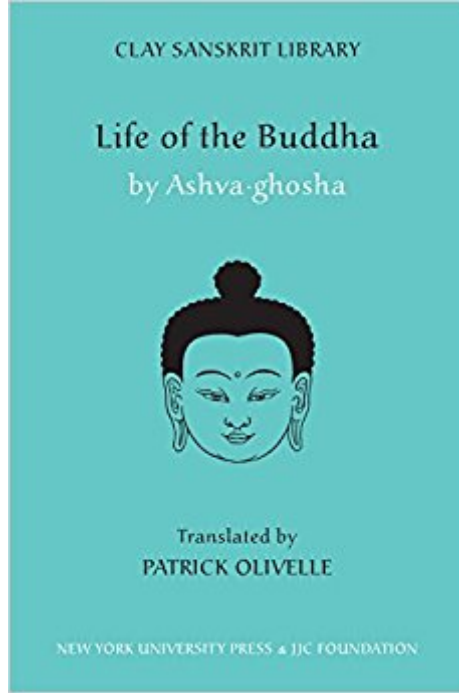




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# **Life Of The Buddha (Clay Sanskrit Library)**



## Synopsis

The Buddhist monk Ashvaśāśa composed Life of the Buddha in the first or second century CE probably in Ayāfā dhyā. This is the earliest surviving text of the Sanskrit literary genre called kavya and probably provided models for Kalidāsa's more famous works. The most poignant scenes on the path to his Awakening are when the young prince Siddhārtha, the future Buddha, is confronted by the reality of sickness, old age, and death, while seduced by the charms of the women employed to keep him at home. A poet of the highest order, Ashvaśāśa's aim is not entertainment but instruction, presenting the Buddha's teaching as the culmination of the Brahmanical tradition. His wonderful descriptions of the bodies of courtesans are ultimately meant to show the transience of beauty. Co-published by New York University Press and the JJC Foundation. For more on this title and other titles in the Clay Sanskrit series, please visit <http://www.claysanskritlibrary.org>

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

—•The books line up on my shelf like bright Bodhisattvas ready to take tough questions or keep quiet company. They stake out a vast territory, with works from two millennia in multiple genres: aphorism, lyric, epic, theater, and romance.—•Willis G. Regier, The Chronicle Review—•Very few collections of Sanskrit deep enough for research are housed anywhere in North America. Now, twenty-five hundred years after the death of Shakyamuni Buddha, the

ambitious Clay Sanskrit Library may remedy this state of affairs. Tricycle The Clay Sanskrit Library represents one of the most admirable publishing projects now afoot. . . . Anyone who loves the look and feel and heft of books will delight in these elegant little volumes. New Criterion No effort has been spared to make these little volumes as attractive as possible to readers: the paper is of high quality, the typesetting immaculate. The founders of the series are John and Jennifer Clay, and Sanskritists can only thank them for an initiative intended to make the classics of an ancient Indian language accessible to a modern international audience. The Times Higher Education Supplement Published in the geek-chic format. BookForum

The Clay Sanskrit Library series is, without doubt, a gift from a very benevolent and gracious God (exactly which one of the 330 million is unclear however - but whichever one it is, "thank you"). One of the latest incarnations of this series, Professor Patrick Olivelle's translation of Ashvaghosha's epic poem "Life of the Buddha" is not only a thoughtful and aesthetically pleasing translation but also contains an extremely helpful and fascinating introductory essay. Worth the price of the book nearly on its own the introduction details how Ashvaghosha's work fits into its larger socio-religious milieu - engaging in a dialogue with the Brahmanical tradition over just what "real" dharma truly is. As such, it helps one understand how these traditions of Brahmanism and Buddhism interacted, challenged and developed alongside one another in conversation. I highly recommend this title, not only for the beauty and impact of the poem itself but also for the information Professor Olivelle provides on how to understand the work in its larger context.

An amazing read. A poem that offers great insight about the life of the Buddha, so many of the things are applicable to modern life as well. I take something new from this text every time I read it.

A nice translation of Asvagosha. Very lucid, easy to read, and well documented with English transliteration, glossary, and notes on cantos. A fine work, i recommend!

Unfortunately, the second half is simply summary and not narrative. The pages are placed side-by-side to the original text, so the book is actually much shorter than it appears.

Wonderful poetry. The edition accounts for the many gaps in the surviving original text without diminishing the impact of the story.

perfect size, amazing story, and Sanskrit on the left side, so you can (even without any formal instruction) see which words translate 2 wut... def buy this, dont hesitate, just buy.

This is a rewarding book that was required for class, but is now a great new edition to my library.

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