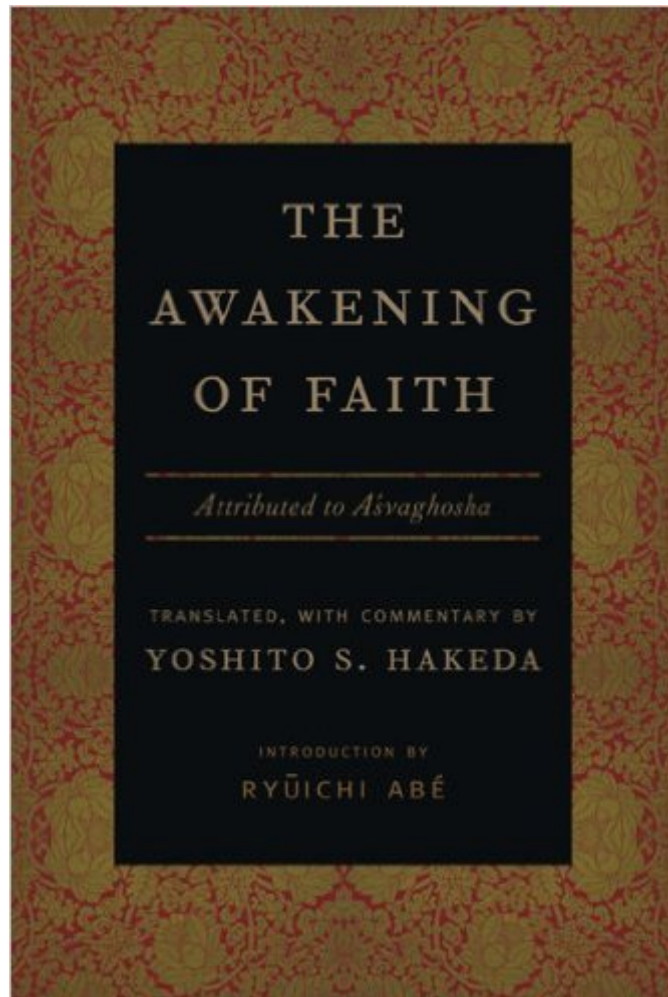


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The Awakening Of Faith: Attributed To Asvaghosha (Translations From The Asian Classics (Paperback))



Synopsis

Whenever I have questions on Mahayana Buddhist doctrine, I return to this text and Professor Hakeda's interpretation of it. I wonder if I will ever encounter a work that is at once more profound, attractive, and mysterious than the *Awakening of Faith*. -- Ryuichi Abi, from the introduction

First published in 1967, Yoshito S. Hakeda's critical interpretation of the *Awakening of Faith* has become a classic. This edition, which includes a new introduction by Ryuichi Abi, presents a beautiful and accessible translation of one of the most influential works in Mahayana Buddhism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an indispensable text in the Mahayana and, within the Mahayana, Zen traditions. The translation is interspersed with extensive notes and commentaries from classic ancient Chinese and Korean commentators, and includes honest discussions of possible variant translations of difficult phrases. Highly recommended to anyone with a serious interest in the root texts of the Mahayana tradition.

For me, the highlight of this text is its depiction of faith, not as a blind grasping towards the truth, but as trust with conviction. The difference is important in today's world where the meaning of faith has been eviscerated of its positive affirmation of a path - conviction arising from a sure understanding, rather than just an adopted belief - to become more a label of anti-experiential assertion. Thus in

today's world to have faith is to believe in the absence of evidence, while in this context to have faith is to have become permeated with the enlightened aspect of Suchness. The value of a text such as this is not the programmatic ideas that it presents, but the underlying understanding that these ideas point to. If one merely forms an attachment to the conceptual ideas, one is not developing faith. The translator's introduction and commentary, much of which is taken from a few Chinese and Korean scholars, but especially that of Fazang, is generally excellent. One caveat is that there are a few places within the text where the typographic style of setting off the commentary from the base text is not adhered to (ex. top of pg 65 of reprint edition), potentially confusing the reader. The introduction to the reprint edition by AbÃ© is suspect. He starts with a whopper of a misunderstanding when he states: "... the Awakening of Faith boldly posits as the ultimate reality the minds of sentient beings in their everyday existence." The "minds" (plural and individuated) are presented as the permeation of ignorance and not the "ultimate reality". So I recommend caution in reading these remarks. James Corrigan

An Introduction to Awareness

Good for the Academic and the completely unfamiliar reader. This book was originally a University Text book. It is good for the A scholarly minded reader, who is more inclined towards the Tibetan or an analytically geared synopsis of this well respected Treatise. The Author criticizes, incorrectly and unjustly, two previous translators. The charge against DT Suzuki is due to him using the later manuscript; even though this author says the difference is insignificant. He also lumps Goddard in with Richards, and says Goddard's translation 'is too free', not literal enough. Hakeda's interpretation was influenced by many commentaries, gone over, read, and edited by 5 Western College Instructors, as noted in the original Preface. The translation has a wealth of footnotes to explain to the beginner or student many details. But the interpretation is dry, exoteric, dogmatic, Orthodox, and lifeless IMHO. I have the Taipei version that has both Suzuki's and Goddard's editions, I have read them both in succession and they are not significantly different. Goddard's is easier to read but not 'watered down'. For anyone looking for the true and alive Essence, dare I say Zen and esoteric minded view, I humbly advise the following; "Self Realization of Noble Wisdom: The Lankavatara Sutra - Dwight Goddard"; Paperback And any other published Goddard Translation of the "The Awakening of Faith in the Mahayana"

This book was a great read, and I think an important one for anyone interested in looking into Mahayana Buddhism, or Buddhism in general. The major concepts of Buddhist thinking are presented here along with the author's help in deciphering meaning from the more difficult or

unclear paragraphs. This is invaluable as a lot of buddhist concepts and style of writing can be difficult to grasp. I take refuge in this book :)

This text is a systematical rendering of Mahayana. It's almost like a logico-philosophical system (Hegel's or Kant's). The ideas are ordered in a hierarchical fashion and developed one after another. What's amazing about this text is that it manages to present ALL Mahayana teachings and unite them in a single whole. Reconciling all seeming contradictions. This is the best translation.

A must read for all cultivators. Down to earth reading about having faith in the path and getting onto the path. When you awaken some day to feel that something is missing in your life and question what is it all for. This book, read with an open mind and heart will push you into the right direction.

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