

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783315003321
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Titolo	Text as father : paternal seductions in early Mahayana Buddhist literature // Alan Cole
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley ; ; Los Angeles, : University of California Press, 2005
ISBN	9786612357589 0-520-93140-8 1-282-35758-1 1-59875-541-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (371 pages)
Collana	Buddhisms ; ; 9
Disciplina	294.3/85
Soggetti	Mahayana Buddhism Paternalism - Religious aspects - Mahayana Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism - Doctrines
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Introduction -- 1. Text as Father -- 2. Who's Your Daddy Now? Reissued Paternity in the Lotus Stra -- 3. The Domino Effect: Everyone and His Brother Convert to the Lotus Stra -- 4. "Be All You Can't Be" and Other Gainful Losses in the Diamond Stra -- 5. Sameness with a Difference in the Tathgatagarbha Stra -- 6. Vimalakrti, or Why Bad Boys Finish First -- Conclusion. A Cavalier Attitude toward Truth-Fathers -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	This beautifully written work sheds new light on the origins and nature of Mahayana Buddhism with close readings of four well-known texts--the Lotus Sutra, Diamond Sutra, Tathagatagarbha Sutra, and Vimalakirtinirdesa. Treating these sutras as literary works rather than as straightforward philosophic or doctrinal treatises, Alan Cole argues that these writings were carefully sculpted to undermine traditional monastic Buddhism and to gain legitimacy and authority for Mahayana Buddhism as it was veering away from Buddhism's older oral and institutional forms. His sophisticated and sustained analysis of the narrative structures and seductive literary strategies used in these

sutras suggests that they were specifically written to encourage devotion to the written word instead of other forms of authority, be they human, institutional, or iconic.

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