



# **A RECORD OF BUDDHISTIC KINGDOMS**

**JAMES LEGGE**

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# A RECORD OF BUDDHISTIC KINGDOMS

BEING AN ACCOUNT BY THE CHINESE MONK FA-HIEN OF HIS  
TRAVELS IN INDIA AND CEYLON (A.D. 399-414) IN SEARCH OF  
THE BUDDHIST BOOKS OF DISCIPLINE

TRANSLATED AND ANNOTATED  
BY  
JAMES LEGGE

1886

A Record of Buddhistic Kingdoms by James Legge.

This edition was created and published by Global Grey

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"When I look back on what I have gone through, my heart is involuntarily moved, and the perspiration flows forth. That I encountered danger and trod the most perilous places, without thinking of or sparing myself, was because I had a definite aim, and thought of nothing but to do my best in my simplicity and straightforwardness. Thus it was that I exposed my life where death seemed inevitable, if I might accomplish but a ten-thousandth part of what I hoped." These words affected me in turn, and I thought:—"This man is one of those who have seldom been seen from ancient times to the present. Since the Great Doctrine flowed on to the East there has been no one to be compared with Hsien in his forgetfulness of self and search for the Law. Henceforth I know that the influence of sincerity finds no obstacle, however great, which it does not overcome, and that force of will does not fail to accomplish whatever service it undertakes. Does not the accomplishing of such service arise from forgetting (and disregarding) what is (generally) considered as important, and attaching importance to what is (generally) forgotten?"

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