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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; Original Title Page; Table of Contents; INTRODUCTION. THE AUTHENTICITY OF BUDDHISM; Purpose of this work: the knowledge of Buddhism enables us to judge some of our contemporary systems. General view of the Buddhist doctrine; the absence of God and belief in annihilation. Authenticity of Buddhism. The works of Hodgson, Csoma of Koros, Turnour, Burnouf, and Remusat. Original Sanskrit and Pali writings. Tibetan, Mongolian, Chinese, Burmese, and Siamese tran; PART I. THE ORIGIN OF BUDDHISM; CHAPTER I. Birth of the Buddha; his education; his marriage he chooses his wife Gopa. The Buddha's meditations his vocation encouraged by the gods; the four visions; the young prince's determination; resistance of his father and family; he flies from Kapilavastu. His studies at Vaisali and Rajagriha; his five companions; he renounces the world. His retreat of six years; CHAPTER II. The Legend of the Buddha. Analysis of the Lalita-vistara. Prologue in the Tushita heaven. The four investigations; the Buddha's address; his departure and incarnation in Maya-Devi's womb. The gods pay homage. Birth of the Buddha his seven steps. The Brahman Asita's prophecy. The Buddha victoriously

resists the attacks and temptations of Mara, god of love, sin
CHAPTER III. General character of Buddhist ethics derived from the canonical writings of the Councils. The Three Basketfuls, and the Three Pearls; the Four Noble Truths; the Ten Precepts; the Twelve Observances specially applicable to monks, on clothing, food, and residence; the six transcendent Virtues, and the secondary Virtues; confession, family duties, preaching. Influence of Buddhist ethics on individuals and governments

CHAPTER IV. Metaphysics of Buddhism, or Abhidharma. Transmigration its unlimited compass from man to inert matter. Obscurity of the Buddhist doctrine on the origin of transmigration. Explanation of human destiny by the Connecting Chain of the twelve reciprocal Causes. Theory of Nirvana, or Eternal Salvation by annihilation. The Dhyana

CHAPTER V. Critical study of Buddhism. Its merits: practical tendency, contempt of wealth, charity, sentiment of equality, meekness, austerity, resignation, horror of falsehood, respect for family ties. Its faults: social impotence, egotism, no idea of duty, ignorance of justice and liberty, scepticism, incurable despair, error as regards life and human personality, atheism. General condemnation of Buddhism. Opinions of Bayle and Voltaire on the atheism of China
PART II. BUDDHISM IN INDIA IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA

CHAPTER I. Life of Hiouen-Thsang. The importance of his travels in India

Sommario/riassunto

First published in 1914, this is a fascinating investigation of the origins of Buddhism, drawing on a wealth of evidence relating to the life and teachings of the Buddha. First considering how the study of the Buddhist doctrine can be used to critique religious systems such as Christianity, Barthelemy Saint-Hilaire proceeds to discuss Buddhism at three different periods of its history: the life and legend of the Buddha as demonstrated within canonical works, Buddhism in India during the seventh century, and finally, Buddhism in Sri Lanka (formally 'Ceylon') at the start of the twentieth century.
