

Transcending Time and Tradition: "Daughters of Emptiness: Poems of Chinese Buddhist Nuns"



Daughters of Emptiness: Poems of Chinese Buddhist

Nuns by Beata Grant

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 210 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



In a world often dominated by male voices, the poetry of Chinese Buddhist nuns has long been hidden from view. But in the groundbreaking anthology "Daughters of Emptiness," editor and translator Charles Hartman brings these remarkable women to light, showcasing their profound and beautiful verse that transcends time and tradition.

A Tapestry of Voices

Spanning over a millennium, from the 5th to the 16th centuries, the poems in "Daughters of Emptiness" encompass a wide range of experiences, emotions, and perspectives. These nuns were not merely passive observers of life but active participants in a transformative spiritual journey.

Their poetry reflects their struggles, doubts, and triumphs as they sought enlightenment and liberation.

Some of the most striking poems in the collection explore the nature of emptiness, the Buddhist concept that all phenomena are inherently void of self-existence. In the poem "Silent Illumination," the Tang-dynasty nun Huiyuan writes:



***“Emptiness, emptiness, no thing to cling to,
Yet the myriad forms arise and pass.
Silent illumination, no path to follow,
Yet the mind's true nature shines forth.”***

Here, Huiyuan captures the paradox of emptiness, revealing that it is not a void but a source of infinite potential. By embracing emptiness, we can let go of our attachments and experience the true nature of reality.

Women of Wisdom and Courage

The nuns featured in "Daughters of Emptiness" were not only spiritual seekers but also women of extraordinary wisdom and courage. They lived in a society that often marginalized women, yet they refused to be silenced. Through their poetry, they asserted their voices and shared their insights into the human condition.

One such nun was the Song-dynasty poetess Li Qingzhao. Known for her lyricism and passion, Li Qingzhao wrote movingly about the joys and

sorrows of love, loss, and exile. In the poem "The River's Fury," she laments the loss of her homeland:

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***The river's fury, the boat's perilous plight,
As I flee from the chaos of war.
My heart aches for my home, now lost to sight,
And my thoughts wander, like a boat adrift.”***

Li Qingzhao's words resonate with anyone who has experienced the pain of displacement. Her poem is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of poetry to heal our wounds.

Insights into Buddhist Practice

Beyond its literary value, "Daughters of Emptiness" offers valuable insights into the practice of Buddhism. The poems reveal the nuns' struggles with doubt, attachment, and the search for enlightenment. They also provide practical guidance on meditation, mindfulness, and the cultivation of compassion.

In the poem "Mind's Mirror," the Tang-dynasty nun Liu Caichun writes:



***“The mind's mirror, clear and bright,
Reflects the world's myriad forms.
But if dust gathers on its surface,
The true nature of things is obscured.”***

This poem reminds us of the importance of purifying our minds and cultivating clarity. By letting go of attachments and distractions, we can develop a deeper understanding of the world around us.

A Legacy for the Ages

"Daughters of Emptiness" is not only a collection of beautiful poems but also a testament to the enduring legacy of Chinese Buddhist nuns. These women played a vital role in the development of Buddhism in China and

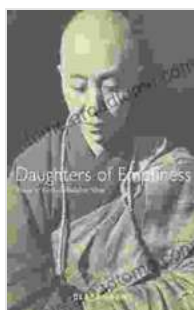
beyond. Their poetry inspires us to question our assumptions, embrace diversity, and seek a deeper connection with ourselves and the world.

Whether you are a seasoned Buddhist practitioner, a lover of poetry, or simply curious about the voices of women throughout history, "Daughters of Emptiness" is a must-read. This extraordinary anthology opens a window into a hidden world of spiritual wisdom and poetic beauty.

Free Download Your Copy Today

Free Download your copy of "Daughters of Emptiness: Poems of Chinese Buddhist Nuns" today and embark on a transformative journey through time and tradition. Let the voices of these remarkable women guide you on your own path of enlightenment and discovery.

Available in paperback, hardcover, and e-book formats from all major retailers.



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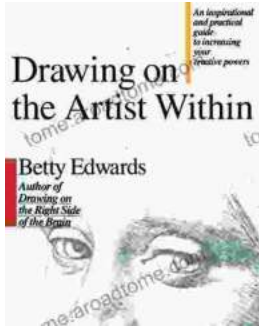
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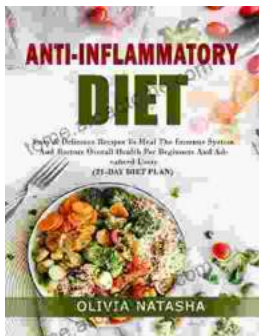
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