



In the hope of Nibbana

AN ESSAY ON THERAVADA

BUDDHIST ETHICS

Winston L. King

OPEN COURT

\$6.00

IN THE HOPE OF NIBBANA: *The Ethics
of Theravada Buddhism*

BY WINSTON L. KING

Aside from the noteworthy efforts of the Pali Text Society to translate the entire Pali canon into English, Theravada Buddhism (the Buddhism of Southeast Asia) has been largely neglected by Western scholarship. Along with an assumption of its purely static and traditionalist character has gone a companion belief that it can be known simply by reading the scriptural texts. And in keeping with this general context of neglect, and despite the central place of ethics in Buddhism as a whole, there have been almost no treatments of Theravada ethic within the last two generations or more.

This volume discusses the Theravada ethic under two major aspects. The first chapters deal with the classical and doctrinal structure of the ethic, particularly in terms of the polar tension between the layman's ethic of rebirth and the monk's ethic of Nibbana, and with respect to the attempt in Buddhism to join the two into one unified pattern of values and practice. The later chapters explore the social aspects of the Buddhist ethic, especially as exemplified in the

(continued on back flap)

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(continued from front flap)

Sangha (order of monks) and with regard to the attempts now being made by Theravada Buddhism to provide a religious basis for the solution of the contemporary social and political problems. The volume will therefore be of interest both to students of Buddhism and of South East Asia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Winston L. King was educated at Andover Newton Theological School (B.D.) and at Harvard University (S.T.M. and Ph.D., the latter degree in the History and Philosophy of Religion). He is at present Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Dean of Chapel at Grinnell College.

This present work grew out of two years spent in southern Asia in 1958-60, largely at the International Institute for Advanced Buddhistic Studies in Rangoon, Burma, under Ford Foundation auspices.

Dr. King has contributed articles and reviews to several religious journals and is the author of *The Holy Imperative, Introduction to Religion, Buddhism and Christianity: Some Bridges of Understanding*, as well as a contributor to *Modern Trends in World Religions*, edited by Joseph M. Kitagawa.