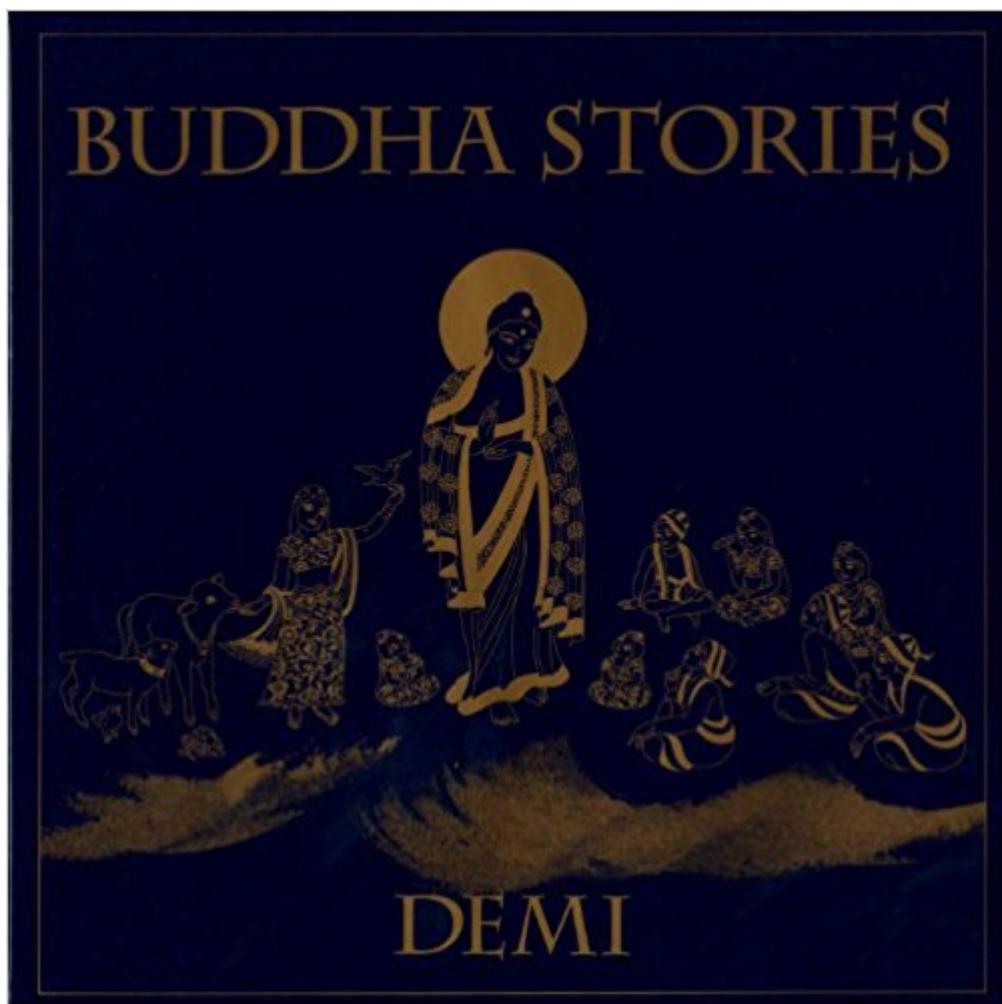


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## Buddha Stories



## **Synopsis**

A golden goose demonstrates the wealth of kindness. A rabbit learns not to believe everything he hears. Throughout the ages, moral tales have been passed down from one generation to the next. Centuries ago in China, hundreds of parables were told by the Buddha to his devoted followers. His messages became widespread through fables adapted by famous storytellers like Aesop and La Fontaine. In this collection, the author has chosen ten of the most engaging classic tales from the Buddha's works. Compiled and illustrated by Demi, this wonderful collection of stories is sure to draw young readers into the ancient teachings of the Buddha, teachings that are as relevant today as they were over two thousand years ago.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 28 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1st edition (March 15, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805048863

ISBN-13: 978-0805048865

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #491,557 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Buddhist #11 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Buddhism #26 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Eastern

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Some originals of the earliest Chinese-Buddhist sutras still exist--printed in gold ink on deep indigo paper. To see one is to sink into it. Demi, devout Buddhist and illustrator of children's literature, recreates the stories in the form of a children's book with smooth writing and stunning brushwork. These moral tales, taken from Jataka literature of Buddhism, relate engaging incidents among humans and animals that highlight a valuable lesson, each complete with a final moral. Children are sure to fall in love with this masterful combination of art and moral education.

Grade 2-7. Many of the over 500 Jataka tales can be accessed in various editions, but the 10

simple stories Demi presents here are rich in significance and provide a fine introduction to the genre. These fables have explicit morals: "The greatest wealth is the wealth of kindness," "Don't be deceived by a donkey in a lion's skin," but there is often more to the tale than the stated meaning. The turtle, who clamps his jaws on a stick to enable his geese-friends to carry him through the air, meets an untimely end when he tries to defend himself from teasing. The moral, "Disaster can come from opening your mouth at the wrong time," might equally be "Pride goeth before a fall," or "If turtles were meant to fly they would have wings," or "When friends provide a favor, do just what they ask," or a number of other lessons. This book is designed after a model of "the world's first printed book," a woodblock sutra with text and pictures in gold on indigo paper. Demi's pen-and-gold ink lines are as firm and meticulous as ever, displaying astonishing detail and appealing composition. Unfortunately, the gold-on-indigo is not easy to read, and young children may not have the patience to decipher the images. This lovely object does honor to Buddha, however, and the tales are rewarding. <sup>?Patricia Lothrop-Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI</sup>Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

What a truly beautiful book. The introduction explaining the page and ink colors, the complexity of the illustrations and the background as the stories relate to the Lord Buddha are perfect. The moral to each story is listed at the bottom of the page and the choice of stories truly covers all facets of the Buddha's treatises and makes one realize the greatness of the man and his ideology. While the stories may not be suitable for younger children they teach valuable lessons and many adults could learn from them.

While its a beautiful idea to make the book imitate the gold text and indigo rice paper of the Buddhist sutra that was the world's first printed book, the result is barely usable. The problem is that the gold ink of the text and illustrations do not have enough contrast against the indigo background that they are printed on. So its very difficult to read the book and its very difficult to look at the pictures, which means the book fails my purpose of buying it. This is sad because I really would like some Buddhist books for children. I do hope the author/illustrator tries again, but this time with the audience in mind instead of the desire to create a beautiful object.

Too disappoint me. It is just some pages.

Excellent

I love all of the books Demi has written. The words and illustrations flow so beautifully together. Everyone should add Demi, to their collection.

A recent smart classroom of mine had some trouble figuring out the morals to the story but this is a good thing!

Buddha Stories is a collection of fables told by the Buddha. These stories emphasize compassion, kindness, wisdom, restraint, generosity, and humility. I especially enjoyed the story of The Turtle and the Geese. The moral of this story is that disaster can come from opening your mouth at the wrong time. Each story is accompanied by a painting in gold ink and indigo paper; in fact, the entire book is printed in gold and indigo. Though a short book designed for younger readers, adults will gain a great deal of wisdom from Buddha Stories.

An excellent book. Most of the stories have a theme of wonderful compassion and it is set out in such way that children are encouraged to think about what is really of value in life. We borrowed this book from the library many times.

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