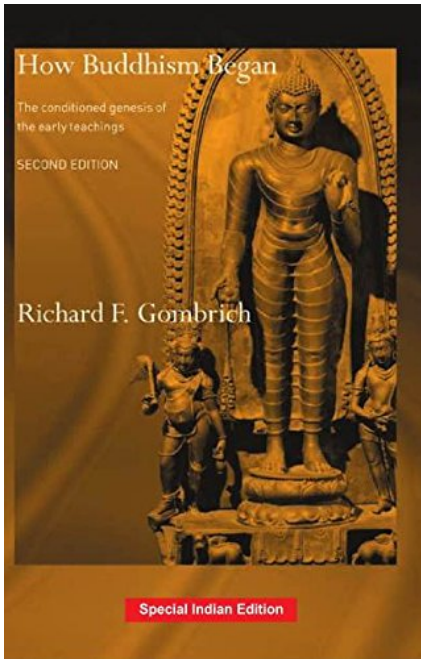


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How Buddhism Began: The Conditioned Genesis of the Early Teachings, Second Edition



About the Book

Written by one of the world's top scholars in the field of Pali Buddhism, this new and updated edition of *How Buddhism Began*, discusses various important doctrines and themes in early Buddhism. It takes 'early Buddhism' to be that reflected in the Pali canon, and to some extent assumes that these doctrines reflect the teachings of the Buddha himself. Two themes predominate. Firstly, the author argues that we cannot understand the Buddha unless we understand that he was debating with other religious teachers, notably Brahmins. The other main theme concerns metaphor, allegory and literalism. This accessible, well-written book is mandatory reading for all serious students of Buddhism.

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Richard F. Gombrich is Academic Director of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, and one of the most renowned Buddhist scholars in the world. From 1976 to 2004 he was Boden Professor of Sanskrit, University of Oxford. He has been President of the Pali Text Society and was awarded the Sri Lanka Ranjana decoration by the President of Sri Lanka in 1994 and the SC Chakraborty medal by the Asiatic Society of Calcutta the previous year.

Review

'Few indeed have attempted a critical study of the philosophical and religious ideas proffered by early Buddhists. How Buddhism Began ... is an excellent small book that begins to fill this lamentable void in Buddhist studies ... highly recommended for both the expert and novice in the field of Buddhist studies.' - Philosophy East and West

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