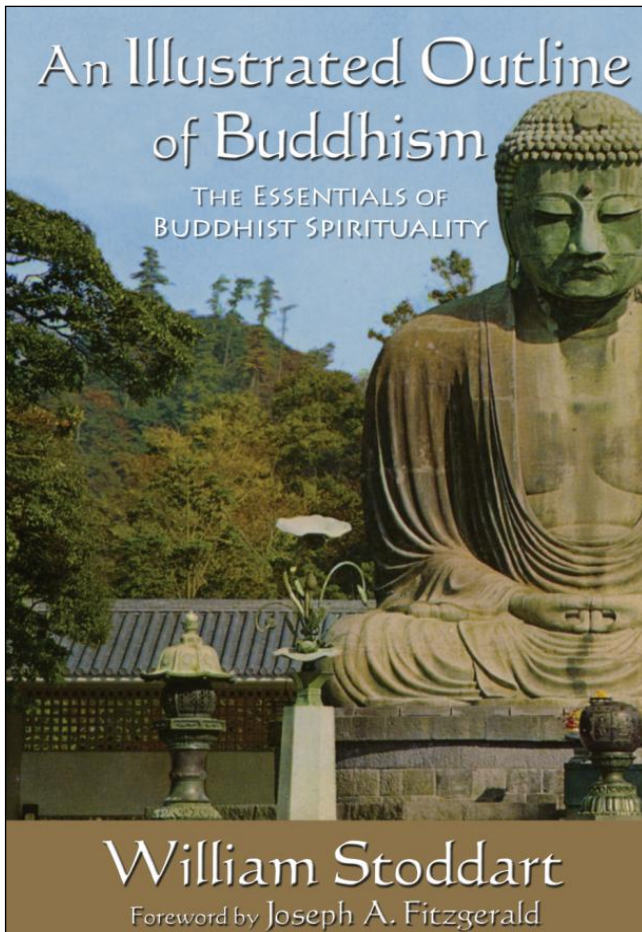


# An Illustrated Outline of Buddhism: The Essentials of Buddhist Spirituality

By William Stoddart

Foreword by Joseph A. Fitzgerald



*An Illustrated Outline of Buddhism* is an ideal introduction to the vast and complex field of Buddhism, a world religion with more than a billion followers. In its short format and accessible style, it presents the essential features of the Buddhist religion in a manner that is suitable for both the general reader and the student of Buddhism.

This fully illustrated edition contains a stunning array of outstanding examples of Buddhist art, architecture, statuary, and calligraphy. It also includes numerous maps, diagrams, and charts which both illustrate important aspects of Buddhist beliefs and summarize the different cultural forms and developmental phases of Buddhism.

## This Book Features:

- ❖ 80 full color illustrations.
- ❖ Maps, diagrams, and charts summarizing the fundamentals of Buddhist spirituality.
- ❖ A select bibliography for further reading.
- ❖ A detailed index.
- ❖ Extensive biographical notes on the author and author of the foreword.

## Publication Details:

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- ❖ Pub Date: May, 2013
- ❖ Price: \$18.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 6x9
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World Wisdom



## Praise for *An Illustrated Outline of Buddhism*

“Over the last half century the burgeoning popularity of Buddhism in the West has engendered all manner of misconceptions. William Stoddart’s concise, lucid, and penetrating book banishes many misunderstandings and expounds Buddhism as both Doctrine and Way. It also explains the diverse Buddhist schools and branches, and through its abundant illustrations displays that sacred art which is both ‘witness and proof’ of any living tradition. Highly recommended!”

—Harry Oldmeadow, La Trobe University, author of *Frithjof Schuon and the Perennial Philosophy* and *Touchstones of the Spirit*

“This book is a pocket encyclopedia. The explanations given by the author of many subtle and important doctrines are gratifyingly clear.”

—Alberto Martin, author of *Sleeping, Dreaming, Awakening*

“A salient contribution to the study of Buddhism. The prestigious British author was able to produce here a clear, simple, and at the same time profound and comprehensive study of Buddhism, which . . . offers a balanced panorama of the Buddhist religion, history, and culture.”

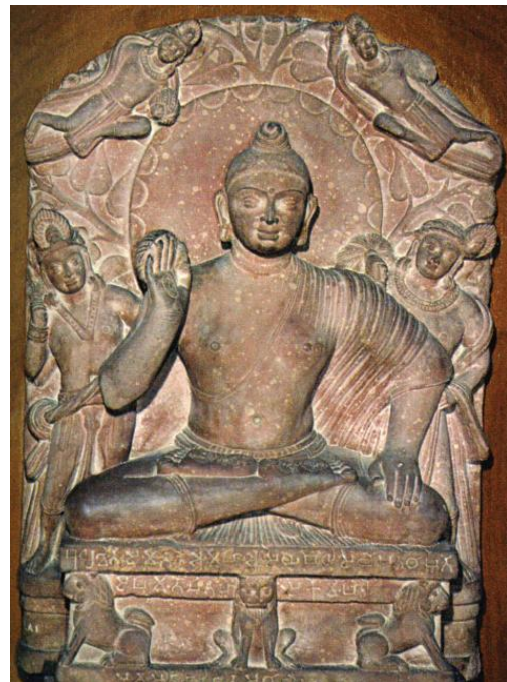
—Mateus Soares de Azevedo, editor of *Remembering in a World of Forgetting: Thoughts on Tradition and Postmodernism*

“This new illustrated edition, revised and enlarged a full generation after the first, provides a clear and succinct overview of Buddhist teachings and practices. . . . Stoddart’s work also pays tribute to the overwhelming beauty of Buddhist art—amply confirmed by the rich selection of color reproductions in this volume.”

—Joseph A. Fitzgerald, editor of *Honen the Buddhist Saint*



Standing Maitreya Buddha, Mongolia, early 18<sup>th</sup> century



Buddha seated on a lion throne, Mathurā, India, 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D.

## About the Author of *An Illustrated Outline of Buddhism*



**WILLIAM STODDART** was born at Carstairs in Scotland in 1925. He studied modern languages, and later medicine, at the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dublin. He spent most of his working life in London, England, and retired to Windsor, Ontario, in 1982.

He has made a life-long study of the great religious traditions of the world, and in this connection has traveled widely: in Europe, North Africa, Turkey, India, Ceylon, and Japan. Stoddart was for many years assistant editor of the British journal *Studies in Comparative Religion*.

His books include: *Sufism: The Mystical Doctrines and Methods of Islam* (1976; editions in seven languages), newly released in an expanded version as *Outline of Sufism* (2012), *Outline of Hinduism* (1993), *Invincible Wisdom: Quotations from the Scriptures, Saints, and Sages of All Times and Places* (2008), *What Do the Religions Say About Each Other? Christian Attitudes towards Islam, Islamic Attitudes towards Christianity* (2008), and *What Does Islam Mean in Today's World?* (2012). His essential writings were published by World Wisdom as *Remembering in a World of Forgetting: Thoughts on Tradition and Postmodernism* (2008). His works have been widely acclaimed for their clarity and dependability.

He has translated, from French and German, numerous books within his field of interest, amongst them *Sufism: Veil and Quintessence* (1981) and *Esoterism as Principle and as Way* (1981) by Frithjof Schuon, and *Fez: City of Islam* (1992) and *Chartres and the Birth of the Cathedral* (1995) by Titus Burckhardt. He was also editor and translator of the collected essays of Titus Burckhardt, published under the title *Mirror of the Intellect* (1987), as well as *The Essential Titus Burckhardt* (2003).

## About the Author of the Foreword

**JOSEPH A. FITZGERALD** studied Comparative Religion at Indiana University, where he also earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. For over twenty years he has traveled extensively throughout the Buddhist world, including visits to Bhutan, Mongolia, Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Nepal, India, and Japan. He is an award-winning editor whose previous publications include *Honen the Buddhist Saint: Essential Writings and Official Biography* (2006), *The Essential Sri Anandamayi Ma: Life and Teachings of a 20th Century Saint from India* (2007), *The Way and the Mountain: Tibet, Buddhism, and Tradition* (2008), *An Illustrated Introduction to Taoism: The Wisdom of the Sages* (2010), *The Original Gospel of Ramakrishna* (2011) and *The Wisdom of Ananda Coomaraswamy* (with S.D.R. Singam) (2011). Joseph's awards include Foreword Book of the Year Finalist, USA Best Book Award (winner), Midwest Book Award Gold, and Benjamin Franklin Gold Award. Joseph lives with his wife and daughters in Bloomington, Indiana.



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