



How the Swans Came to the Lake

By Rick Fields



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This new updated edition of *How the Swans Came to the Lake* includes much new information about recent events in Buddhist groups in America and discusses such issues as spiritual authority, the role of women, and social action.

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How the Swans Came to the Lake By Rick Fields Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"If there is a lake, the swans would go there."

So said the 16th Karmapa when asked why he visited America in 1976. Of course, the Karmapa wasn't the first swan to go to the lake. In a book of immense scope, Rick Fields surveys the history of Buddhism in America from the quasi-legendary Fu-sang in the sixth century to Asian immigrant communities to the latest trends in American Buddhism. Writing as a storyteller as much as a historian, Fields takes us back to the earliest European contacts with Buddhism, most notably, Sir William Jones, who was just about to go to America on the recommendation of Ben Franklin, when at the last minute, fortunately, he chose India. His work would influence the American Transcendentalists and eventually the great Theosophist and first American convert to Buddhism, Henry Steel Olcott. A sympathetic writer, Fields is also meticulously inclusive. Besides the obvious transmitters, like D.T. Suzuki and Philip Kapleau, Fields traces the forgotten influences of Paul Carus, Ernest Fenollosa, and Dharmapala. One memorable story is of the ex-Navy submarine mechanic Heng Ju, who walked, three steps then a kowtow, over and over, all the way from San Francisco to Seattle for a berry pie. Fields has countless other stories that make *How the Swans Came to the Lake* a priceless contribution not only to Buddhism in America but to Buddhism itself. --Brian Bruya

About the Author

Rick Fields is the author of several books, including *Chop Wood, Carry Water* and *The Code of the Warrior*. He was formerly the editor of *The Vajradhatu Sun*, an international journal of Buddhism, and is currently the editor-at-large of *Tricycle: A Buddhist Review*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bernard McLaren:

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How the Swans Came to the Lake, you may tell your family, friends and also soon about your book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them read a book.

Adam Gutierrez:

The reason why? Because this How the Swans Came to the Lake is an extraordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but later it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So, it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So, still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

David Blackwood:

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