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Discourse, authority, demand : the politics of early English publications on Buddhism

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Abstract

A defining feature of Buddhism in its modern Asian and Western traditions is the assumption that Buddha Sakyamuni and the assumption that he was the founder of Buddhism. The various translated modern Buddhisms depend on it. It is the premise that early modern Buddhism is a rational, humanist philosophy. It justified the dismissal by early scholars of Buddhism as institutional religion, the stripping away of two thousand years of “cultural baggage” and a universal teaching that transcended cultural, geographic and chronological boundaries. The meditation beneath a tree provides the model for modern Buddhism. This is a certain arrogance among some Western Buddhists who feel; that their teachings are more advanced than that of traditional Asian practitioners.

▼ Details

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Translation as Transmission and Transformation, numerous calculations predict and unstable.

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