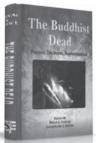
done with the knowledge and understanding of the import of the sublime verses. This book may be considered ideal for that kind of fruitful recitation, as both the verses and their meanings are presented in a compact and tidy format. In short, this book may serve as a launching pad for serious spiritual aspirants keen on joining the spiritual odyssey that the song celestial offers so invitingly.

The popularity of this book is evident from the multiple editions it has gone through. This book is reasonably priced to make it affordable to all English-knowing public.

N Hariharan Madurai



#### The Buddhist Dead

Eds. Bryan J Cuevas and Jacqueline I Stone

Motilal Banarsidass, 41, U A Bungalow Road, Jawahar Nagar, New Delhi 110 007. x + 491 pp. ₹795. ISBN 9788120834248.

Death has always been intriguing and all major religions have developed rituals and practices to face it. Buddhism has for centuries converted the moroseness of death into an effective way to remind one of the impermanence of the world. This book ventures into a comparative study of traditions of handling death focusing on Sri Lanka, China, Japan, Tibet, and Burma.

Various beliefs of the afterlife are explored in this anthology of essays. This book does not restrict itself to the texts and doctrines regarding the Buddhist treatment of death but also focuses on the real-life practices, rituals, and also cultural implications. The giving up of the body or suicide for spiritual reasons has been dealt with by James Benn and D Max Moerman. The relationships of the dead and the living are discussed by Bryan J Cuevas, John Clifford Holt, and Matthew T Kapstein, while Hank Glassman, Mark Rowe, and Jason A Carbine talk about different funeral practices. With glossaries for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean characters and an elaborate index, this book is a unique peek into Buddhist practices regarding the dead and deserves attention by researchers, students, and admirers of this religion.

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