

A Treasury of Mahayana Sutras: Selections from the Maharatnakuta Sutra



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The Mah?ratnak?ta S?tra is one of the five major sutra groups in the Mah?y?na canon. Of the two great schools of Buddhism, Mah?y?na has the greatest number of adherents worldwide—it prevails among the Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Tibetans, and Vietnamese—and contains within it a number of movements, notably Zen, which have been of growing interest in the West in recent decades. Yet despite this increased attention and enormous following, translations of Mah?y?na scriptures have been scarce and fragmentary; clearly, a comprehensive translation of a major work within the canon was called for.

This volume addresses that need. It contains 22 of the 49 S?tras of the Mah?ratnak?ta (or "Treasury") S?tra, many translated for the first time in a Western language, selected and arranged to give the modern reader a progressive introduction to one of the world's major religious traditions. Subjects covered include M?y? and miracles, the teachings on Consciousness, Emptiness, and monastic discipline, the Mystical Light of the Tath?gata, and the devotional practice of Pure Land, making this a comprehensive source book of Mah?y?na Buddhism hitherto unavailable in English. The book also includes an introduction to provide historical and interpretive guidance, annotations that assist in the comprehension of difficult passages, and an extensive glossary that will be valuable to specialist and layman alike. A team of scholars, working in Taiwan, spent eight years translating the Treasury's million words from Chinese, using Tibetan texts for comparison and checking each S?tra with an international board of scholars. In the course of translating from the original, special effort was made to retain both the devotional style appropriate for religious reading and the precision required by the scholar, while presenting the material with a clarity and flow that would make it accessible to the Western layman. The editors then selected, arranged, and annotated the 22 S?tras presented here.

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