

Contents

PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION	xi
PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION	xiii
INTRODUCTION	xv

I THE PROBLEM

1. A CRIME OF LÈSE HUMANITÉ	3
2. A SURFEIT OF OPINIONS	7
Cynicism	7
Nihilism	8
Agnosticism	9
Pragmatism	10
Problematicism	11
Dialectics	12
Apophaticism	13
3. BUDDHISM: ATHEISTIC RELIGION	16
The Four Noble Truths	17
The Message of the Buddha	20

II THE TEXTS

4. NAIRĀTMYAVĀDA	27
No Permanent Subject	29
The Atman: Not Identifiable	30
Atman: A Mere Name	32
The Reason for the Continuity of Change: No Atman	34
No Subject of Transmigration	36
All Is Transitory	36

5. NIRVANA	37
Nirvana: What Uniquely Is	41
Nirvana: The Extinction of the Phenomenal	41
Nirvana: The Beginning	42
Nirvana: The End	42
There Are Two Nirvanas	43
Nirvana: Beyond Any Dialectic	43
Four Kinds of Nirvana	45
Nirvana Has neither Subject nor Object	49
6. PRATĪTYASAMUTPĀDA	53
General Formulation	57
A Primordial Law	58
All Things Are Mutually Conditioned	58
Orthodox Viewpoint	59
The Twelve Bonds	60
It Is Impossible to Prevent Things from Dying	60
7. AVYĀKRTAVASTŪNI	61
The One Thing Needful	70
True Freedom Is Ineffable	72
No Adequate Response	76
The Typical Buddhistic Calm	76
<i>III</i>	
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	
8. CHANGE OF HUMAN AWARENESS, THEN AND NOW	81
Atheistic Religion	81
<i>The World</i>	81
<i>The Deity</i>	82
<i>The Human Race</i>	83
The Crisis of Human Consciousness	84
<i>Israel</i>	85
<i>Iran</i>	86
<i>China</i>	86
<i>Greece</i>	87
<i>India</i>	88
The Buddha's Revolution	90
Religious Atheism	92
9. ONTOLOGICAL APOPHATICISM	101
The Buddha's Position	101
The Current Problematic	106

The God of Being	107
<i>Anthropomorphism</i>	108
<i>Ontomorphism</i>	111
<i>Personalism</i>	114
Deontologization of God	120
<i>Negation of Being: Atheism</i>	122
<i>Negation of Nonbeing: Apophaticism</i>	129
<i>Radical Relativity</i>	134
God and Beings	144
 10. SILENCE OF THE BUDDHA	 148
To Dare To Be Silent	148
The Four Noble Truths	157
<i>Text</i>	157
<i>Corollaries</i>	158
The Silence of God	164
<i>The Silence of God in Humankind</i>	168
<i>The Silence of God in God</i>	170
<i>Liberation</i>	173
 NOTES	 177
 BIBLIOGRAPHY	 237
 INDEX OF CONCEPTS	 261
 INDEX OF NAMES	 265
 INDEX OF SACRED TEXTS	 267