

# **Buddhism and Christianity**

**Some Bridges of  
Understanding**

**WINSTON L. KING**

**GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LTD**



In this book the author compares major religious beliefs and emphases in the Buddhist and Christian traditions.

After a brief historical survey Dr King discusses the doctrines of dharma, karma, and goes on to examine key elements that appear in contrasting forms in the two religions. Love for the Christian is, he says, a personal sharing of life between God and man, and between man and man. The Buddhist speaks of loving-kindness (metta) as radiated benevolence and self-identification with all living beings. Christianity is deeply pervaded with a sense of guilt or sin. By contrast the Buddhist seldom speaks of sin but rather of dukkha or suffering.

Both Buddhism and Christianity seek to achieve selflessness, the former by discovering and destroying 'the illusion of selfhood' in all its forms, the latter by self-sacrificial love to God and man. Buddhism denies the value of 'blind faith' in any Saviour, and theoretically has no use for grace, that is, undeserved blessing from a deity. In practice, however, Dr King finds that there is considerable dependence upon grace in the Buddhist structure.

The book is a valuable contribution toward better reciprocal understanding of East and West.

COLLECTANEA O. CIST. R.

BUDDHISM AND  
CHRISTIANITY

Winston L. King



# Buddhism and Christianity

SOME BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING

*by*

WINSTON L. KING

*London*

GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LTD

RUSKIN HOUSE MUSEUM STREET

BR  
128  
B8  
K5


X  
283  
128  
B8  
K54  
1963

First published in Great Britain in 1963

*This book is copyright under the Berne Convention. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1956, no portion may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquiries should be addressed to the publisher.*

© W. L. JENKINS 1962

*Scripture quotations from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible are copyright, 1946 and 1952, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches, and are used by permission.*

MONASTIC LIBRARY  
Abbey of Gethsemani  
  
Trappist Kentucky

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN  
BY NOVELLO & COMPANY  
LONDON W1

## CONTENTS

PREFACE	7
I. Concerning the Christian Understanding of Buddhism	13
II. God in Four parts	34
III. Love : Christian and Buddhist	64
IV. Christian Guilt and Buddhist Dukkha	103
V. Christian Prayer and Buddhist Meditation.	136
VI. The Conquest of Self	174
VII. Grace and Faith in Buddhism	204
Notes	228
Index	237

MONASTIC LIBRARY  
Abbey of Gethsemani  
Trappist Kentucky