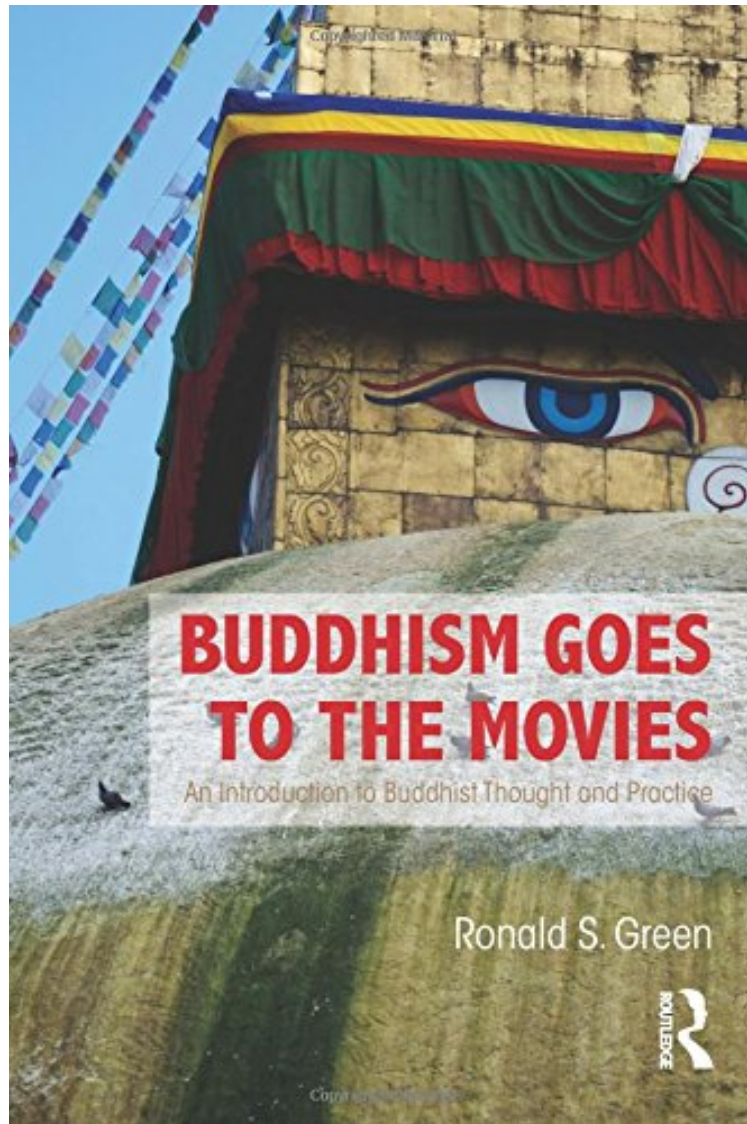


(Download ebook) Buddhism Goes to the Movies: Introduction to Buddhist Thought and Practice

# Buddhism Goes to the Movies: Introduction to Buddhist Thought and Practice

*Ronald Green*

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**Ronald Green : Buddhism Goes to the Movies: Introduction to Buddhist Thought and Practice** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buddhism Goes to the Movies: Introduction to Buddhist Thought and Practice:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. brilliant teaching tool By THEGaryGreen Using the illustration of the film industry, this book brilliantly shows seemingly complex Buddhist philosophies in way - familiar cinematic

context. Some favorite movie scenes suddenly take on new or more clear meaning. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ProjectionBy torontoI eagerly awaited this book, but it is somewhat disappointing, though excellent in parts. The best thing about it is that it is full of information about the foreign films and their sources, etc. There is also good discussion of the early silent and sound films using aspects of Buddhism (I'd forgotten about Broken Blossoms). Much of the critique is nothing special, really just plot description and tenuous links to Buddhist themes. For example, the section on Lost Horizon is mostly a plot summary. It also makes no mention of Harrison Forman (the advisor to the film) who had actually been in Tibet in the early 30s; nor is Stephen Goosson referenced (the Art Director). Anyone who has studied the film knows how much they contributed to the aura of it. The important question --that Green does raise -- is whether and how the aura of Shangri-La has affected the Tibetan tragedy, but hardly anything is made of it. The section on Uncle Boonmee is, however, among the best parts of the book. Also, throughout the book, there are really fine "Further Viewing" recommendations. It is hard to like completely a book on Buddhism in the movies that includes Fight Club but ignores The Seven Samurai, Redbeard (the greatest Zen film ever), and Dodeskaden. And if crappy movies are to be included, where is Kim?

Buddhism Goes to the Movies: Introduction to Buddhist Thought and Practice explains the basics of Buddhist philosophy and practice through a number of dramatic films from around the world. This book introduces readers in a dynamic way to the major traditions of Buddhism: the Theravada, and various interrelated Mahayana divisions including Zen, Pure Land and Tantric Buddhism. Students can use Ronald Green's book to gain insights into classic Buddhist themes, including Buddhist awakening, the importance of the theory of dependent origination, the notion of no-self, and Buddhist ideas about life, death and why we are here. Contemporary developments are also explored, including the Socially Engaged Buddhism demonstrated by such figures as the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other Buddhist activists. Finally, comparisons between filmic expressions of Buddhism and more traditional artistic expressions of Buddhism such as mandala drawings are also drawn. An important addition to any introduction to Buddhist philosophy and practice, Buddhism Goes to the Movies is an excellent way to bring Buddhist thought, history, and activity to the uninitiated and interested reader.

"Green's book offers a lucid overview of major Buddhist ideas, figures, texts, and practices through an impressive survey of films that belong to various periods and genres. Combining facts about the films with his own insightful interpretations, Green has written several accessible and entertaining narrative vignettes that both students and teachers will find useful in the classroom." -- Juhn Ahn, The University of Michigan "Ronald Green has filled an important and long-overdue need for educators in Buddhist Studies. Through a well-designed exploration of international films concerned with Buddhist themes, Green employs visual narrative to present the essential concepts of traditional Buddhism in an accessible and engaging manner. Both students and educators of Buddhism, Asian culture, and global film studies will find Buddhism Goes to the Movies a welcome contribution." -- Victor Forte, Albright College "A wonderful introduction for students interested in Buddhism, this volume also holds a space academically for film and media studies students interested in a religious analysis of several modern films...Highly recommended." -- N. A. Weiss, Naropa University, in CHOICE About the Author Ronald S. Green is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Coastal Carolina University. He studied Buddhism at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is the editor of four books on Buddhism, peace and justice.