



Buddhisms

Then, Now, Tomorrow



Magnus Buddha; maior autem Veritas

Robert Ilson

This is a collection of variations on Buddhist themes based on the notion that despite the deep sadness (=dukkha) due to the ineluctable decay of everything compound, the mindful contemplation of dukkha (as in meditation) is not itself dukkha but an important step towards dukkha's transcendence.

Some of the material here has been published elsewhere, in *The Middle Way*, *The Secular Buddhist Review*, *Quaker Voices*, *De Numine*.

N.B. The Latin epigraph, on the front cover, "*Magnus Buddha; maior autem Veritas*", can be translated as "*Great is the Buddha; greater however is Truth.*"

Copyright © Robert Ilson

ISBN 978-1-5272-7710-6

Acknowledgements

Pentameters Press

Mae Walsh, Virtual PA, t/as Outsource HQ

Printed and bound in the UK by Printline, London NW3 2AG

Website: www.printlinenw3.co.uk

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| What Is Nibbana and How to Attain It | 1 |
| Of Onions and <i>Anatta</i> | 3 |
| Two Important (but rather Overlooked) Episodes in Human History | 5 |
| A Buddhist Utopia from an Unlikely Source | 8 |
| <i>Metta</i> Meditation from Loving-Kindness to Fellow-Feeling | 11 |
| The Limits of Buddhist Meditation | 13 |
| Three Ways to Console a Madwoman | 16 |
| Buddhism and Rebirth | 19 |
| The Ugly Cygnet | 23 |
| A Buddhist Case for Assisted Dying | 25 |
| Right Speech: A Linguistic Perspective on a Buddhist Precept | 29 |
| The Crucifixion: A Buddhist Interpretation | 31 |
| SG: Awkward Reverence | 34 |
| Buddhist Poems | 36 |
| Multum in Parvo: A Lot in a Little | 37 |