Sanskrit texts into easily readable English for the general educated public interested in Buddhism or philosophy. Notes and separate Essays dealing with the philosophical content are also included. Presented in this volume are the central philosophical writings of the last two prominent Indian Madhyamikas and two Madhyamaka critiques of the idea of a creator God. Parts of two works by Chandrakirti are presented: Chapter 6 of Entering the Middle Way (Madhyamakavatara) and core chapters of his Clearly-worded Commentary (Prasannapada) on Nagarjuna’s Fundamental Verses on the Middle Way. Chapters 8 and 9 of Shantideva’s Entering the Bodhisattva’s Path (Bodhicaryavatara) are presented, and notes and a separate Essay dealing with the philosophical content are also included. Bhavaviveka’s Verses on the Heart of the Middle Way (Madhyamakahridayakarikas) on a creator God, and The Refutation of Vishnu as the One Creator (Vishnorekakartritvanirakaranam) attributed to Nagarjuna are also included.

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The Dialectical Method of Nāgārjuna

Culture And Self

Traditional scholars of philosophy and religion, both East and West, often place a major emphasis on analyzing the nature of “the self.” In recent decades, there has been a renewed interest in analyzing self, but most scholars have not claimed knowledge of an ahistorical, objective, essential self free from all cultural determinants. The contributors of this volume recognize the need to contextualize specific views of self and to analyze such views in terms of the dynamic, dialectical relations between self and culture. The various features of this book are that all of the chapters not only focus on traditions and individuals, but also include as primary emphases comparative philosophy, religion, and culture, emphasizing individual and cultural creativity. Each chapter brings specific Eastern and Western perspectives into a dynamic, comparative relation. This comparative orientation emphasizes our growing sense of interrelatedness and interdependency.