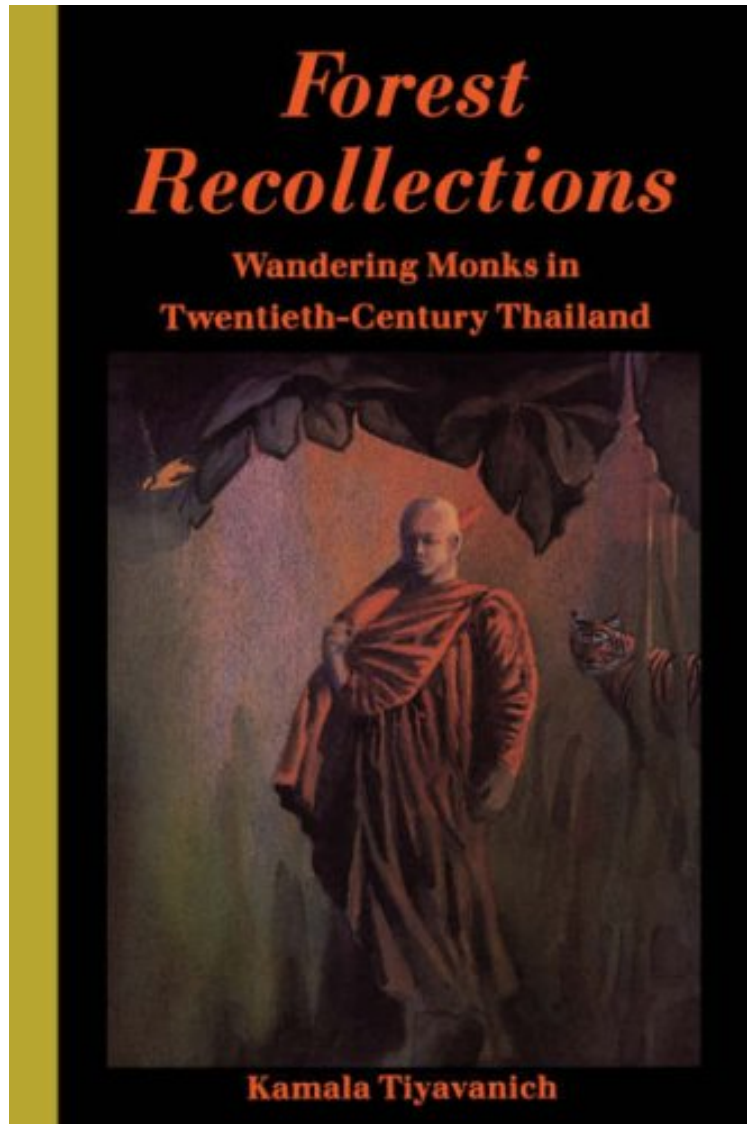


[Download free pdf] Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand

Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand

Tiyavanich Kamala

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Tiyavanich Kamala : Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this book By Cenaculum I really enjoyed this book. Despite having (I thought) a fairly wide general of knowledge about Buddhism, I really didn't know anything about

these forest monks in particular. My interest is mostly with research into ascetic practices of Hindu renouncers, and this book gave me a lot of new material to consider. In some ways it is a sad tale, these monks, motivated by a real thirst for liberation, chose hard asceticism for their spiritual path and despite their daily struggles, they are harassed by the central Bangkok religious authority. For me the whole book is an education in the failures of organized religion wherein authority is given to administrators who do not engage in meditation. Very little good comes from that, as you will discover in this excellent book.

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Facing your Fears in the Forest By Jacqueline R. St John I live in the North Highlands Forest in WI. The urban lifestyle I departed from before coming here to live permanently did not develop the sensitivities this environment requires. I noticed I was "afraid to go out" I might encounter bears, wolves, coyotes etc. I might get eaten etc. This book deals with it all. The Forest Monks have taken their place in the forest as part of the cycle of life and achieved harmony with the various animals. The meditations are very useful and appropriate for those dealing with the transformation and assimilation into life in the forest. Anecdotes of encounters were very helpful in letting go of the fear factor. I wrote this review so I haven't been eaten by a pack of coyotes yet. But I hear the Moon Dogs singing around my house often. I enjoy their vocalizations now that I am not scared half to death of them.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Forest Recollections : Wandering monk in Thailand By edmond Very good book . This was exactly what I was looking for, since long time. This is a very well and detailed information concerning the forest monks in Thailand .

"I stayed [in the forest] for two nights. The first night, nothing happened. The second night, at about one or two in the morning, a tiger came--which meant that I didn't get any sleep the whole night. I sat in meditation, scared stiff, while the tiger walked around and around my umbrella tent (klot). My body felt all frozen and numb. I started chanting, and the words came out like running water. All the old chants I had forgotten now came back to me, thanks both to my fear and to my ability to keep my mind under control. I sat like this from 2 until 5 a.m., when the tiger finally left." --A forest monk

During the first half of this century the forests of Thailand were home to wandering ascetic monks. They were Buddhists, but their brand of Buddhism did not copy the practices described in ancient doctrinal texts. Their Buddhism found expression in living day-to-day in the forest and in contending with the mental and physical challenges of hunger, pain, fear, and desire. Combining interviews and biographies with an exhaustive knowledge of archival materials and a wide reading of ephemeral popular literature, Kamala Tiyavanich documents the monastic lives of three generations of forest-dwelling ascetics and challenges the stereotype of state-centric Thai Buddhism. Although the tradition of wandering forest ascetics has disappeared, a victim of Thailand's relentless modernization and rampant deforestation, the lives of the monks presented here are a testament to the rich diversity of regional Buddhist traditions. The study of these monastic lineages and practices enriches our understanding of Buddhism in Thailand and elsewhere.

An unusual, enjoyable, thought-provoking and important book-- "Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute" Kamala's book is a noteworthy, readable contribution to Buddhist studies and belongs in every university library.-- "Religious Studies "What [Kamala] sets out to do, with magnificent success, is to use the (auto)biographies of ascetic monks, her own interviews and other conventional historical materials to reconstruct their lifestyle, their gradual subsumption into the nationalist culture of the Bangkok elite, and their final near-elimination through the destruction of forests which were their main habitat.-- "Times Literary Supplement" An unusual, enjoyable, thought-provoking and important book (Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute) Kamala's book is a noteworthy, readable contribution to Buddhist studies and belongs in every university library. (Religious Studies)What [Kamala] sets out to do, with magnificent success, is to use the (auto)biographies of ascetic monks, her own interviews and other conventional historical materials to reconstruct their lifestyle, their gradual subsumption into the nationalist culture of the Bangkok elite, and their final near-elimination through the destruction of forests which were their main habitat. (Times Literary Supplement) From the Back Cover During the first half of this century the forest of Thailand were home to wandering ascetic monks. They were Buddhists, but their brand of Buddhism did not copy the practices described in ancient doctrinal text. Combining interviews and biographies with an exhaustive knowledge of archival materials and a wide reading of ephemeral popular literature, kamala Tiyavanich documents the monastic lives of three generations of forest-dwelling ascetics and challenges the stereotype of state-centric Thai Buddhism.