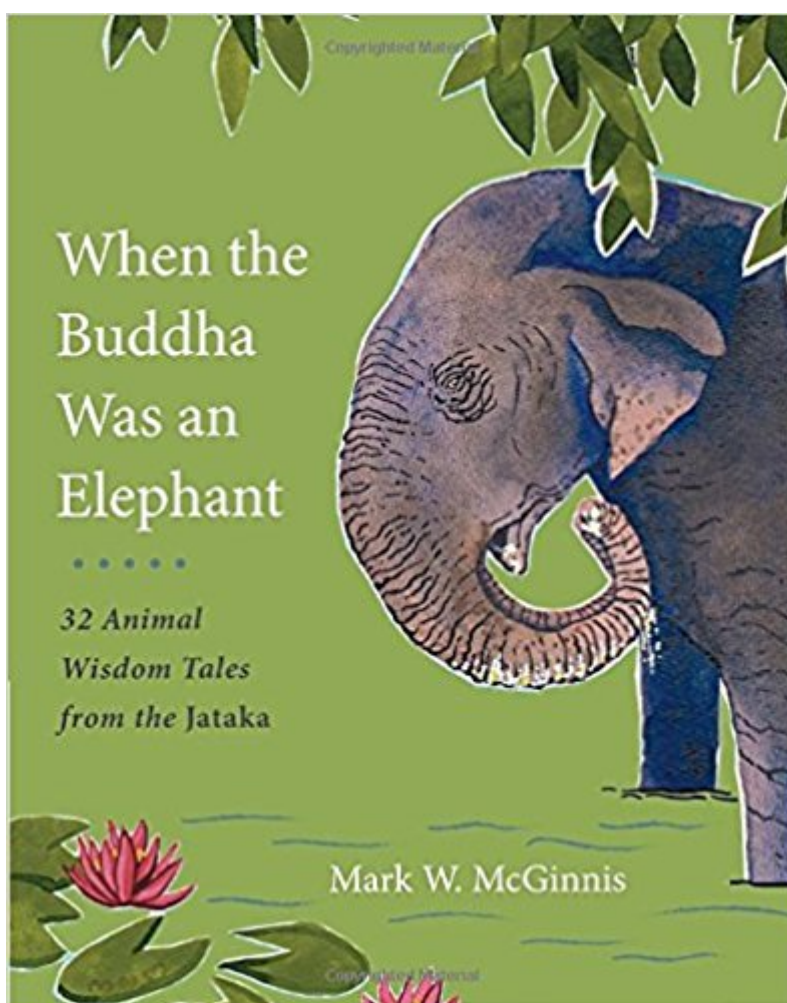


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# When The Buddha Was An Elephant: 32 Animal Wisdom Tales From The Jataka



## Synopsis

A treasury of traditional Buddhist wisdom tales, illustrated with gorgeous original artwork. The Buddhist jataka tales are simple lessons in living with honesty, wisdom, and compassion that contain the power to transform the hearts and minds of those who hear them. They are stories of the Buddha's past lives—in such forms as a boar, a parrot, a monkey, or a peacock—that have enchanted children and adults for millennia. Their animal characters powerfully and sometimes humorously demonstrate the virtues and foibles to which we humans are prone, and they point the way to more enlightened ways of living. Mark McGinnis retells the jatakas in poetic and accessible language, rendering the Buddhist teachings they contain abundantly clear. Each tale is brought to life by Mark's full-color illustration, making the book a visually stunning entrée to this edifying and highly entertaining literary tradition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 96 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #418,649 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Buddhist #55 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #429 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

MARK W. MCGINNIS is an artist and writer. He was a professor of art for thirty years at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He now resides in Boise, Idaho, and his primary media are acrylic and black ink. His interdisciplinary approach to art in the past has included paintings, artist's books, sculpture, printmaking, installation, video, performance, essays, and interviews. The research orientation of his work has led to projects of exploration and inquiry into a range of

subjects including the extinction of species; the Snake River Basin; the literature of India and Japan; world religions; religious elders: economic evolution, foreign policy; nuclear weaponry; Native American history; and explorers of the "New World." His projects have been shown in more than 120 solo exhibitions.

Delightful and essential. A remix of old tales. I was raised with a lot of Tibetan, Indian and Japanese Buddhism and Hinduism influence. I am usually skeptical about the authenticity of western Buddhism. Therefore when my standards are met, or in this case surpassed, the experience is extraordinarily joyful to read these crisp and simple jataka stories which pull no punches. The middle path does not mean immunity for the rill of victory, or the agony of defeat. I would say I wanted more stories, but instead I will praise this book as a whetstone that sharpens the mind and opens the heart for more investigation by the reader into Jataka tales! In particular there is a story where the parents try to prepare their children for life by instructing them to be kind and listen to everybody and speak reasonably. The children are eaten up no matter how kind or persuasive they tried to listen. This recognition of the absurdity of circumstance is a crucial counterpoint to the overinterpretation of "karma theory which hinders western Buddhism from taking full root in its own language. Belongs in the novella shelf with Ethan Hawke's recent RULES FOR A KNIGHT. I look forward to rereading.

I vigorously disagree with the reviewer who gave this book one star. This beautiful book is filled with amazing paintings and concise, inspiring tales told well. I don't have little children so I'm not sure why the other reviewer is against giving these tales to children. I wonder if it's part of the current trend toward protecting children from "triggers" - a trend of which I'm not a fan. Grimm's fairytales are much scarier than these and many of us were raised on those. I bought the book for an adult friend of mine who loves elephants. I can't wait to give it to her because I know she will be delighted.

Bought 3 and needed 10. Will order more. Everyone loves this book.

Very sweet stories. I was not disappointed. My granddaughter will be fascinated.

The promo information on this book says in the "New from Shambhala Publications" it will charm children, is entertaining, and delights. I sent it to friends to read to their grandchildren (without reading it first). Mistake. I would never read this to children.

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