons to the care of renowned Buddhist priests from whom they received a premier education in Buddhist scriptures, poetry, music, and dance. When the boys reached adolescence, some underwent coming-of-age rites, others entered the priesthood, and several extended their education, becoming chigo, or Buddhist acolytes. Chigo served their masters as personal attendants and as sexual partners. During religious ceremonies—adorned in colorful robes, their faces made up and hair styled in long ponytails—they entertained local donors and pilgrims with music and dance. Stories of acolytes (chigo monogatari) from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries form the basis of the present volume, an original and detailed literary analysis of six tales coupled with a thorough examination of the socio-political, religious, and cultural matrices that produced these texts. Author Sachi Schmidt-Hori begins by delineating various dimensions of chigo (the chigo “title,” personal names, gender, sexuality, class, politics, and religiosity) to show the complexity of this cultural construct—the chigo as a triply liminal figure who is neither male nor female, child nor adult, human nor deity. A modern reception history of chigo monogatari follows, revealing, not surprisingly, that the tales have often been interpreted through cultural paradigms rooted in historical moments and worldviews far removed from the original. From the 1950s to 1980s, research on chigo was hindered by widespread homophobic prejudice. More recently, aversion to the age gap in historical master-acolyte relations has prevented scholars from analyzing the religious and political messages underlying the genre. Schmidt-Hori's work calls for a shift in the hermeneutic strategies applied to chigo and chigo monogatari and puts forth both a nuanced historicization of social constructs such as gender, sexuality, age, and agency, and a mode of reading propelled by curiosity and introspection.

**Building on the age-old art of storytelling, this beautiful book retells 20 ancient Buddhist tales in a way that will aid relaxation and prepare your child for sleep.**

**Buddhist Tales of India, China, and Japan: Indian Section**

**Jataka Tales of Kindness, Friendship, and Forgiveness**

**The Commentarial Introduction Entitled Nidāna-kātha, the Story of the Lineage**

**Awakening Within the Buddhist Imagination: Jataka Tales, Zen Practice, and Daily Life**

**Buddhist Tales for Young and Old**

**The Oldest Collection of Folk-lore Extant, Being the Jātakatthavannāna**

Growing up in the modern world, our children have to cope with ever-increasing amounts of stress, which can hinder their development. The ancient wisdom of Buddhism, with its emphasis on peace, love and compassion, is the ideal basis for helping any child to face these challenges with inner confidence and calm. Building on the age-old art of storytelling, this beautiful book re-tells 20 ancient Buddhist tales in a way that is thoroughly fun and accessible to children. Featuring superb, full-page illustrations, the stories will transport kids into an imaginary world of enlightenment and discovery where they will meet delightful characters and discover an easy-to-understand Buddhist message—one that will help them think about how they can apply values such as patience, perseverance, honesty and generosity to their own lives. Designed to be read aloud by a parent or read by older children on their own, these compelling narratives provide a pleasurable, soothing transition into sleep.

Young Samkicca had learned the secret of happiness. Following Buddha's teachings not only freed him from desire and terror but also miraculously protected him from death! He was not the only one who had this precious knowledge. All those who opted for truth and hard work were blessed with joy, whereas the lazy and the dishonest were left bewailing their fate.

A talented acrobat, a hard-working farmer, a love-lorn youth and a distraught mother all have something in common. Their lives are affected by Gautam Buddha. He comes to each of them when the time is right and touches their hearts and minds in such a way that their troubles cease to exist and they are completely at peace.

Tales of Love and Wisdom for You to Read with Your Child to Enchant, Enlighten and Inspire

Buddhist Stories

Ancient Buddhist Tales of Wisdom and Laughter from the One Hundred Parable Sutra

Or, Jataka Tales. The Oldest Collection of Folk-lore Extant: Being the Jātakatthavannānā, for the First Time Edited in the Original Pali

Tibetan Buddhist Tales and Other True Stories.

The Barefoot Book of Buddhist Tales