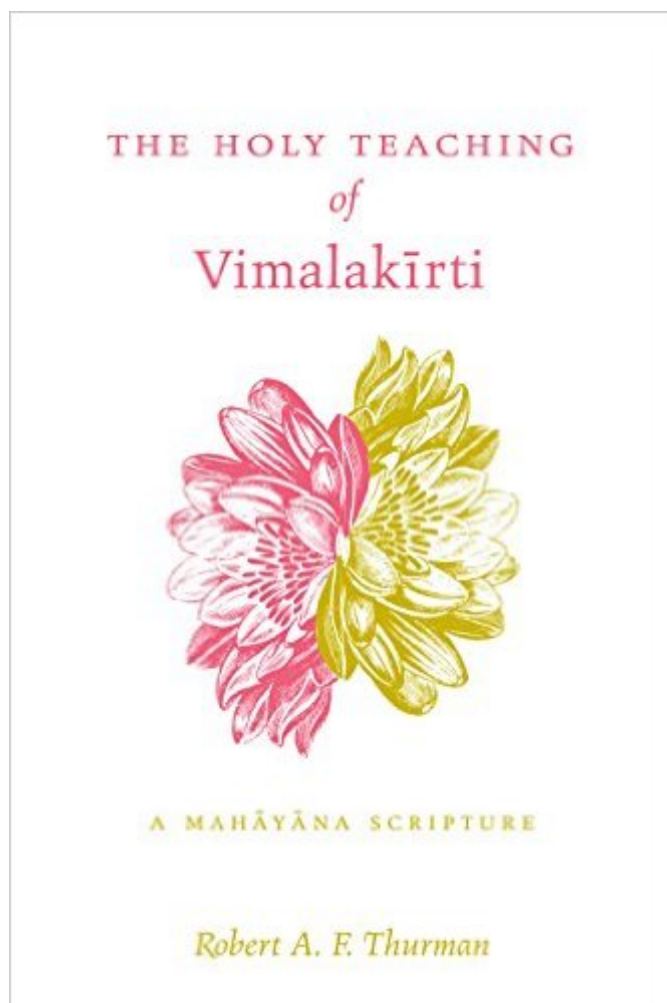


The book was found

# The Holy Teaching Of Vimalakirti: A Mahayana Scripture



## Synopsis

This book presents the major teachings of Mahāyāna Buddhism in a precise, dramatic, and even humorous form. For two millennia this Sāstra, called the "jewel of the Mahāyāna Sāstras," has enjoyed immense popularity among Mahāyāna Buddhists in India, central and southeast Asia, Japan, and especially China, where its incidents were the basis for a style in art and literature prevalent during several centuries. Robert Thurman's translation makes available in relatively nontechnical English the Tibetan version of this key Buddhist scripture, previously known to the English-speaking world only through translations from Chinese texts. The Tibetan version is generally conceded to be more faithful to the original Sanskrit than are the Chinese texts. The Tibetan version also is clearer, richer, and more precise in its philosophical and psychological expression. The twelve books of the Sāstra are accompanied by an introduction and an epilogue by Dr. Thurman and by three glossaries: Sanskrit terms, numerical categories, and technical terms.

## Book Information

Paperback: 117 pages

Publisher: Penn State University Press; 7.12.2003 edition (August 11, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0271006013

ISBN-13: 978-0271006017

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #141,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > Mahayana #22 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Buddhism #37 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > History

## Customer Reviews

The Vimalakirti-nirdesha Sutra, though almost certainly not spoken by Shakyamuni Buddha himself, is nonetheless held in the highest esteem by all schools of the Mahayana. It belongs to the category of sutras which are, in all probability, fictional creations of Mahayana scholars, and not expounded by the Buddha. Despite this, the Vimalakirti Scripture is still given the title of a sutra. For the doctrine it expounds is in perfect conformity with the highest teachings of the Buddha, and, more than any other sutra, the Vimalakirti Sutra shows the perfection of the bodhisattva ideal for laymen and

women. Robert A.F. Thurman's translation of this masterpiece is close to perfect. Working from a Tantric perspective (being himself a Vajrayana Buddhist), Thurman details, in his notes and introduction, the clear relation between Buddhist Tantrism and the Vimalakirti sutra, which can lead one to the conclusion that its composition was largely influenced by the esoteric teachings of the Tantras. Yet, the teachings of the Vimalakirti Sutra are in no way exclusive to students of the Vajrayana, or of Tibetan Buddhism in general. This scripture has historically been of tremendous influence on Chinese Buddhism, and is the subject of some of the greatest works of Chinese Buddhist Art. It is also held in the highest esteem by Zen Buddhism for its emphasis on the practice of the layman amongst the cares of the world. Indeed, it is one of the few canonical scriptures that are of particular value to Zen.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti: A Mahayana Scripture The Great Path of Awakening: A Commentary on the Mahayana Teaching of the Seven Points of Mind Training The Great Themes of Scripture: Old Testament (Great Themes of Scripture Series) Genesis to Jesus: Studying Scripture from the Heart of the Church (Journey Through Scripture) Exodus: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture (The New American Commentary) The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship The Astronomy of the Bible (Annotated): An Elementary Commentary on the Astronomical References of Holy Scripture Does the Bible Really Say That?: Discovering Catholic Teaching in Scripture Faces of Compassion: Classic Bodhisattva Archetypes and Their Modern Expression \_ An Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism The Heart Sutra: A Comprehensive Guide to the Classic of Mahayana Buddhism The Secrets of Chinese Meditation: Self-Cultivation by Mind Control As Taught in the Ch'an, Mahayana and Taoist Schools in China Figments and Fragments of Mahayana Buddhism in India: More Collected Papers (Studies in the Buddhist Traditions) Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations (The Library of Religious Beliefs and Practices) The Collected Works of Chogyam Trungpa, Volume 2: The Path Is the Goal - Training the Mind - Glimpses of Abhidharma - Glimpses of Shunyata - Glimpses of Mahayana - Selected Writings The Awakening of Faith: The Classic Exposition of Mahayana Buddhism Entering the Way of the Great Vehicle: Dzogchen as the Culmination of the Mahayana The Essence of Mahayana Lojong Practice: An Oral Commentary to Geshe Langri Tangpa's Mind Training in Eight Verses History of Indian Buddhism: From Sakyamuni to Early Mahayana (Buddhist Tradition) Women in Buddhism: Images of the Feminine in the Mahayana Tradition Meaning of Christ: A Mahayana Theology (Faith Meets Faith)

[Dmca](#)