



The Śūraṅgama Sūtra

TRANSLATED BY
CHARLES LUK
(LU K'UAN YU)

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CHARLES LUK (*Lu K'uan Yü*)

Enlightenment in Mahāyāna Buddhism consists in transmuting the mind into the Great Mirror Wisdom. And so the Śūraṅgama Sūtra points directly at the Mind which when stirred by the first thought creates the basic illusion of an ego and splits the Whole into subject and object. In consequence it is still a primary source for the Ch'an or Zen school.

In this sūtra the Buddha began by stripping Ananda of his attachment to the illusory body and mind before revealing the One Mind. To teach how this One Mind can be realised he asked twenty-five Bodhisattvas to describe the different methods by which each had attained Enlightenment. Avalokiteśvara's method of turning inward the organ of hearing was judged the most suitable for mankind today.

The Buddha disclosed the cause of transmigration through the six worlds and of the attainment of the four saintly planes, describing these ten regions in some detail. Finally he detailed and warned against clinging to the various mental states experienced when practising the Śūraṅgama Samādhi.

We in the West know of the Creation according to the Bible, but readers will now find in this sūtra how man and his world came into being as taught by the Buddha.

Lu K'uan Yu's translation from the Chinese of this important sūtra is based on Ch'an Master Han Shan's late sixteenth-century commentary, portions of which are included in the footnotes.

THE ŚŪRĀṄGAMA SŪTRA (Leng Yen Ching)

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Commentary (abridged) by
Ch'an Master Han Shan (1546-1623)

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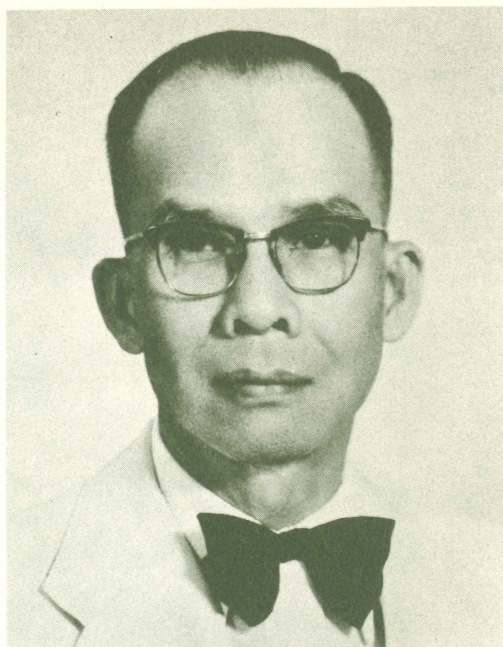
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Charles Luk now lives in Hongkong and has contributed to Buddhist publications in India, London, Paris, and New York. His sole ambition is, in his own words, 'to present as many Chinese Buddhist texts as possible so that Buddhism can be preserved at least in the West, should it be fated to disappear in the East as it seems to be'.