Secular Buddhism is concerned with creating happiness and peace. The roots of good and evil in the mind are discussed in detail. The book challenges common misconceptions, stereotypes, and fantasies. With wit and epistemological, and axiological issues of interest in modern philosophy. So you think you're a Buddhist? Think again. An overview of the development of Tiantai thought from the fifth through the eleventh centuries in China and Japan is provided. The Chinese monk Siming Zhili (960–1028) uttered this remark as part of his justification for his self-immolation. An exposition of the intent, implications, and resonances of this one sentence, this book expands and unravels the context in which the saying paradox of the ultimate identity of good and evil is to be understood. In analyzing this idea, Brook Ziporyn provides an overview of the development of Tiantai thought from the eleventh century to our understanding of the Chinese Buddhist concept of Sunyata (Emptiness) and Chinese Buddhism, as well as to basic ontological, epistemological, and axiological issues of interest in modern philosophy. New paperback edition The Sung Dynasty (960–1279) has long been recognized as a major watershed in Chinese history. Although there are recent major monographs on Sung society, government, literature, Confucian thought, and popular culture, contributions to the field of Buddhist thought and cultural life have been largely overlooked. Indeed, the study of Buddhism during the Sung has lagged behind that of other periods of Chinese history. One reason for the neglect of this important aspect of Sung society is undoubtedly the tenacity of the view that the Sung marked the beginning of an inexorable decline of Buddhism in China that extended down through the remainder of the imperial era. As this book attests, however, new research suggests that, far from signaling a decline, the Sung was a period of great efflorescence in Buddhism. This volume is the first extended scholarly treatment of Buddhism in the Sung to be published in a Western language. It focuses largely on elite figures, elite traditions, and interactions among Buddhism and literati, although some of the book’s essays touch on ways in which elite traditions both responded to and helped shape more popular forms of lay practice and piety. All of the chapters in one way or another deal with the two most important elite traditions within Sung Buddhism: Ch'an and T'ien-t'ai. Whereas most previous discussions of Buddhism in the Sung have tended to concentrate on Ch'an, the present volume is notable for giving T'ien-t'ai its due. By presenting a broader and more contextualized picture of these two traditions as they developed in the Sung, this work amply reveals the vitality of Buddhism in the Sung as well as its embeddedness in the social and intellectual life of the time. This book focuses on Buddhism and Jainism, the three pillars of Indic religious tradition in its classical formulation. It explores their history and relates how the Vedic period in the history of Hinduism drew to a close around the sixth century BCE and how its gradual etiolation gave rise to a number of religious movements. While some of these remained within the fold of the Vedic traditions, others arose in a context of a more ambiguous relationship between the two. Two of these have survived to the present day as Buddhism and Jainism. The volume describes the major role Buddhism played in the history not only of India but of Asia, and now the world as well, and the more confined role of Jainism in India until relatively recent times. It examines the followers of these religions and their influence on the Indian religious landscape. In addition, it depicts the transformative effect on existing traditions of the encounter of Hinduism with these two religions, as well as the fertile interaction between the three. The book shows how Buddhism and Jainism share the basic concepts of karma, rebirth, and liberation with Hinduism while giving them their own hue, and how they differ from the Hindu tradition in their understanding of the role of the Vedas, the “caste system,” and ritualism in religious life. The volume contributes to the debate on whether the proper way of describing the relationship between the three major components of the classical Indic tradition is to treat them as siblings (sometimes as even exhibiting sibling rivalry), or as friends (sometimes even exhibiting schadenfreude), or as radical alternatives to one another, or all of these at different points in time. The essays in this volume focus on philosophical, theological, and structural aspects of contemporary Buddhist-Christian dialogue in an effort to assess its potential as a source for the renewal and transformation of both traditions. Writing from differing assumptions, academic disciplines, and religious world views, the nine Christian and two Buddhist contributors are nevertheless agreed that interreligious dialogue can contribute meaningfully to our understanding of some of the profound issues arising out of modern self-consciousness. Believing that the human community and its survival are threatened everywhere by secularism, they seek to show that the dialogue between Buddhism and Christianity can provide not only insights but a conceptual framework for authentic living in the present age of religious pluralism. Each writer shares the conclusion that Buddhist-Christian encounter is vitally important for a larger understanding of contemporary issues of self-identity, evil, communication, and fulfillment. In this simple yet important book, Noah Rasheta takes profound Buddhist concepts and makes them easy to understand for anyone trying to become a better person—those who are already are. A personal meditation by the best-selling Buddhist philosopher of Buddhism of the world, this book introduces Western and Buddhist literature to profile the devil as a deceptive or distracting obstacle to true goodness and humility. Reprint. "Other than the devil, there is no Buddha; other than the Buddha, there is no devil." The Chinese monk Siming Zhili (960–1028) uttered this remark as part of his justification for his self-immolation. An exposition of the intent, implications, and resonances of this one sentence, this book expands and unravels the context in which the saying paradox of the ultimate identity of good and evil is to be understood. In analyzing this idea, Brook Ziporyn provides an overview of the development of Tiantai thought from the fifth through the eleventh centuries in China and Japan and our understanding of the Chinese Buddhist concept of Sunyata (Emptiness) and Chinese Buddhism, as well as to basic ontological, epistemological, and axiological issues of interest in modern philosophy. So you think you’re a Buddhist? Think again. Tibetan Buddhist master Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, one of the most creative and innovative lamas teaching today, throws down the gauntlet to the Buddhist world, challenging common misconceptions, stereotypes, and fantasies. With wit and
Irony, Khysentsu urges readers to move beyond the superficial trappings of Buddhism—beyond the romance with beads, incense, or exotic robes—straight to the heart of what the Buddha taught. An imaginative approach to spiritual practice in our times, this book explores the Buddhist path of self-knowledge and leads to self-transcendence, to the higher wisdom, to the great peace, and to an awakened life. In frightening times, we wish the world could be otherwise. With a touch of imagination, it can be. Imagination helps us see what's hidden, and it shape-shifts reality's roiling twisting waves. In this inspiring reframe of a classic Buddhist teaching, Zen teacher Norman Fischer writes that the paramitas, or “six perfections,”—wisdom, compassion, morality, ethical conduct, patience, joy, effort, meditation, and concentration—reconfigure the world we live in. Longing concerns about relationships, ethics, and consumption to our artistic inspirations and broaden Buddhist yearnings, Fischer depicts imaginative spiritual practice as a necessary resource for our troubled times.

Translations of Sutta passages on the unhonorable and wholesome roots, with the author's insightful comments. Stephen Batchelor's seminal work on humanity's struggle between good and evil in the nature of our being living with the legacy of the writings of Shantideva, Milton, and Pascal, to the poetry of Baudelaire, the fiction of Kafka, and the findings of modern physics and evolutionary biology to examine who we really are, and to rest in the uncertainty that we may never know. Like his previous bestseller, Buddhism without Beliefs, Living with the Devil is also an introduction that encourages readers to make peace with the demons that haunt human life. He tells a poetic and provocative tale about living with life's contradictions that will challenge you to see your life as an existence imbued with purpose, freedom, and compassion—rather than habitual self-interest and fear.

This indispensable volume is a lucid and faithful account of the Buddha's teachings. “For years,” says the Journal of the Buddhist Society, “the newcomer to Buddhism has lacked a simple and reliable introduction to the complexities of the subject. Dr. Rahul’s What the Buddha Taught fills the need as only could be done by one having a firm grasp of the vast material to be sifted. It is a model of what a book should be that is addressed first of all to 'the educated and intelligent reader.' Authoritative and clear, logical and sober, this study is as comprehensive as it is masterly.” This edition contains a selection of illustrative texts from the Suttas and the Dhammapada (especially translated by the author), sixteen illuminations, and a bibliography and index. This book presents a brilliant account of Theravada Buddhism and embraces a wide variety of themes ranging from the birth of Buddhism to the Buddha's prophetic teachings regarding the future of mankind. Topics covered include, among many others, the background of early Buddhism; the significance of the Buddha's birthday; the Buddhist doctrines of karma and reincarnation; Buddhist concept of Nirvana, the ultimate goal of Buddhism; the Buddhist view of the material world; the Buddhist view of nature and destiny; Buddhism and the caste system; Buddhism and international law; and the contemporary relevance of the Buddha's teachings to the modern world. Professor Jayatilleke always writes with both the scholar and the lay reader in mind. As a result, this is a highly readable and extremely penetrating book—and one that explains the nature of Buddhism in contemporary terms. The present collection contains all essays earlier published in the book The Message of the Buddha, edited by Ninian Smart, as well as essays that were published the Wheel Publication series. Contents 1. Buddhism and the Scientific Revolution 2. The Historical Context of the Rise of Buddhism 3. The Buddhist Conception of Truth 4. The Buddhist Attitude to Revelation 5. The Buddhist Conception of Matter and the Material World 6. The Buddhist Analysis of Mind 7. The Buddhist Conception of the Universe 8. The Buddhist Attitude to God 9. Nibbana 10. The Buddhist View of Survival 11. The Buddhist Doctrine of Kamma 12. The Case for the Buddhist Theory of Karma and Survival 13. The Conditioned Genesis of the Individual 14. The Buddhist Ethical Ideal of the Ultimate Good 15. The Basis of Buddhist Ethics 16. The Buddhist Conception of Evil 17. The Criteria of Right and Wrong 18. The Ethical Theory of Buddhism 19. Some Aspects of the Buddhist Conception of the Universe 20. The Buddhist Attitude to the Vedas and the Upanishads 21. Buddhism and Peace 22. The Significance of Vesakha 23. Buddhism and the Race Question 24. The Principles of International Law in Buddhist DoctrineThis volume brings together some of the most distinguished thinkers in the field of religious study to consider the question of the meaning of life in the context of theologies.

Living with the Devil is a sequel to Batchelor’s previous book Buddhism without Beliefs. It is masterly.” This edition contains a selection of illustrative texts from the Suttas and the Dhammapada (especially translated by the author), sixteen illuminations, and a bibliography and index. This book presents a brilliant account of Theravada Buddhism and embraces a wide variety of themes ranging from the birth of Buddhism to the Buddha's prophetic teachings regarding the future of mankind. Topics covered include, among many others, the background of early Buddhism; the significance of the Buddha's birthday; the Buddhist doctrines of karma and reincarnation; Buddhist concept of Nirvana, the ultimate goal of Buddhism; the Buddhist view of the material world; the Buddhist view of nature and destiny; Buddhism and the caste system; Buddhism and international law; and the contemporary relevance of the Buddha's teachings to the modern world. Professor Jayatilleke always writes with both the scholar and the lay reader in mind. As a result, this is a highly readable and extremely penetrating book—and one that explains the nature of Buddhism in contemporary terms. The present collection contains all essays earlier published in the book The Message of the Buddha, edited by Ninian Smart, as well as essays that were published the Wheel Publication series. Contents 1. Buddhism and the Scientific Revolution 2. The Historical Context of the Rise of Buddhism 3. The Buddhist Conception of Truth 4. The Buddhist Attitude to Revelation 5. The Buddhist Conception of Matter and the Material World 6. The Buddhist Analysis of Mind 7. The Buddhist Conception of the Universe 8. The Buddhist Attitude to God 9. Nibbana 10. The Buddhist View of Survival 11. The Buddhist Doctrine of Kamma 12. The Case for the Buddhist Theory of Karma and Survival 13. The Conditioned Genesis of the Individual 14. The Buddhist Ethical Ideal of the Ultimate Good 15. The Basis of Buddhist Ethics 16. The Buddhist Conception of Evil 17. The Criteria of Right and Wrong 18. The Ethical Theory of Buddhism 19. Some Aspects of the Buddhist Conception of the Universe 20. The Buddhist Attitude to the Vedas and the Upanishads 21. Buddhism and Peace 22. The Significance of Vesakha 23. Buddhism and the Race Question 24. The Principles of International Law in Buddhist DoctrineThis volume brings together some of the most distinguished thinkers in the field of religious study to consider the question of the meaning of life in the context of theologies.
and human consciousness: the evil of terrorism, the evil of secular culture, concern for poverty, and climate change. Yet different cultures and religious traditions have different ideas of what evil is and what its root causes are. Although there is no massive clash of cultures, many disagreements and also conflicts in the world arise from the deep differences in views of evil. This volume explores religious views of evil. Scholars from different religions and from various parts of the world describe how people probe the depths of evil—and by necessity that of good—from their own background in various worldviews. In their explorations, almost all address the need to go beyond morality, and beyond legalistic definitions of evil and of good. They point to the radical depths of evil in the world and in human society and reinforce our intuition that there is no easy solution. But if we can gain a better understanding of what people from other worldview traditions and cultures consider evil, we are that much closer to a more peaceful world. Perfectionism is one of the great moralities of the Western tradition. It holds that certain states of humans, such as knowledge, achievement, and friendship, are good apart from any pleasure they may bring, and that the morally right act is always the one that most promotes these states. Defined more narrowly, perfectionism identifies the human good by reference to human nature: if knowledge and achievement are good, it is because they realize aspects of human nature. This book gives an account of perfectionism, first in the narrower sense, analyzing its central concepts and defending a theory of human nature in which rationality plays a central role. It then uses this theory to construct an elaborate account of the intrinsic value of beliefs and actions that embody rationality, and applies this account to political questions about liberty and equality. The book attempts to formulate the most defensible version of perfectionism, using contemporary analytic techniques. It aims both to regain for perfectionism a central place in contemporary moral debate and to shed light on the writings of classical perfectionists such as Aristotle, Aquinas, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and T.H. Green. Peace, culture, and education from a Buddhist perspective. Siddhartha is an allegorical novel by Hermann Hesse which deals with the spiritual journey of an Indian boy called Siddhartha during the time of the Buddha. The book was written in German, in a simple, yet powerful and lyrical style. It was first published in 1922, after Hesse had spent some time in India in the 1910s. The story revolves around a young man who leaves his home and family on a quest for the Truth. Embarking on a journey that takes him from the austerities of renunciation to the profigacy of wealth. That leads him through the range of human experiences from hunger and want, to passion, pleasure, pain, greed, yearning, boredom, love, despair and hope. A journey that leads finally to the river, where he gains peace and eventually wisdom. This is the story of Siddhartha as told by Nobel Laureate Hermann Hesse in his most influential work. Does religion have something positive to offer the 21st century (and beyond)? Or is it a vestige of the Iron Age that ought to be contained in museums, preferably under bell jars? More critically, is it even possible to be religious and also be a rational and entirely modern participant in 21st-century civilization? Is it possible to live a devotional, religious life today without denying science or otherwise being assimilated by some religious-authoritarian Borg? Rethinking Religion argues that today's clown-shoes religiosity is an infantile caricature of religion that the great theologians, scholars, saints and sages of the past wouldn't recognize as religion at all. Religion may be salvageable, and may even be beneficial, but only if we can rediscover what it is and how to make use of it. Rethinking Religion is a proposal for how we might do this. This book is not written from any one sectarian position. The author was raised Christian in the Bible Belt, but she has been a formal student of Soto Zen Buddhism for many years and is currently the expert on Buddhism for the reference website About.com. The perspectives in Rethinking Religion apply to all the world's religious great religious traditions - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and the rest of them. The author also is supportive of atheism and does not think everyone has to be religious. Along the way, the author explains why Christian megachurches turn Christ into McJesus; why being “spiritual but not religious” may not be a good idea; why Buddhists in Sri Lanka and Burma (Myanmar) are turning violent; and why people join cults and believe ridiculous things. This book also challenges assumptions - why “faith” is not the same as “belief”; why some atheists aren’t nearly skeptical enough; why “reality” may not be what you think it is; why morality doesn’t have to be tied to religion; and why there may be a God, but if so, God isn’t God - or at least, any God you can imagine. Today, most of the ongoing violent conflicts around the globe have a connection to religion. Recent studies reveal that religion-based violence is on the rise, in fact. In many ways religion has become a millstone around humanity’s neck, holding us back from our potential to live in peace and harmony and enjoy the blessings of science. Rethinking Religion will show you that it doesn’t have to be this way, and argues that enlightened religion is the most effective weapon against oppressive and stupid religion.