

**THE LIGHT OF ASIA OR THE
GREAT RENUNCIATION
(MAHĀBHINISHKRAMANA
)**

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The Light of Asia or the great renunciation (Mahâbhinishkramana) by Edwin Arnold

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EDWIN ARNOLD

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GREAT RENUNCIATION
(MAHĀBHINISHKRAMANA
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The Lotos Series.



Edwin Arnold

THE
Light of Asia

OR

THE GREAT RENUNCIATION
(MAHĀBHINISHKRAMANA).

BEING

THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF GAUTAMA

PRINCE OF INDIA AND FOUNDER OF BUDDHISM

(As Told in Verse by an Indian Buddhist).

BY

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD,
M.A., K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

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OF

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BY

THE AUTHOR.



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SINCE its original appearance the "Light of Asia" has passed through a very large series of editions, and the demand seems at the present moment to be increasing rather than diminishing. An extraordinary number of copies in various forms have been sold here at prices from a guinea downwards, exclusive of the various authorised and unauthorised issues which have appeared in America, and have found their way very largely into the Indian and Colonial market. There have appeared also translations of the poem into almost every European and numerous Oriental languages, and it may probably be claimed for it that many people otherwise well-

read and educated would never have had more than the faintest notion of the exquisite beauties of the Buddhistic faith, had they not been presented to them in so delightful and at the same time so accurate a form as by the "Light of Asia." By reason of its enormous popularity in the Christian world, and because it has become a religious guide-book for the pious Buddhist, the publishers are encouraged in the present issue to give the "Light of Asia" outwardly also a popular and artistic dress. The illustrations in the present volume are taken chiefly from Buddhist sculptures and frescoes of an average age of 2000 years, and if in some instances the rudeness of design and strangeness of conception may not immediately commend themselves to the Western eye, they will nevertheless be helpful in portraying the inner spirit of an ancient culture which produced one of the great living religions of the present day.

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