

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910973580803321
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Titolo	Religious giving and the invention of karma in Theravada Buddhism / / James R. Egge
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2013
ISBN	1-136-85922-5 1-138-86262-2 1-315-02904-9 1-136-85915-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (204 p.)
Collana	Curzon studies in Asian religion
Disciplina	294.391
Soggetti	Karma Theravada Buddhism - Doctrines Generosity - Religious aspects - Buddhism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published in 2002 by Curzon Press.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; Introduction: Question and Method; Meritorious giving and mental purification: one path or two?; Sacrifice and karma in the suttas and in history; The plan of this book; Part One Sacrifice and Karma in Didactic Verse and Discursive Prose; Chapter One: The Discourse of Sacrifice; The structure of Brahmanical sacrifice; Almsgiving as meritorious sacrifice; Uposatha observance as meritorious votive asceticism; Almsgiving as transfer of sacrificial substance; Why sacrifice? Another ideology of the giftChapter Two: The Discourse of Karma; Karma in early Buddhist prose literature; Representations of Vedic sacrifice in karmic prose; The reduction of sacrifice to karma; Why karma?; The invention of karma in ancient South Asia; Part Two Sacrifice and Karma in Narrative; Chapter Three: The Centrality of Sacrifice in Vimanavatthu and Petavatthu; Meritorious and demeritorious acts; Eschatology and cosmology; The attainment of nirvana; The dedication of dakshina; Representations of givers Chapter Four: The Commentaries' Karmic Retelling of the Vimanavatthu

and Petavatthu Narratives
Meritorious and demeritorious acts;
Eschatology and cosmology; The dedication of daksina and the
dedication of merit; The social context of progress toward nirvana;
Chapter Five: Giving as Sacrifice, Karma, and Heroic Generosity in
Sihalavatthupakarana; Meritorious acts and their fruits; The
attainment of nirvana; Demeritorious acts and the dedication of gifts;
The social context of giving and of progress toward nirvana; Afterword:
Doctrine and Narrative; Notes; Bibliography
Editions and translations of primary texts
Secondary literature; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Demonstrates that Buddhists appropriated the practice, vocabulary, and
ideology of sacrifice from Vedic religion, and discusses the relationship
of this sacrificial discourse to ideas of karma in the Pali canon and in
early Buddhism.
