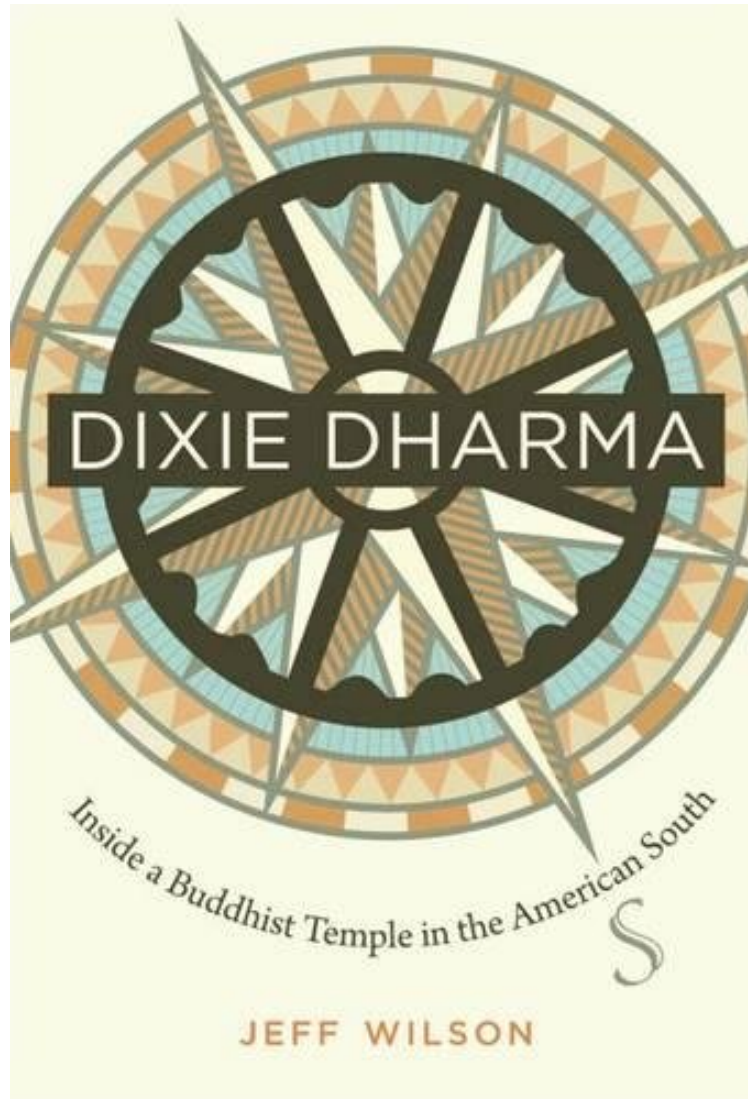


[Download pdf ebook] Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South

Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South

Jeff Wilson

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Jeff Wilson : Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Richmond's Ekoji Buddhist Sangha has a great storyBy Uncle DanJeff Wilson provides us with a detailed description of the unique Buddhist temple in Richmond, Virginia. It houses several different Buddhist groups -- Pure Land, Zen, Vipassana, Tibetan and a more secular meditation group. They all get along and cooperate to keep the institution vital.The story of the institution's founding by the Reverend

Kenryu Tsuji is worth the price of the book. Toward the end of his life, after serving as bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, Tsuji looked for opportunities to spread the dharma in the South. He began two temples in Virginia that took very different paths through the years. Wilson may be less successful in his argument that the Richmond Ekoji Sangha represents a Southern regional Buddhist institution. It owes much to its context in Richmond, but its unique model hasn't been duplicated elsewhere in the South. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful for any southern Buddhist. By crowtales I found this to be a wonderfully insightful text for any Buddhist living in the South, or trying to understand Buddhism in the South. My only complaint is that I want to see more of what he's investigating - I want more information and study on Buddhism in the South in general. The specific limitations of the study and information presented here leave me wondering of what details could be found in other cities. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A lot of lessons for those of us in the south. By Mettai Cherry This book is very academic and thus not as enjoyable a read as I would have liked. Never the less, as a southern buddhist trying to make a go of creating and sustaining a Sangha in the south, it offers some perspective. It would be nice to have a broader version of this looking at more states as well.

Buddhism in the United States is often viewed in connection with practitioners in the Northeast and on the West Coast, but in fact, it has been spreading and evolving throughout the United States since the mid-nineteenth century. In *Dixie Dharma*, Jeff Wilson argues that region is crucial to understanding American Buddhism. Through the lens of a multid denominational Buddhist temple in Richmond, Virginia, Wilson explores how Buddhists are adapting to life in the conservative evangelical Christian culture of the South, and how traditional Southerners are adjusting to these newer members on the religious landscape. Introducing a host of overlooked characters, including Buddhist circuit riders, modernist Pure Land priests, and pluralistic Buddhists, Wilson shows how regional specificity manifests itself through such practices as meditation vigils to heal the wounds of the slave trade. He argues that southern Buddhists at once use bodily practices, iconography, and meditation tools to enact distinct sectarian identities even as they enjoy a creative hybridity.

The power of this book is that for the first time . . . we are given access to the actual experiences of people practicing Buddhism in the South.--Buddhadharma Wilson's contribution to American religious history and American Buddhist studies is admirable.--Journal of Southern Religion Scholars who are interested in American Buddhist pluralism or inter-lineage dynamics will want to read Wilson's presentation. . . . *Dixie Dharma* represents a capable resource for the study of Buddhist pluralism and Buddhist regionalism.--Nova Religio Wilson's highly readable study is an excellent, much-needed contribution to American religious history in general, and in particular to the study of American Buddhism. . . . Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.--Choice This will be enlightening and well worth reading by those specializing in religious studies or interested in American regional cultures.--Library Journal Wilson presents an impressive view of a plural Buddhism finding a place in the midst of the evangelical South.--Religion in American History Effectively employ[s] regionalism to identify and understand interesting new trends.--Journal of Contemporary Religion An important reminder that while broad studies of religious identity are important, they must be seasoned with ethnographic views from below. . . . Graduate students looking for dissertation project should consult Wilson's forward facing conclusion.--Sociology of Religion Deftly combines theoretical discussion, well-grounded history, and ethnographic observation and analysis in a readable whole with broad appeal and utility across scholarly disciplines.--Journal of American Culture With accessible and clear prose, Jeff Wilson traces the pluralistic Buddhism practiced in the American South and explores the many and varied ways in which regional dynamics influence Buddhist organizations and practitioners to create this vibrant community. This is a book of real importance.--Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University This truly excellent work brings to the fore the undeniable importance of regionalism in the study of Buddhism in America. It should not only reconfigure the field, but it should also cross over and influence the broader fields of American religion and religion in the South.--Peter N. Gregory, Smith College About the Author Jeff Wilson is associate professor of religious studies and East Asian studies at Renison University College, University of Waterloo.