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Buddhism After Patriarch: A Feminist History, Analysis, and Reconstruction of Buddhism

By Rita M. Gross

State University of New York Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 376 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 1.0in. This book surveys both the part women have played in Buddhism historically and what Buddhism might become in its post-patriarchal future. The author completes the Buddhist historical record by discussing women, usually absent from histories of Buddhism, and she provides the first feminist analysis of the major concepts found in Buddhist religion. Gross demonstrates that the core teachings of Buddhism promote gender equity rather than male dominance, despite the often sexist practices found in Buddhist institutions throughout history. The power of this book comes from the combination of the passion and analytic skill that Gross brings to this feminist reconstruction of the Buddhist tradition. It is a book that should inform all introductory classes on Buddhism. Through a reexamination of basic texts, Gross describes women's experiences in different cultures and epochs, and shows their relevance for the Buddha's Path to Enlightenment as well as for the social roles and images of women in different times and places. -- Frederick J. Streng, Southern Methodist University Gross has written the magnum opus of feminist critique and revisioning of Buddhism. This has great theoretical and practical...



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